Workshops | Classes | Programs

Catalog

November 2022–January 2023
Unless otherwise noted, advance registration is required for all programs and events. Learn more about ASI’s programs and exhibitions at asimn.org.

Look ahead to 2023
February–April programs and events go on sale November 25 (ASI members) and November 28 (general). Schedule announced mid-November.

Basketry

Carolina Snowflakes with Bonnie Buzza
In-Person | Workshop | Fri, November 11, 10 am–1 pm
Also known as Finnish Stars, this folk art design has become popular in recent years for ornaments and holiday decorations. Join Bonnie Buzza to create a 10” tall snowflake out of reed, perfect for hanging on a door or in a window or even to top a tree. Good hand strength and dexterity is needed to participate in this class. Suitable for ages 16+. $65 ($55 ASI member) + $15 materials fee payable to instructor

Woven Wheat Christmas Ornaments with Bonnie Buzza
In-Person | Workshop | Sat, December 10, 1–4 pm
Learn about the ancient craft of wheat weaving and make several Scandinavian holiday ornaments for your house or tree. After cleaning and preparing the wheat, you will learn how to tie it into a julbock (Christmas goat), a tomte or two, and maybe a simple plaited ornament. Good hand strength and dexterity is required. Suitable for ages 16+. $65 ($55 ASI member) + $15 materials fee payable to instructor

Birch Bark Star Ornaments with Beth Homa Kraus
Virtual | Workshop | Fri, December 16, 12–2 pm CST or 3–5 pm CST
Create two beautiful folded star ornaments out of an iconic northern material this holiday season. Using birch bark strips harvested and prepared by the instructor, students will fold two birch bark stars while learning about the ecology, harvest, and cultural history of birch bark. Good hand strength and dexterity is required. $65 ($55 ASI member) + $15 materials fee payable to instructor

Sawtoothed Rim Birch Basket with Beth Homa Kraus
In-Person | Workshop | Sat, January 7 & Sun, January 8, 10 am–5 pm
Discover the beauty and strength of birch bark while weaving a medium-sized table basket, perfect for organizing or displaying objects with its wide base, shallow walls and sturdy rim. This rim design is perfect for adventurous beginners or intermediate basket weavers, adding a three-dimensional pattern that mimics the zigzags of a sawtooth. This class requires good hand strength and dexterity and is suitable for ages 18+. $175 ($155 ASI member) + $90 materials fee payable to instructor

Nordic Handcraft

ASI’s Nordic Handcraft series brings Scandinavian handcraft traditions to life through workshops, makers meet-ups and lectures. Grounded in the Swedish tradition of slöjd (handcraft), these programs gather makers of all backgrounds to build community, practice folk art traditions and share innovative and creative approaches to textiles, woodcarving, basketry and more.

Learn, practice, and explore Scandinavian folk arts and cultures through programs and events at the American Swedish Institute. Pick up a new skill or practice your craft in handcraft classes led by master artisans. Connect time-honored food traditions with a bright New Nordic future (or just learn a new recipe!) in Nordic Table demos and workshops. Learn Swedish or Finnish, or fine tune your skills, with classes for all ages and abilities.

One of the leading museums and cultural centers in the Twin Cities, ASI offers inclusive, transformative arts and culture experiences centered around learning, reflection, and collaboration.

Register online at asimn.org
Community Craft

Virtual Makers Mornings
Virtual | Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 am CST
In a relaxed, virtual setting hosted by ASI staff, join a community of makers who share projects, work, experiences, and stories each week. All crafts and skill levels welcome. Drop in as often as you like, for as long as you like. Free; registration required.

Makers Night
In-Person | Third Thursdays, November 17, December 15, January 19, 6–8 pm
Makers Night is a monthly opportunity every third Thursday for anyone interested in craft to work in community and share conversation, tips and questions. Bring a project to work on and any tools you need. See asimn.org for current safety policies for in-person programs. Free; No advance registration required.

Craft & Cocktails

Clay Ornaments with Sue Flanders and Ingrid Sundstrom
In-Person | Workshop | Thu, November 10, 6:30–8:30 pm
Turn up the coziness quotient with this holiday-themed Craft and Cocktails class! Spend a relaxing evening painting designs on four pre-shaped clay ornaments while sipping on a festive beverage from FIKA Café. Your ornaments will be glazed and re-fired, then available for pick up later in November—perfect for decorating gifts, a Christmas tree or gifting. Suitable for ages 21+. $45 ($40 ASI member) + $10 materials fee payable to instructor

Woven Birch Bark Birds with Beth Homa Kraus
In-Person | Workshop | Thu, December 8, 6:30–8 pm
Learn about the magic of the birch tree while weaving a small ornamental bird out of birch bark and enjoying a festive cocktail from FIKA Café! Each student will make a bird as unique as them, crafted from locally-harvested birch bark and leather string. Students must have good finger dexterity and strength to undertake this project. Suitable for ages 21+. $45 ($40 ASI member) + $15 materials fee payable to instructor

Swedish Wire Whisk with Kayla Ann
In-Person | Workshop | Thu, January 26, 6:30–8:30 pm
Try out the traditional Scandinavian art of luffarslöjd—or wire work—while making a practical wire whisk for your kitchen! With a pair of pliers and a few dowels, participants will transform stainless steel wire into a useful object to take home and put to use. Cost includes a drink from FIKA Café and all class materials. Suitable for ages 21+. $45 ($40 ASI member)

Glass & Ceramics

The Fused Glass Tomte with Susan Tracy
In-Person | Workshop | Sun, November 13, 1–4 pm
Brighten your home with a cheerful glass tomte this holiday! Students will learn the fundamentals of glass fusing and casting by using glass frit to fill a 2 ½” pyramid shaped mold in class. After class, the instructor will fire and finish the pieces and return them to ASI for pick up. No previous experience with glass work is necessary. Suitable for ages 18+. $65 ($55 ASI member) + $25 materials fee payable to instructor

