



# Migrationsnytt

Nr 3 2014

## Visit from Chicago

The House of Emigrants welcomed visitors on September 22 from three different museums in Chicago: the Swedish American Museum, the Chinese American Museum and the Ukrainian Museum for Modern Art. The visit was part of an international exchange aiming to strengthen the professional contacts between the Chicago museums and their sister organizations in Sweden, China and the Ukraine. The museum representatives were given a presentation of the House of Emigrant's operations and were also shown around the various exhibits; the history of the Swedes and other ethnic groups



in Chicago met with particular interest. Roger Bodin of the House of Emigrants has already visited the Swedish American Museum in Chicago on separate occasions, which made this visit from opposite shores of

the Atlantic especially appreciated. Veronica Robinson of the Swedish American Museum also attended, and from the discussion emerged several fruitful ideas for future cooperation on various possible projects.

## Swedish Migration Center Established in Falun

The Swedish Migration Center's branch office opened in Falun on Friday, October 31. Swedish Migration Center Board President Kenneth Johansson, Municipal Advisor Jonny Gahnshag and Anders Nordström from the National Archives attended the inauguration ceremony. The primary task at the office is to conduct a survey of people included in the



1930 Swedish census, a number totalling six million individuals. Anders Nordström mentioned about a request coming from three professors from the largest universities to conduct research on that particular year.

This means information will be gathered on each individual, including year of birth, residence, education, profession, etc. Nineteen people have been employed at the newly opened office in Falun.

## Association for Oral History in Sweden



An Oral History conference was held October 23 and 24 at Stockholm University, attracting a large number of participants who presented their research including various projects. Also participating were international guests like Penny

Summerfield and Paul Thompson. On Friday, October 24, the new Association for Oral History in Sweden was founded. The association's new board was given the initial assignment to draw up bylaws and decide about forms of membership,

recruit new participants, enter into partnerships with other organizations and apply for membership in the International Oral History Association. Furthermore, plans are underway for an oral history conference in the spring of 2016, and an e-zine for oral history with peer review. Included on the new board of directors are representatives from the Labor Movement Archives and Library, the Center for Labor History, Linköping University, Life in Sweden, Malmö College, the Multicultural Center, the Nordic Museum, Stockholm University, the Swedish Migration Center and Södertörn College.

## No More Nights of Broken Glass!



It is deeply disturbing that an increasing number of racists are being elected into the European Parliament. On November 9, demonstrations were held against racism and for human rights and equality in many places throughout Europe with the exhortation: Don't let history repeat itself!

In the organized pogrom of November 9th and 10th of 1938, thousands of synagogues were burned down across Germany, and 7,000 shops owned by Jews were vandalized. More than 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent to concentration camps. The pogrom that came to be known as Kristall-

nacht (or "Crystal Night") was a forewarning of what was to come. At least twelve million people were murdered in the following years in death camps and slave labor camps established by the Nazi annihilation politics. About half of the victims were Jews, while the rest were Roma, Slavs, people with disabilities, homosexuals and political dissidents who were collectively defined as deviants and a threat to the nation. The demonstrations in Gothenburg were organized by the November 9th Committee, which includes the Immigrant Institute, along with many organizations and political parties from the Right and the Left.





## Immigrant Institute at Gothenburg Book Fair, September 25-28



### **The Flight across the Sea, 1944 and 2014**

This year at the International Square, the Immigrant Institute shared an exhibit booth with the Swedish Estonian Association and the Latvian National Federation in Sweden. Seventy years ago tens of thousands of Baltic refugees fled across the Baltic Sea to Sweden. In the seminar “The Flight across the Sea, 1944 and 2014” the authors Marja Talgre and Juris Kronbergs recount the refugees’ dramatic flight and the mixed reception they encountered in Sweden. Their exodus is comparable to present-day refugees, who lack legal entryways into Europe and are forced to flee across the Mediterranean Sea with their lives at stake. This was witnessed by Annette Rosengren, ethnologist and author, who since 2011 has followed refugees, primarily from Afghanistan and Syria, who end up stranded in Greece. Filip Laurits of the Swedish Estonian Association presided over the well-attended seminar. A video can be seen on YouTube:

