

AMERICAN SWEDISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM
1900 Pattison Avenue Philadelphia, Pa. 19145

December 7, 1972

Dr. Hulda E. Thelander
40 Seafirth Place
Tiburon, California 94920

Dear Dr. Thelander,

Thank you so much for your response to my inquiry directed to the Child Development Center concerning your Swedish ancestry, and then the Horizons brochure, and most recently, the copy of the article in Independent-Journal concerning the Camp Fire Girls national award. Yes, we are "keeping track of Swedes" and we certainly have to hustle to keep up with you!

For many years the Women's Auxiliary of the American Swedish Historical Museum has made an award of Life Membership in the American Swedish Historical Foundation (which maintains the Museum as described in the enclosed brochure) to a woman of Swedish descent whose outstanding achievements in American culture in many fields - public service, fraternal organizations, music, education, medicine, research, writing, etc. - are an honor to all, Americans and Swedes alike.

Next year we are eager to present this award to you for your tireless contribution of time and energy and love on behalf of the health and welfare of children, the training of women in medicine, your scientific writings (and as the King of Siam says, "etcetera, etcetera, etcetera"!). We would like to become another in your long line of bestowers of awards, for we are all Swedish Americans, and would be greatly honored if you could come to Philadelphia to receive it at the annual meeting of the Auxiliary on May 5, 1973. I would, of course, be glad to answer any questions you may have in mind in this connection and go into further details concerning your visit. This is a preliminary approach to give you opportunity to acquaint yourself with this Foundation which is dedicated and actively at work achieving the goals outlined in the brochure, and to find out whether next May 5th is a possible date for you to come here to accept the award.

Unfortunately, our hard working Auxiliary does not have funds to cover your travel expenses from California and return, but we would take good care of you while you would be here. Perhaps there would be some medical contacts you would be interested to make (Philadelphia is noted for its numerous fine institutions in the field of medicine, as you know) and, if so, they could be planned around the Saturday afternoon engagement at the Museum.

That date seems far distant at this point, but I would greatly appreciate an early reply to this "preliminary approach" and do hope on behalf of all the members of the Women's Auxiliary that it will be an affirmative one! Then we can take it from there, yes?

In the meantime, as we hold our great annual Lucia Fest this Saturday, December 9th, we wish you "God Jul och ett Godt Nytt Ar."

Sincerely yours,
Lillie Holmstrand Fraser
Lillie Holmstrand Fraser
Chairman, Award Committee

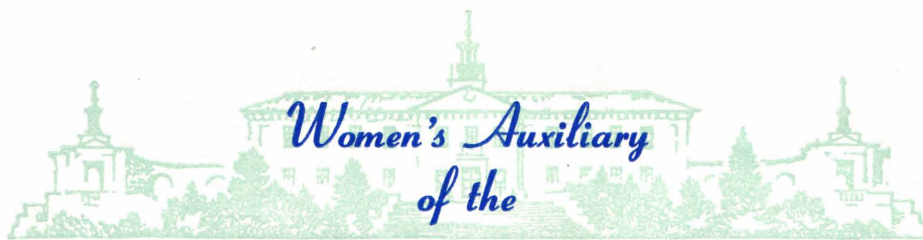
Mrs. Arthur B. Fraser

12/12/72

My dear Mrs Fraser,

Your letter was indeed a surprise. I am greatly flattered and will be very pleased to accept such an honor from the Swedish Museum Auxiliary. I will enjoy meeting you all & seeing the museum ~~also~~ I have several relatives in the East & travel there fairly often.

The date is still a long way off. I am planning a trip to Israel in Feb & first part of March, but allowing for possible unforeseen events, I accept with humility & thanks the honor you have offered me. And wish you all A good Xmas



AMERICAN SWEDISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM
1900 Pattison Avenue Philadelphia, Pa. 19145

December 16, 1972

Dr. Huldah E. Thelander
40 Seafirth Place
Tiburon, California 94920

Dear Dr. Thelander,

You have certainly added an extra joy to our Christmas season by your prompt and oh, so welcome, affirmative reply to our invitation to be our 1973 Award recipient here at the Museum on May 5, 1973! Tack så mycket!

We will pick up further correspondence next Spring, but in the meantime, hope that you will have a very interesting trip to Israel in February and March.

With glad anticipation of meeting you personally, I am

Sincerely yours,

Lillie Holmstrand Fraser

Lillie Holmstrand Fraser
Chairman, Award Committee

Mrs. Arthur B. Fraser
[REDACTED]



AMERICAN SWEDISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM
1900 Pattison Avenue Philadelphia, Pa. 19145

March 26, 1973

Dr. Hulda E. Thelander
40 Seafirth Place
Tiburon, California 94920

Dear Dr. Thelander,

Welcome back to the U.S.A. - hope you had a wonderful trip to Israel!

Forgive me for bothering you so soon, but we have just one question that needs to be answered as soon as you can do so. The man who is going to do the lettering on the certificate of honorary life membership in the American Swedish Historical Foundation which will be presented to you on May 5th is going to be away on a trip of several weeks in April and he needs to know just how you want your name to appear on it.