Holiday Tinsmithing: From Ornaments to Tinsel with Kitty Latané
In-Person | Workshop | Sun, November 27, 1–5 pm
Hammer away to create some traditional tin items in time for the holidays! Students will be guided step by step through the process of cutting, shaping and finishing simple tin items such as star ornaments, old fashioned tinsel for your Christmas tree, and mini votive candle holders. Discover this old craft and head home with useful and beautiful items! Suitable for ages 14+. $65 ($55 ASI member) + $15 materials fee payable to instructor

Table-Made Hair Jewelry Bracelet with Karen Keenan
In-Person | Workshop | Thu, January 12–Sun, January 15. 4–6 pm Thu, 9 am–4 pm Fri & Sat, 9 am–1 pm Sun
Join Minnesota artist Karen Keenan to explore the Scandinavian art of hairwork jewelry. This unique and almost extinct weaving and needle art sprung from Victorian era urges to preserve personal connections and memories of loved ones. Students in this course will use provided hair to practice making a bracelet based on a Swedish pattern while learning more about the fascinating history of this craft. Suitable for ages 18+. $250 ($225 ASI member) + $15 materials fee payable to instructor

Metal & Jewelry

Custom Cookie Cutters with Elizabeth Belz
Virtual | Workshop | Thu, December 8, 6–9 pm CST
Join metalsmith Elizabeth Belz to make a completely unique cookie cutter just in time for holiday baking! Using a provided kit, students will start by practicing one design all together, then branch out to make a custom design. Whether you go traditional or modern, your cookie cutter will be a practical family heirloom for many baking sessions to come. Suitable for ages 16+. $75 ($70 ASI member), includes kit ($25 value)

Modern Metal Jewelry with Robert Simmons
Virtual | Workshop | Thu, January 26, 6–9 pm CST
Create a modern piece of jewelry, using metalwork techniques such as Smithing, Fold Forming, and Soldering. Each student will create a pair of earrings, using sterling silver wire, and a selection of metal components. Suitable for ages 14+. $75 ($70 ASI member), includes kit ($25 value)

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Natural Crafts & Wellness

DiY Evergreen Wreath with Laura Berlage
Virtual | Demo | Sat, November 19, 2-4:30 pm CST
’Tis the season for fresh evergreen wreaths...but have you ever considered making one yourself? This step-by-step virtual tutorial will teach you how to build a festive wreath on a wire base, from harvesting greens (you can also purchase them, of course) to adding final embellishments. Laura will even share her secrets for easy clean up and tying the perfect bow! $25 ($20 ASI member) + $30 materials fee payable to instructor.

Nordic Herbals for Winter with Gigi Stafne
In-Person | Workshop | Sat, November 19, 10 am–3 pm
Taking inspiration from Nordic herbal traditions, spend a day exploring medicinal herbs to carry your family through the winter. Master herbalist Gigi will share both modern understandings of herbal medicine and the healing traditions from her Nordic heritage through hands-on projects and discussion. Students will create four to five herbal preparations to take home. Suitable for ages 15+. $85 ($75 ASI member) + $30 materials fee payable to instructor.

Paper Quilled Ornaments with Kayla Ann
Virtual | Workshop | Thu, December 15, 6:30–8 pm CST
Try out paper quilling in this intro level class! Students will learn about the basic tools and materials used in paper quilling while working on a winter-themed ornament that could hang on a tree, window or gift. This class includes a kit ($5 value); see asimn.org for more. Suitable for ages 16+. $50 ($45 ASI member), includes kit.

Watercolor Heirloom Recipe with Tara Sweeney
In-Person | Workshop | Fri, November 18, 10 am–5 pm
Create a treasured holiday gift or unique piece of artwork by illustrating a favorite family recipe with watercolor artist and illustrator Tara Sweeney. Start with a recipe that everyone asks for this time of year. Using the special tools, ingredients, or dish itself, participants will create an original watercolor artwork. Students provide their own materials; see asimn.org for more details. All levels welcome! Suitable for ages 18+. $95 ($85 ASI member).

Fanciful Paper Cutting with Torben Jarlstrøm Clausen
Virtual | Workshop | Sun, January 15, 10–11:30 am CST
Explore the universe of fanciful paper cut beings with paper cutting artist Torben from his home in Odense, Denmark. Students will work alongside Torben to release their own fantastic people from a piece of paper using only a pair of scissors. Students provide their own materials; see asimn.org for more. All experience levels welcome; suitable for ages 16+. $40 ($35 ASI member).

Watercolor Batik Chickadee with Kim Gordon
In-Person | Workshop | Fri, January 27, 1–4 pm
Try your hand at watercolor batik, a fun and modern twist on the ancient batik technique. Students will use layers of melted wax and watercolor on rice paper to create an image of a chickadee perched on a branch. This unusual art form is fun and approachable, and results in a beautiful piece of art that reflects a northern landscape. $65 ($55 ASI member) + $10 materials fee payable to instructor.

Paper & Studio Arts

Intro to Rosemaling with Tara Austin
In-Person | Workshop | Sat, November 12, 9:30 am–12:30 pm or 2–5 pm
Try out the basic brushstrokes of Gudbrandsdal-style rosemaling in this half day class! This class is perfect for students who have never tried rosemaling before but want to learn about basic techniques and materials. Students will practice the fundamentals while decorating a small wooden plaque. All materials provided; suitable for ages 18+, or ages 14+ with registered adult. $65 ($55 ASI member) + $20 materials fee payable to the instructor.

Watercolor Holiday Treasures with Tara Sweeney
In-Person | Workshop | Fri, December 16, 10 am–5 pm
Capture the secrets of a treasured holiday object in an original artwork. Students choose a special ornament, decoration, other object, or photograph, to practice working in watercolor and ink from direct observation, and head home with a painting suitable for displaying or gifting. Students provide their own materials. All levels welcome; suitable for ages 18+. $95 ($85 ASI member).

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Textiles

Skinfell Ornaments with Becky Utecht and Sue Flanders
In-Person | Workshop | Wed, November 9, 1–4 pm
Add some skinfell ornaments to your tree, doorknob or holiday decorations this year skinfell are Norwegian embellished sheepskins, traditionally printed with wood block stamps. While learning the history of this unique craft, participants will cut, print and stitch one or more ornaments from leftover pieces of tanned sheepskins. Suitable for ages 16+, or 12+ registered alongside an adult. $55 ($45 ASI member) + $20 materials fee payable to instructor

Needle Felted Garland with Kayla Ann
Virtual | Workshop | Thu, November 17, 6:30–8:30 pm CST
This workshop will get you started with needle felting while creating a minimalist Scandi-inspired garland!

