

SWEDISH COUNCIL OF AMERICA



**Swedish Council of America
Award of Merit**

Volunteers are the life-blood of many of our Swedish cultural and educational organizations across North America. These unsung heroes plan and prepare the food for hundreds of delicious Julbords, Midsommar picnics, Lutfisk Dinners and Saturday Fikas that are enjoyed by so many. Volunteers sit on our boards of directors, staff our festivals, teach Swedish to our children at Svenska Skolor, maintain the gardens at our centers, entertain us at our concerts and welcome visitors to our museums. Without them, many of our organizations would cease to exist.



SCA Awards ready for presentation.
Photo credit: Kevin Proescholdt

That is why the Swedish Council of America created the SCA Award of Merit. This award gives national recognition to local volunteers who have been nominated for their outstanding contributions and hard work within their community. Through the Award of Merit, it

is SCA's intent to recognize, publicize, and publicly thank those deserving persons who unselfishly volunteer their time and energy, share their ideas and talents, and lend their hearts and skills to the myriad tasks, that are required to keep local Swedish-North American organizations in good health. These volunteers help to create, plan, implement and execute the programs and events which make those organizations successful.

As part of the 2017 Spring SCA Meeting, SCA invited Swedish-American organizations in the Delaware Valley to nominate up to three remarkable volunteers for this special recognition. The following individuals nominated by these SCA Affiliate Member organizations were bestowed with the SCA Award of Merit in recognition of their outstanding contributions and hard work within their local community. Please join SCA in sending them our sincere appreciation for all their efforts!

SCA Award of Merit Recipients:

- Linda Alexy** American Swedish Historical Museum
- Janet Anderson** New Sweden Centre
- Sonja-Jeanette Baker** VOA - Three Crowns Lodge #704
- Ronald S. Beatty** Swedish Colonial Society
- Erik Burro** New Sweden Centre
- Max D. Dooley** Old Swedes Foundation, Inc.
- Donna Draper** Old Swedes Foundation, Inc.
- Inger Hanright** VOA - Three Crowns Lodge #704
- William "Hutch" Hutchinson** Kalmar Nyckel Foundation
- Kristina Kalb** American Swedish Historical Museum
- Ann Gardner Kohler** Augustana Institute at the Lutheran Archives Center
- John B. Morton, Jr.** New Sweden Alliance
- Chris O'Brien** New Sweden Alliance
- Kristina Johnson O'Doherty** American Swedish Historical Museum
- Sheila Romine** New Sweden Alliance
- Earl E. Seppala** Old Swedes Foundation, Inc.
- Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams** Swedish Colonial Society

Details on the achievements of these and many other SCA Award of Merit recipients are located on the SCA website, www.swedishcouncil.org.

Erik Burro's presentations, as a first-person interpreter of historic characters – including John Morton, Finnish/Swede and signer of the Declaration of Independence – bring history alive to all, most especially to youth. He is currently helping us promote Settler's Trunks, a hands-on teaching tool for use in schools, organizations and museums interested in teaching about New Sweden Colonial settlers. New Sweden Centre is privileged to have such an accomplished volunteer.



Over the past 35 years, **Kristina Kalb** has found innumerable ways to use her talents on behalf of the American Swedish Historical Museum. She is former President of the museum's auxiliary, served as the leader for the annual Lucia program for many years and was an active member of the Swedish Museum Singers. Many don't know that she is also a gifted seamstress and artist and has created Christmas and Easter workshops to teach people how to make traditional Swedish crafts. Most recently, she volunteered her seamstress skills to assist with creating the ten Joseph Frank textile wall hangings that decorate the renovated Assembly Room.