Dr. Hulda E. Thelander

Hulda E. Thelander, M. D.

Hulda E. Thelander

Hulda Evelina Thelander

If you will please just indicate your choice on the enclosed postcard and send it off to me immediately that should give him time to do it without worrying before May 5th. (He's a bit on the elderly side like us!)

Later on when you have set your plans for being in Philadelphia drop me a line and we will make plans for your entertainment while here accordingly. We are eagerly looking forward to coming to know you.

Sincerely yours,

Lillie H. Fraser
Lillie Holmstrand Fraser

Mrs. Arthur B. Fraser
[REDACTED]

I have some questions before making
my final plans; - such as - what time on
the 5th ~~do~~ the activities take place? Should
I plan to arrive on the 4th? Will there be
~~several~~ presentations made to several
people? Is a talk expected? ~~and finally~~
What is the weather like this time of the
year? I like to keep luggage to a
minimum? and finally. where will
I be staying in case my friends from
Maryland wish to pick me up.



AMERICAN SWEDISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM
1900 Pattison Avenue Philadelphia, Pa. 19145

April 17, 1973

Dr. Hulda E. Thelander
40 Seafirth Place
Tiburon, California 94920

Dear Dr. Thelander,

Your letter of the 9th addressed to me at the Swedish Museum has been forwarded to me and I hasten to reply to your questions so that you can make your travel plans accordingly.

We think you will be wise to plan to arrive in Philadelphia on Friday, May 4th, and in order to avoid having to leave home very early in the morning, would suggest that you get a plane which will get you here about 8 p.m. and thus escape the terrific traffic of the late afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Carl P. Mann will meet you at the airport and take you to their home and you can get to bed early and hopefully have a good night's rest. They will bring you to the Swedish Museum at about 11:30 on Saturday morning. There is a business meeting of the Auxiliary at that time, followed by a luncheon.

After the luncheon we will proceed with program of the afternoon which will be an introduction of you (by me) and the presentation to you of the certificate of Life Membership in the American Swedish Historical Foundation, and then we hope you will "talk" to us for about twenty minutes (or longer if you like!). I will have given a resume of your career in my introduction, so we would be particularly interested in hearing about your Swedish family life, what motivated you to study medicine, and specializing in helping handicapped children, some of your experiences with them and also the satisfactions you must feel for your teaching of pediatrics to the medical school students, and anything else along these personal lines which you wish to share with us. We will be all ears!

It will probably be about 3 p.m. when you have finished and you would be free to leave for Washington with your nieces if you care to, or linger longer if you want. And that reminds me, how many nieces will there be? We would like them to be guests at the luncheon and it would be nice if they could get to the Museum at 11:30 a.m. and have time to look around the building for a little while.

The weather should be very pleasant Springtime by May 4th and 5th, but I think you would be wise to bring a light coat over your arm - just in case the weather plays tricks. We will be looking forward to hearing from you concerning the details of the time of your arrival, what line, etc. and hope you will not find the flight too tiring. We are three hours later than your time, as you know, so that is why we suggest your arriving in Philadelphia around 8 p.m. our time. O.K.? If you have further questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to mention them.

*Better send your reply
to me here:*

Mrs. Arthur B. Fraser

Sincerely yours,

Lillie B. Fraser

Little - way to Phila & time
way to Newark - time
let Mann & Mary Know

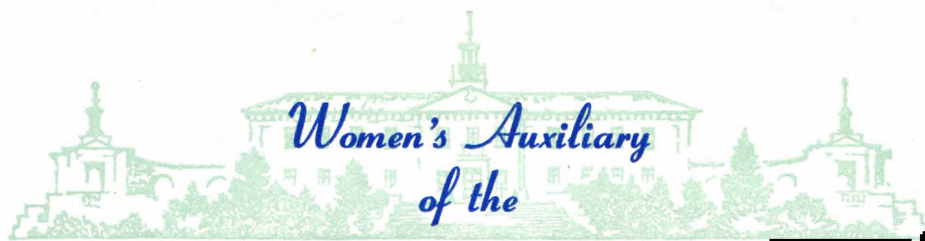
Find out about Detroit - maybe
Call Betty.

House Flight to mpls - let Amelia
& B know =

Plainfield N.J.

Jim

Rockne



AMERICAN SWEDISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM
1900 Pattison Avenue Philadelphia, Pa. 19145

Mrs. Arthur B. Fraser

Ev Glad Park!

April 22, 1973

Tel: [REDACTED]

Dear Dr. Thelander,

Your note of April 18th crossed mine to you of the 17th and we both have some of our questions answered. I had assumed that you would be going to Washington after the meeting here on Saturday, May 5th, but now I know you will be going there first (and on to Newark from here by train).

Your niece, Dorothy Hake, called me on the telephone yesterday afternoon, and agreed that it would be more restful for you to come to Philadelphia on Friday, the 4th, and spend the night in the home of Mr. + Mrs. Mann who will meet you, either at the airport or the train station whichever Miss Hake thinks would be best after she has looked up the schedules. (Sorry we won't be seeing her.)