Needle Felted Mini Tomtar with Melba Granlund
In-Person | Workshop | Fri, December 9, 10 am–12 pm or 2–4 pm
In many households, the holiday season is when Tomte—the small guardian with a long beard and tall red hat—begins to show up. In this popular two-hour workshop, make two of your own tomtar using wool roving and basic three-dimensional needle felting techniques. Your finished 3–4” tall tomtar will head home with you ready to spread holiday cheer! Suitable for ages 16+. $55 ($45 ASI member) + $20 materials fee payable to instructor

Hand Felted Sculptural Tomte with Judy McDowell
In-Person | Workshop | Sat, December 17, 10 am–5 pm
Create your own hand felted tomte just in time for the holidays! In this class, students will have the opportunity to learn two felting techniques—wet felting and needle felting—while creating a sculptural tomte that can stand on a shelf or mantle via a natural birch base. Students need good hand strength and the ability to stand for extended periods. Suitable for ages 16+. $95 ($85 ASI member) + $25 materials fee payable to instructor

Needle Felted Reindeer with Laura Berlage
Virtual | Workshop | Sat, December 17, 2–5 pm CST
Create a felted reindeer ready to take off for the North Pole in this afternoon-long virtual class. Students will transform hand dyed wool into a felted reindeer complete with antlers and bell. This class builds on basic needle felting skills for students who have previous needle felting experience. Kit included ($25 value); see asimn.org for more. Suitable for ages 15+. $90 ($80 ASI member), includes kit

Wet Felting Foundations with Judy McDowell
In-Person | Workshop | Wednesdays, January 11–February 15, 10 am–12:30 pm
Explore the basics of wet felting in this foundational course! Over six weeks, students will try multiple wet felting techniques, including solid forms, flat pieces, resist felting, and Nuno felting. Students will choose from several projects each week, so both new and returning felters will find opportunities for learning. Plan to exercise your muscles and your creativity! Students need some hand strength and to be able to stand for extended periods. Open to ages 18+ $175 ($155 ASI member) + Variable materials fee payable to instructor
 Needle Felted Chickadee with Laura Berlage
Virtual | Workshop | Fri, January 20, 2–5 pm CST
Create a sweet felted chickadee inspired by Minnesota’s north woods in this afternoon-long class. Students will follow step-by-step instructions to transform hand-dyed wool from the instructor’s own sheep into a felted chickadee that will fit in the palm of your hand. This class includes a kit ($25 value). Suitable for ages 15+. $90 ($80 ASI member), includes kit.

 Felted Slippers with Judy McDowell
In-Person | Workshop | Sat, January 21, 10 am–5 pm
Use classic wet felting techniques to create a custom pair of warm, wooly slippers, perfect for the cold winter! By layering wool over a custom pattern, adding soapy water, rolling and shaping the project, participants will create seamless slippers customized to their feet. Please note that this workshop requires some hand strength and standing for extended periods of time. Suitable for ages 16+. $125 ($110 ASI member) + $15 materials fee payable to instructor.

Continuing Spoon Carving: The Pocket Spoon with Liesl Chatman
In-Person | Workshop | Sat, November 5–Sun, November 6, 10 am–5 pm both days
Small spoons are the bane of many spoon carvers. This class is designed to help you tackle them! Students will be led step by step through an unconventional double-blank method to make two pocket-sized spoons at a time. This method allows for a safe, efficient process that doesn’t tire hands out as quickly. Suitable for students with prior spoon carving experience, ages 16+. $175 ($155 ASI Member) + $20 materials fee payable to instructor.

Swedish Toothbrush Rugs with Melba Granlund
In-Person | Workshop | Sun, January 22, 10 am–5 pm
The Scandinavian American tradition of toothbrush rugs combines very old nålbinding techniques with a modern tool—sturdy toothbrush handles—to create hardwearing rugs out of fabric scraps. Students will practice traditional and simplified nålbinding stitches and create a round rug with the stitch of their choice. Students are invited to bring their own fabric to start a rug in their preferred colors. Suitable for ages 16+. $95 ($85 ASI member) + $5 materials fee payable to instructor.

Carve and Ornament with Sam Gathje
In-Person | Workshop | Sun, December 11, 2–4:30 pm
Try your hand at carving while creating a unique wooden ornament to spruce up your holiday tree! Students will learn Scandinavian-style flat plane carving techniques to add the details to pre-shaped ornaments in this beginner-level class. Each student will take home a few ornaments that can be painted after class, and then displayed or gifted. Suitable for ages 16+, or ages 12-15 with registered adult. $55 ($45 ASI member) + $15 materials fee payable to the instructor.

Carve the Julbock Candle Holder with Sam Gathje
In-Person | Workshop | Sun, November 20, 12:30–4:30 pm
Carve and paint two Swedish-style julbock (Christmas goat) candle holders, perfect for holiday display or gifting. This class is great for someone who has done a little carving and wants to create a festive handmade decoration for their home. Students will work on prepared basswood blanks and then paint their candle holders with milk or acrylic paints. Suitable for ages 17+. $65 ($55 ASI member) + $20 materials fee payable to instructor.

Sweat Bowls Workshop with Liesl Chatman
In-Person | Workshop | Sun, December 11, 10 am–4 pm
Ready to dive into Scandinavian style green wood carving? Join Sam Gathje for this weekend-long course designed to introduce students to the foundational tools and techniques of carving. Over two days students will complete several small projects and find inspiration for many more. Ages 16+ welcome, or ages 14+ with registered adult. $250 ($225 ASI member) + $50 materials fee payable to instructor.

Scandinavian Bowl Carving with Paul Linden
In-Person | Workshop | Wednesdays, January 11–March 1, 6:30–9 pm
Try your hand at carving your own small bowls in the Scandinavian green wood tradition, using fresh cut wood, axes and gouges. Over eight sessions, instructor Paul Linden will lead students through the process of selecting the raw material, preparing blanks, shaping the bowls and a variety of approaches to finishing. By the end, students will have one or more small bowls, perfect for cereal, ice cream, and more. Appropriate for students with previous green wood carving experience. Suitable for ages 16+. $250 ($225 ASI member) + $50 materials fee payable to instructor.