<http://youtu.be/KJXwWG-pj3c>

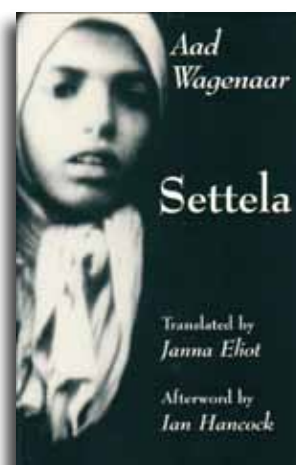
### **Janna Eliot at the Book Fair**

Janna Eliot from England was invited this year to the book fair by the Immigrant Institute. Janna Eliot is widely known among readers interested in Roma literature; she translated “Sofia Z-4515” from Swedish to English, and she has visited Sweden on a number of occasions. This year she discussed the moving book *Settela* by Aad Wagenaar. Janna’s account starts out with a very well-known photo of a little girl peering out the door of a freight car, packed with prisoners on their way to Auschwitz. The year is 1944, and the photo was taken in Holland. No one knew anything about it for years, and despite the search by curious people and researchers for the girl’s identity and background, no traces could be found. The Dutch journalist Aad Wagenaar couldn’t forget the photo and was determined to find the girl’s background. In the book *Settela* he describes his search among archives and films, the survivors he meets, and the visit to Auschwitz itself, though he finds no clues. But with a sudden realization, he sees that he and everyone else involved in the search have followed the wrong track. The

little girl is not a Jew. She is a Roma.

Janna Eliot’s second lecture at the International Square was introduced by Randi Myhre of the Immigrant Institute. The seminar title was “The Roma eat breakfast, too”. Janna didn’t mention anything at all about breakfast but reviewed some of her books, one of which was *The Gypsy Piano Tuner*, a collection of short stories about the Roma and Sinti from WWII until present day. Not until the end of her presentation did Janna disclose what she meant by breakfast: it was used to show a current example of how the Roma are discriminated against. She reveals how Diana Nyman, dressed in her traditional Finnish-Roma garb, was refused breakfast at the Hotel Sheraton in Stockholm. Janna pointed out the irony of it, since Diana was in Stockholm to participate in a government sponsored conference on the Roma. On the way to the conference she was denied entry to the Hotel Sheraton’s restaurant! Using the example of a denied breakfast Janna Eliot skillfully linked together her two presentations, from Nazism in WWII to present-day discrimination in Sweden.

**By Gunilla Lundgren**



# The Forgotten Emigration at the Senior Citizens' Home in Lagan



On November 3, Ljungby Municipal Advisor Anne Karlsson inaugurated the exhibition "The Forgotten Emigration" at the retirement home Åbrinken in Lagan. This is a step in the

Swedish Migration Center's efforts to show exhibits in new contexts, thereby further spreading knowledge about our common migration history to new groups of interested view-

ers. The exhibit is being shown in collaboration with the Center for Labor History and ABF (the Workers' Educational Association).

## Archive Day



Ljungby

Foto Krister Ljungberg



Karlskrona

On November 8th Archive Day was held throughout Sweden, with this year's theme "Troubled Times". The Swedish Migration Center and Ljungby City Archives made their presentation at the old courthouse in Ljungby. The Swedish Migration Center displayed an

exhibition about Swedes who fought on USA's side in WWI. Visitors could also try doing genealogy research and receive help searching for relatives in the Migration Center's databases. Even in Karlskrona Migration Center staff participated, along with many other archive

offices and cultural institutions in the region, in an exposition on the same theme in the Concert Hall foyer on November 4th.

In Ljungby the exhibition remained open on Thursdays until December 11th.

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