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Try Carving a Dala Horse for Women and Non-binary Students with Jess Hirsch
In-Person | Workshop | Thu, December 1, 6–8 pm
Learn basic carving holds with an iconic Swedish Dala horse in this weeknight class. Pick up a Swedish carving knife and pre-cut basswood blank and bring your own Dala horse to life. Finishing options will be discussed in class. Open to women and non-binary students only and suitable for ages 16+. $55 ($45 ASI member) + $15 materials fee payable to the instructor.

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Green Woodcarving 102 with Sam Gathje
In-Person | Workshop | Sat, January 28, 10 am–4 pm & Sun, January 29, 1–4 pm
Ready to dive into Scandinavian style green wood carving? Join Sam Gathje for this weekend-long course designed to introduce students to the foundational tools and techniques of carving. Over two days students will complete several small projects and find inspiration for many more. Ages 16+ welcome, or ages 14+ with registered adult. $330 ($315 ASI member) + $25 Materials fee payable to instructor.
Nordic Table

Celebrate and explore the northern foodways through workshops, demonstrations, and food events that connect participants to ASI’s food experts, guest chefs, and seasoned educators.

Demos allow students to watch instructors prepare featured recipes while workshops are participatory experiences in which registrants cook alongside their instructor. Tickets to our virtual Nordic Table classes include access to the class recording for one month beyond the date of the class.

Host a Glögg Party with Kristi Bissell
Virtual | Demo | Thu, November 17, 1–2:30 pm CST
Celebrate the season Swedish style with a glöggmingle or Mulled Wine Party! Kristi will share some of her favorite seasonal recipes, including her take on Swedish mulled wine or glögg, a trio of mini open-faced sandwiches, and a Pear Cardamom Cake. Whether you are inspired to host a feast or just incorporate these recipes into other seasonal meals, you’ll be set with great options for savory and sweet nibbles. $25 ($20 ASI member)

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Classic Scandinavian Cookies and Bars with Patrice Johnson
In-Person | Workshop | Sat, November 26, 1–3 pm
Get ready for a cozy holiday season in ASI’s great cookie bake off class! The best Scandinavian cookies come in a variety of shapes and flavors. Mastering the iconic Swedish ginger cookie pepparkakor, is of course on the list, but Patrice Johnson will also share some other great cookies to roll, drop, and slice. Be prepared to roll up your sleeves and join in the fun in this participatory class with plenty of tasting! $45 ($40 ASI member)

Edible Evergreens with Maria Wesserle
Virtual | Demo | Wed, November 30, 6–8 pm CST
Ever eat a pine tree? Many parts are indeed edible, so let forager Maria Wesserle guide the way! In fact, northern cultures have a rich tradition of using evergreens for food and medicine. Maria will discuss some of the common evergreens available in the upper Midwest, including how to identify, harvest, and prepare, then walk students through brewing evergreen tea. $20 ($15 ASI member)

Swedish Saffron Buns with Kristi Bissell
Virtual | Demo | Thu, December 8, 1–2 pm CST
Get ready for St. Lucia Day, celebrated annually on December 13, with this demo on how to mix, knead, shape, and bake a batch of delicious Swedish saffron buns known as jussekatter. Students will leave ready to bake their own batch of buns at home, just in time for the holiday! $25 ($20 ASI member)

Danishes for the Holidays with Kim Ode
In-Person | Workshop | Sat, December 10, 1–4 pm
Join Kim Ode for an afternoon of decoding the danish! This rich pastry is especially fun to highlight during the holidays and makes for impressive brunches and fikas. In this hands on class, students will practice mixing up a butter-laminated dough, then set their dough aside to chill (and take home!) while they practice filling and elegant shaping techniques. Suitable for ages 18+. $65 ($55 ASI member)

Dopp i Grytan with Patrice Johnson
In-Person | Demo | Thu, December 15, 6–8 pm
Explore the regional Swedish Christmas Eve tradition of dopp i grytan (literally, dip in the pot) ahead of this year’s holidays. This light meal of broth and rye bread is now almost unknown in Sweden but still practiced in some Swedish American families. In this class, participants will learn about the origins of dopp and enjoy a traditional menu along with its many variations. This class includes a full dinner and a beverage from FIKA Café. $60 ($50 ASI member)

Thursday Nights at FIKA Café
Thursdays, 3–8 pm, Live music at 6 pm the first Thursday of the month
Enjoy 50% off all bottles of wine and $1 off all cocktails, beer, and wine. Make it a family night and let the kids discover ASI’s free outdoor play cart in the enclosed courtyard, weather permitting.
St. Knut’s Day with Patrice Johnson  
In-Person | Demo | Thu, January 12, 6–8 pm  
Wrap up the holiday season in style with a meal of small bites for St. Knut’s Day, which is held January 14 and traditionally ends the Christmas season in Sweden. Since in Sweden this is an occasion for taking down the Christmas tree and eating a little more candy, this demonstration will highlight a mix of Christmas-y flavors, lighter options, and festive food and drink to provide inspiration for all kinds of winter eating. Includes a full meal and beverage from FIKA Café. $60 ($50 ASI member)

Identifying and Using Evergreens with Maria Wesserle  
In-Person | Workshop | Sat, January 14, 1–3:30 pm  
Maria Wesserle will share information about some of the evergreens commonly available in the upper Midwest, how to identify, harvest or source, and prepare them in this hands-on version of her popular lecture. The classroom is sure to smell great, and students will have lots of time to get all their questions answered. $45 ($40 ASI member)  
$10 materials fee payable to instructor

Scandinavian Pea Soup Supper with Kristi Bissell  
Virtual | Demo | Thu, January 19, 1–2:30 pm CST  
Join Kristi for a low-effort, high reward wintery supper of vegetarian Split Pea Soup with Barley, simple salad with Lingonberry Vinaigrette, and Swedish Oat Crackers. Each of these recipes work well to make ahead and have on hand for a satisfying cold weather meal. As always, Kristi will share lots of inspired tips and tricks for cooking Nordic food simply at home. $25 ($20 ASI member)

Intro to the Nordic Table with Patrice Johnson  
In-Person | Demo | Thu, January 26, 6–8 pm  
Prepare and share a light meal while exploring the central tenets of New Nordic cuisine, including seasonality and locally sourced ingredients. Patrice will also touch upon how the environment, migration, and trade have affected foodways in both Swedish and Swedish-American communities. Leave with a new understanding of how diverse, colorful, and nutritious the Nordic Table can be! Includes a light dinner, dessert, and coffee. $45 ($40 ASI member)

Language Classes

ASI’s language program is one of the best resources for Swedish and Finnish language-learning outside of Scandinavia. Both online and in-person classes offer students at all skill levels and opportunity to learn a new language or practice their skills from anywhere. Along with traditional textbook-based classes, seasonal programs bring language-learning to life in new ways—from book clubs to hiking club, and much more!

9-week Language Courses  
Winter term language classes will start the week of January 9, 2023. Selected classes highlighted below, please see asimn.org/language for a full list.

Beginning Swedish  
Virtual | Thursdays, January 12–March 9, 4–5:30 pm  
A beginning level Swedish course taught by Gunn Edberg-Caldwell starting in chapter 1 of Rivstart A1/A2.

Beginning Swedish  
In-Person | Thursdays, January 12–March 9, 4:15–5:45 pm  
Language Classes

Youth Language Classes

Lilla Skolan
In-Person | Saturdays, January 7–March 4, 9:30–11 am
An immersive language program for Swedish-speaking children age 3–5, Lilla Skolan features story time, music and a craft, followed by free play. At least one Swedish-speaking parent must accompany the child during the lesson. $135 ($125 ASI member)

Svenska Skolan
In-Person | Saturdays, January 7–March 4, 9:30–11:30 am
Svenska Skolan is a Saturday morning language and culture program for youth age 6–12 that offers an opportunity to learn to practice Swedish in a fun and interactive environment. Instruction is tailored to meet the needs of children at all levels of Swedish. Häng med! $160 ($150 ASI member)

Svenska för tonåringar (Swedish for Teens) Group 1
Group 1: Virtual | Tuesdays, January 10–March 7, 6–7 pm CST
A two-hour introductory workshop is the perfect way to get a feel for Finnish, pick up a bit of grammar, and learn how to pronounce some words as part of basic conversation. $18 ($15 ASI member)

Intro to Swedish with Jean Hanslin
Virtual | Sat, November 19, 10 am–12 pm CST
Are you curious about the Swedish language, but not ready yet to commit to a multi-date class? Are you looking for a quick and low-pressure way to get excited and prepare for an upcoming visit to Sweden? This two-hour introductory workshop is the perfect way to get a feel for Swedish, pick up a bit of grammar, and learn how to pronounce some words as part of basic conversation. $18 ($15 ASI member)

Language Expansion Classes

Advanced Swedish Conversation: Current Events with Ingela Haaland
Virtual | Tuesdays, November 15–December 6, 6:30–8 pm CST
Keep up with your svenska between terms! This class is suitable for students at an advanced level of Swedish (you are in a literature course or have finished Rivstart A1/A2 or equivalent). In this class, students will hone their speaking skills through conversations about current events in Sweden. Materials provided by instructor. $60 ($50 ASI member)

Sjung! Swedish Children’s Songs with Ingela Haaland
Virtual | Wednesdays, November 16–December 7, 10–11:30 am CST
This class will meet to talk about, read, and sing through some of the most cherished children’s jul songs in Sweden. What do the texts mean? What is the origin of each song, and who wrote them? Participants will listen to recordings of the songs and then sing them together. No prior knowledge of Swedish necessary. $60 ($50 ASI member)
Continuing Beginning Swedish Conversation: Current Events with Ingela Haaland
Virtual | Wednesdays, November 16–December 7, 4:30–6 pm CST
Keep up with your svenska between terms! This class is suitable for students at a continuing beginning level of Swedish (you have taken 3 or more terms of Swedish classes). In this class, students will hone their speaking skills through conversations about current events in Sweden. Materials provided by instructor. $60 ($50 ASI member)

Advanced Swedish Conversation: Jul with Ingela Haaland
Virtual | Wednesdays, November 16–December 7, 6:30–8 pm CST
Keep up with your svenska between terms! This class is suitable for students at an advanced level of Swedish (you are in a literature course or have finished Rivstart A1/A2 or equivalent). In this class, students will hone their speaking skills through conversations about jul, play conversation games, and have fun—på svenska! Materials provided by the instructor. $45 ($35 ASI member)

Start Reading Swedish: Jul i Bullerbyn with Jean Hanslin
Virtual | Mondays, November 28–December 12, 6:30–8 pm CST
Are you just starting your Swedish language learning journey, but are already keen to start reading? This class is for you! Read and discuss the Astrid Lindgren story Jul i Bullerbyn and participate in activities to support your reading and vocabulary building. This class is for students with at least one year of Swedish language study or equivalent. Required materials: Jul i Bullerbyn. $45 ($35 ASI member)

Refresh Your Swedish: Advanced with Gregg White
Virtual | Thursdays, December 1–22, 5:30–7 pm CST
This class will give the advanced student a refresher in Swedish before winter term. Over four Thursdays, this class will address both Swedish grammar and vocabulary by reading and discussing texts and then doing corresponding exercises. Required materials: Sagor och sanningar – Third Edition (Eckerbom, Söderberg och Österlund, Natur och Kultur). $60 ($50 ASI member)

Intermediate Swedish Conversation: Jul with Jean Hanslin
Virtual | Thursdays, December 1–15, 6:30–8 pm CST
Keep up with your svenska between terms! This class is suitable for students at a high intermediate or above level of Swedish (i.e. you must be able to hold a conversation in Swedish). In this class, students will hone their speaking skills through conversations about jul/vinter, play conversation games and have fun, på svenska! Materials provided by the instructor. $45 ($35 ASI member)
Babies at the Castle

Carry your baby through ASI’s featured exhibition before it opens to the public on these unique tours designed for babies up to 18 months and their caregivers. These in-person experiences are approximately 30 minutes long, followed by 15 minutes of sensory play, and include a wooden teether for each baby. All caregivers welcome. $15 adult and one baby ($12 ASI member adult and one baby), $10 additional adult.

Kids at the Castle

It’s a morning playdate at the castle! Offered on select Fridays and Saturdays, these action-packed creative playtimes encourage adventurous young minds through circle time, storytelling, crafts, visual play, music, and movement. Adults must accompany children. Suggested for ages 2–5. Includes museum admission. $10 per family.

Babies at the Castle: ASI’s 72nd Holiday Exhibition
In-Person | Fri, November 25, 9:15–10 am
Leave your strollers at the door and carry your baby through one of Minnesota’s most anticipated holiday experiences! Explore an immersive all-ages installation throughout the ornate rooms of the historic Turnblad Mansion—this year with a secret twist.

Kids at the Castle: Let’s Talk Turkey
In-Person | Fri, November 18 or Sat, November 19, 9–10 am

Kids at the Castle: Tiny Tomtes and Extraordinary Elves
In-Person | Fri, December 16 or Sat, December 17, 9–10 am

Kids at the Castle: Winter Wonderland
In-Person | Fri, January 20 or Sat, January 21, 9–10 am
Preschool Programs

Explore Swedish and Swedish American culture with your little one in these programs specially designed for children ages 3–5 and their accompanying adult. Adult accompaniment is required, and advance registration is required for all Preschool Programs. Limit two adults per child. $20 ($15 ASI member child)

Sing Along in Swedish

In-Person | Fri, November 4, 10–11:30 am
Join ASI language instructor Ingela Elert Haaland for an interactive sing-along of Swedish children’s songs. Participants will sing, wiggle, and create props for songs during this dynamic program.

Lucia’s Legend

In-Person | Fri, December 9, 10–11:30 am, Fri, December 9, 2–3:30 pm, Sat, December 10, 10–11:30 am
Explore the legend of Sankta Lucia through stories, crafts, and activities. Together, participants will answer the big questions of “What do Swedish families do on Lucia Day?” and “Why do they do it?” ASI offers three sessions of this popular program.

Pippi’s After Christmas Party

In-Person | Fri, January 6, 10–11:30 am
Explore the magical world of Pippi Longstocking! Participants will celebrate Pippi’s After Christmas party through music, story time, crafts, and movement. $20 ($15 ASI member child)

Birthday Parties at the Castle

Create a memorable themed party for your special child (or grandchild). They’ll love it, their friends will love it, and you’ll love it, too, because ASI will do the set-up and clean up, and organize all the activities! Parties can be hosted on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday afternoons pending availability. Perfect for kids turning 5 to 12. Learn more and reserve your spot today at asimn.org.

Felted Soap

Sun, November 20, 1–2 pm
Learn the basics of wet felting by applying wool roving to bars of soap. The end result is colorful soap perfect for the kitchen or bathroom. Great as holiday gifts or for any occasion!

Needle Felted Ornaments

Sun, December 18, 1–2 pm
Young crafters will use needle felting techniques to create ornaments that make for wonderful holiday decorations.

Starting with Slöjd: Youth Handcraft Workshops

Starting with Slöjd is a monthly program for early elementary children. Participants explore new tools, materials, and skills, that prepare them for a lifelong love of handcraft. These programs are suitable for students in grades K–5. Advance registration is required. $15 ($10 ASI member child)

Wire Dala Horse

Sun, January 15, 1–2 pm
Kids will use pliers to shape different kinds of wire into one of the most enduring symbols of Sweden, the Dala horse!
Arts & Culture Programs

From exhibition openings to concert series, book talks to nature walks, these events and festivals bring people together in celebration of art and culture in all its forms.

Exhibition Events

Community Open House & Holiday Exhibition Opening
In-Person | Sat, November 12, 10 am–4 pm
Kick off the holiday season and opening of ASI’s 72nd Holiday Experience with a free day at the American Swedish Institute. Whether you’re a longtime member, or if this is your first time visiting, everyone is invited to explore the historic Turnblad Mansion and festive galleries for a day of holiday fun, activities, pop-up performances, bonfires, and more. Free; no advanced registration required

Performances & Screenings

Julglädje: Family Holiday Concert
In-Person | Sat, November 26, 11 am–12 pm or 1–2 pm
Featuring accordionist Ross Sutter and friends, Marya Hart on piano, Charyl Paschke on nyckelharpa and fiddle, and Rose Arrowsmith DeCoux at Tomte Kajsa, these family-friendly concerts are highly interactive, with storytelling, festival Swedish and American holiday tunes, dancing, and audience participation. Perfect for families and audiences of all ages. $15 adult, $10 ASI member adult, $5 children 6–17, free for children under 6

Lucia Sing-along for Adults with Liz Stopka
In-Person | Thu, December 8, 6:30–7:30 pm
From Sankta Lucia to Lusselelle, some of the most cherished and classic songs sung each year to celebrate St. Lucia Day on December 13 will be covered in this fun sing-along for adults. Some familiarity with the songs will be helpful in advance—visit asimn.org to listen to a playlist of songs that will be covered. $10 ($5 ASI member)

Lucia Celebration Concert
In-Person and Virtual | Sun, December 11, 2–3 pm
This magical concert set in ASI’s Larson Hall brings light to the dark winter through a performance of classic and traditional Swedish- and English-language songs sung by the ASI Lucia Choir and ASI Lilla Lag. This one-hour event sells out quickly; advance tickets encouraged. Both in-person and live-stream tickets are available. Tickets on sale Monday, November 7 at 10 am. Available at asimn.org, by calling (612) 971-4907, or in person. In-person tickets: $20 ($15 ASI member); Virtual tickets: $15 ($10 ASI member) per connection

Lucia in the Mansion Concert (ASI Members Only)
In-Person | Tue, December 13, 6:30–7:30 pm
Set within the candle-lit Grand Hall of the historic Turnblad Mansion, this magical night of choral music featuring the Lucia Choir is one of ASI’s longest-standing holiday traditions and is available exclusively to ASI members. Join the choir for a special Lucia Bun (lussekatter) fika after the performance. Tickets go on sale November 7 at 10 am and may only be purchased by calling (612) 871-4907. Limit 4 tickets per membership. Available to current ASI members only. $25 ASI member

SENSUS by Duo Avila
In-Person | Fri, November 11, 10:30–11:30 am
Join the Duo Avila—Venezuelan musicians Ines Guanchez (piano) and Sofia Schutte (violin)—as they explore the music of various female composers from across the globe through live performance and visual art. This free, multi-sensory concert will feature works from Costa Rican visual artists Alessandra Sequeira and Magda Cordoba, who have created a collection of paintings inspired by these composers. All ages. Free; No advanced registration required

Writers, Poets, & Musicians Against the War on the Earth
In-Person | Thu, January 12, 6–8 pm
In 1966, Minnesota poet and writer Robert Bly co-founded American Writers Against the Vietnam War and was an opposition leader among writers. His wife Ruth Bly is carrying on the tradition with a new cause at heart—the environment. A talented group of local poets and musicians is inviting everyone to gather at ASI to honor all of creation in spoken word and song. Free; No advanced registration required
Special Events

**Julsøndergång Autumn Night**
In-Person | Fri, December 2, 6–8:30 pm
Kick off the Julmarksøndergång Autumn Night weekend with a special opportunity to shop the handcraft wares of more than 60 artists and makers before the Saturday and Sunday crowds. Expect live music, food, and drink from Fika Café, the museum galleries, and Turnblad Mansion open late to explore the Holiday Exhibition. $30 general / $25 ASI member / $75 VIP ticket

**Jultomten_2022**
In-Person | Sat, December 3 & Sun, December 4, 10 am–4 pm
The sights and sounds of the Scandinavian marketplace returns the first weekend in December at one of the region’s largest handcraft markets and festivals. Shop handmade goods from more than 60 regional artists at booths inside ASI and out in the courtyard. Browse exceptional items from ASI’s own Jul Shop, alongside distinctive artisan glass, clothing, wood, jewelry, ceramics, and textiles. Perfect for all ages, Julmarknad features pop-up musical performances, family crafts, story time, festival foods, and take home handcraft projects that celebrate the season. Please note—ASI will offer timed event admission only to Julmarknad on Saturday and Sunday. Reserve your admission time now at asimn.org. $15 ($10 ASI member), $6 child 6–18

Beginning October 1, 2022, ASI members will be asked to pay an admission for all signature festivals and events, including the annual Julmarknad Holiday Market, to ensure these unique and longstanding activities continue to serve the community. Please check admission prices carefully prior to registering.

Kubb League
In-Person | Thursdays, November 3–December 1, 6–8 pm. No event on Thanksgiving.
ASI’s Kubb League returns with the satisfying ‘thwunk’ of wood dowels hitting wooden blocks. Over 5 weeks, 16 teams will undertake grueling (well, not so much) Thursday evening outdoor competition, culminating in a tournament on Saturday, December 3 during ASI’s Julmarknad Holiday Market. Spectators are encouraged, and competition takes place on the Turnblad Mansion lawn. Register your team of 3 today at asimn.org. All skill levels welcome. $60 per team of 3 players

Lutfisk Dinner
In-Person | Sun, November 20, 1–3 pm
You’ve heard about it. You’ve laughed about it. Now it’s time to try it. Don’t miss this seasonal specialty featuring traditional Scandinavian dishes accompanied by live music from the McNordiques. $45 ($40 ASI member), $20 for children ages 6–11

Julbord Dinner
In-Person | Sat, December 17, 6:30–8:30 pm or Sun, December 18, 1–3 pm
Skip cooking at home and find tastes that will please everyone at one of the region’s best holiday smörgåsbords. Don’t miss this multi-course meal featuring all your favorite Nordic dishes, accompanied by a performance by Tjärnblom. For this unique food experience, registrations are non-refundable and must be made one week in advance. $85 (75 ASI member), $35 children ages 6–11, free for children 5 and under

Winter Solstice Celebration
In-Person | Wed, December 21, 5–9 pm
Mark the shortest day and longest night of the year at ASI with its popular Winter Solstice Celebration. Fika Café will serve a special festival menu with small plates and warm glögg (Swedish mulled wine). The ASI Museum Store and Jul Shop will also be open late for all of your last minute gift needs! ASI will offer timed event admission only to Winter Solstice. Reserve your admission time now at asimn.org. $15 ($10 ASI member), $6 child ages 6–18

Talks, Lectures & Readings

Swedish Holidays Throughout the Year with Gregg White
Virtual | Tue, November 15, 5:30–7 pm CST
Celebrate not just the Jul season but the entire Swedish calendar year as you learn about all the traditional Swedish holidays in one evening! This class will provide students with an overview of Swedish holidays with a specific focus on how they have historically been celebrated throughout time. $18 ($15 ASI member)

Typical American / Typiskt svenskt Discussion with Gunn Edberg-Caldwell
Virtual | Tue, November 15, 5:30–7 pm CST or Thu, November 17, 10–11:30 am
Enjoy a fun, open discussion about Sweden and the United States. What do we assume or generalize about each other? Find out how different yet alike these countries and cultures are in this unique class offered twice in November. $15 ($10 ASI member)
Culture & Conversation Series: Greta Thunberg Research Presentation with Jenna M. Coughlin
In-Person | Thu, November 17, 1–2 pm
Join St. Olaf College professor Jenna M. Coughlin and her students as they present their research on Greta Thunberg’s speeches and activism. Learn how Greta’s words and actions have been received in different national contexts, including the U.S., Scandinavia, and Latin America. Included with museum admission; No advanced registration required

Culture & Conversation Series: Film Screening
In-Person | Thu, January 19, 1–2 pm
Get cozy on a cold winter’s day at ASI with a film screening, hot beverages and treats included! Visit asimn.org to see which film will be shown. Included with museum admission; No advanced registration required

Ah snaps! Swedish Drinking Songs with Liz Stopka
In-Person | Thu, December 1, 6:30–8 pm
Snapsvisor, or drinking songs, are essential to many festive occasions in Sweden. In this workshop, participants will learn how to sing several popular snapsvisor and how to skål properly in order to celebrate like a true Swede—just in time for julbord season! Come ready to sing, laugh, and learn a little Swedish language and culture. Participants have the option to skål with water or purchase a drink from FIKA Café. $18 ($15 ASI member)

Jul 101 Workshop with Liz Stopka
In-Person | Tue, December 6, 5:30–7 pm
Are you curious about the jul (Christmas) season in Sweden? Join instructor Liz Stopka for the Jul 101 workshop to learn about holiday traditions and food, sing a song or two in Swedish, and make a craft. Perhaps you’ll discover some new jul traditions of your own! $18 ($15 ASI member, $5 Child)

Culture and Conversation Series: Behind the Scenes of Secrets of the Season
In-Person | Thu, December 15, 1–2 pm
Learn the secrets of ASI’s holiday season with this behind-the-scenes look at the process of bringing to life ASI’s 72nd holiday exhibition. Hear from this year’s guest community curators representing Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Denmark, the Sami Community, and ASI’s Monday Volunteers. Included with museum admission; No advanced registration required

Museum Tours

Turnblad Mansion Tours
In-Person | Daily Tours, Wednesdays–Sundays, November 2–January 29, 2:30–3:30 pm
Delve into the story of the Turnblad Family on these dynamic daily explorations of their namesake Turnblad Mansion, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Advance registration suggested. Walk-up registration limited. Included with museum admission.

Virtual Holiday Exhibit Tour
Virtual | Tue, November 22, 5–6 pm CST
Unable to explore ASI in person? Discover the 2022 holiday exhibition through a live, virtual tour led by an ASI educator. Explore some of the Turnblad Mansion’s secret rooms while hearing stories of community members’ secrets to their holiday celebrations. Have the opportunity to ask ASI educators all your questions about this exhibition. $15 per connection

Holiday Glögg Tour
In-Person | 6–7 pm, Tours available Nov. 30; Dec. 6, 7, 14, 20, 27, 28; Jan. 3, 4.
Celebrate the holiday season with a guided tour of the holiday exhibition and Swedish mulled wine. These popular tours sell out quickly—advance registratoin is suggested. Small bites and glögg are included. Available to ages 21+. $55 ($50 ASI member)

Know-vember Cocktail Tour
In-Person | Wed, November 23, 5–6 pm
Did you know? The Turnblad Mansion is built with Indiana limestone, the same type of stone used in the Empire State Building! Enjoy an evening learning little-known facts about the Turnblad family and ASI on this special 21+ tour of the historic Turnblad Mansion. A specialty cocktail and small bites are included. $55 ($50 ASI member)

Group Tours
In-Person | Available Tuesdays–Fridays, 10 am or 1 pm
These unique tours offer groups of 10 to 30 individuals the opportunity to explore ASI’s exhibitions or learn more about the historic Turnblad Mansion. Tours can be enhanced with unique meal and refreshment options—from fresh-baked cookies to a full Swedish smörgåsbord. Led by ASI educators, each tour lasts approximately one hour. Perfect for family gatherings, corporate events, and other occasions. Available Tuesdays–Fridays, 10 am or 1 pm. Book today at asimn.org, or by calling (612) 871-4907. $20 per person
Register for Events
Register at asimn.org, via phone at 612-871-4907, or in person at our front desk during open hours. Payment must be received for registration to be complete. Some programs have registration deadlines; all guests are encouraged to register at least one week in advance of all programs.

Waitlists for Sold Out Events
ASI keeps waitlists for all sold out classes, events, and workshops. Please call 612-871-4907 to be added to a waitlist. ASI will only contact those on waitlists as space becomes available.

Virtual Programs
Virtual programs are taught over Zoom. Participants do not need their own Zoom account, but do need a strong internet connection and a device with video capabilities. Some programs are recorded for documentation or teaching purposes. Complete login instructions are provided upon registration and as a reminder one day before a program via email.

Cancellation & Refund Policy
Refunds are not available for student cancellations made within seven days of a program. ASI reserves the right to cancel a program one week prior to its start date. In the instance of an ASI cancellation, registrants will be notified by phone or email and will receive a full refund.

Severe Weather
In the instance that severe weather causes ASI to cancel a program, ASI will contact registrants directly and post closure information on asimn.org and social media accounts. If ASI remains open for programming during inclement weather, absent registrants are not eligible for refunds.

Kits
Some virtual programs may use kits, included in the course fee. Kits will include some or all of the materials students need to make their project at home. Kits are available for pick up at ASI about one week before class or can be shipped for an additional fee; information for each individual class is available on the web page of each program.

Age Policy
Most programs and events at ASI are open to all ages. Nordic Handcraft, Nordic Table, and Language Classes are generally open to ages 18+; please see individual program descriptions for more specific exceptions. Youth programs are designed for specific age groups; all youth registrants should meet age requirements at the time of the course.

Class Scholarships
ASI is pleased to welcome students from historically underrepresented groups and cultural communities into handcraft and food classes at a reduced tuition fee. Limited spaces in each class are available on a first come, first serve basis. Students are invited to use these scholarships up to two times per calendar year. Please fill out the online form at asimn.org/about/scholarships.

Non-discrimination policy
In ASI programs, no individual or group will be discriminated against because of race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or disability.
Mansion & Galleries
Wed, 10 am–4 pm
Thu, 10 am–8 pm
Fri–Sun, 10 am–4 pm

Museum Store
Wed, 10 am–4 pm
Thu, 10 am–8 pm
Fri–Sun, 10 am–4 pm

FIKA Café
Wed, 10 am–4 pm
Thu, 10 am–8 pm
Fri–Sun, 10 am–4 pm
Full menu served 11 am–3 pm

To Book Your Private Event
(612) 524-5105
mcochran@ciemail.com

Become an ASI Member
(612) 524-5110
ninaa@asimn.org

Contact ASI
Phone: (612) 871-4907
info@asimn.org
asimn.org

Museum Admission*
$13 adults; $10 seniors (62+);
$6 ages 6–18 and students
with ID; FREE for children
under 6 and ASI members.

*As of November 1, 2022

Wet Felting Foundations with Judy McDowell

Minnesota artist activity is made possible by the
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