After your talk in the afternoon we will take you to the train station for your ride to Newark, which will not take more than an hour, I understand. She will send me the times of your arrival on Friday and departure on Saturday. So, rest your mind about your care in Philadelphia. I think you will enjoy it - and I know we will enjoy you! Sincerely, Lillie B. Fraser

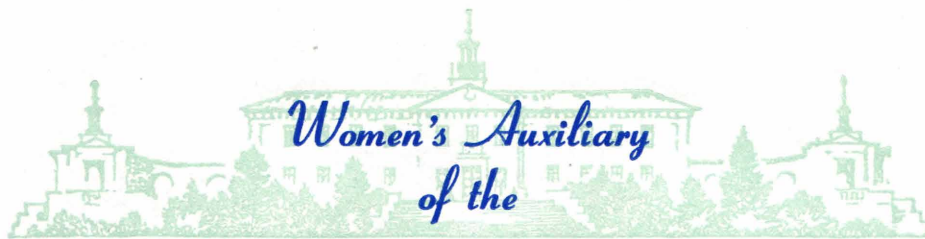
^{Ruderson}
Evelyn Haymaker
Mann



Dr. Thelander

SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES

md



AMERICAN SWEDISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM
1900 Pattison Avenue Philadelphia, Pa. 19145

May 12, 1973

Dr. Hulda E. Thelander
40 Seafirth Place
Tiburon, California 94920

Dear Dr. Thelander,

Just a week ago today we of the American Swedish Historical Museum were experiencing one of the most significant meetings of our existence. And you were the center of it! We just cannot thank you enough for coming such a long distance to share your story of a wonderful home and career with warmth and humor. We wanted to honor you, and hope you felt that we did, but you made us very proud of the Swedish heritage we share with you. May God continue to bless you in the years ahead as he has so richly done throughout your life which has been such a blessing to so many.

I am enclosing a copy of Eric Sellin's tribute to his mother, Amy, for I think ~~you~~ ^{it} will reflect your feelings for your mother. Most of the people who were there last Saturday were thinking of our parents who emigrated to America and the fine lives they contributed to our country.

Now you are back in the stream of your important activities at home, and I hope you had pleasant visits with your relatives en route and comfortable traveling. Tell the Swedes you meet that we would welcome them to come see our Museum as you did! And if you find yourself back East again, be sure to let me know, so that we may possibly meet once more. We were so glad that Mrs. Hake and Miss Bigalke could share our afternoon with us, and since they are not so far away from Philadelphia, we hope that they and their friends will come again soon.

Once more, tusen tack så mycket!

Sincerely yours,

Lillie H. Fraser

Lillie Holmstrand Fraser
Secretary, Awards Committee

Enc.

TO MOTHER: IN MEMORIAM - Eric Sellin

I

A month before her death
I saw the film "The Emigrants."
In the morning's shimmer
I yearned my way through
the streets from the theater,
wandered in a daze
of technicolor riddles
of what and who, in fact, I am.

At the corner I stood
by the banks of the river Humanity
and, like Narcissus,
in each face's pool and eddy, saw
myself and that other river
through time upon whose
current I, raising
desperate arms, was swept.

The word "stoic" would
insinuate itself,
but it is quite another story:
stoicism means reflection
and a choice, a willed, sometimes
capricious self-denial.
These people were but
theorems in the geometry
of pain. Yet there was
one unproven page, a glimmer,
an unheard-of dimension: America.

2

My grandparents, Erik and Anna Anderson
came from that same bed of dreams,
Södermanland and Småland,
in the 1880s in steerage.
bearing the luggage of hope.
They settled in the reminiscent pines of the north.
I burn intensely with the will to know! Here, in the
valley of marble column and glass highrise, I sadly
know that she is gone and, with her, the library
of part of what I am.

She often spoke of Escanaba then, remembering
wooden sidewalks scarred by hobnails of lumberjack boots.
Regarding that of her which is not me,
inasmuch as all of her is not, in some way, me,
I have nothing left but photographs: suspended men
standing before a clapboard store,

their collarless shirts buttoned to the neck;
angular, tough men, a wise look
in their eyes; the dirt street, a palimpsest
of hope and desire, a set of theorems
in itself; dream upon dream upon dream.
The unknown, the land, lumber, food, liberty, peace.
Every death is a living book burned, a betrayal,
a recognition of the limits of intellect,
a proof that there is no sign nor word
to trace a mother's force and presence
save that of Infinity where all rivers
of humanity flow out to open sea.

3

So now for me, these past few months,
a film's most quiet, unrelentive epic
and her story, signed and closed,
are mingled much as one. And walking
from the theater, or, later,
bidding her goodbye, I felt
not so much grief, a via dolorosa,
as the invisible bequest of what
in fact I always was: the impervious
flower of the carefully tilled
dream that made this land.

Eric Sellin
March, 1973

Doubting Thomas

by Douglas Larsen

We have just passed through a part of the church year which places great emphasis on faith. We hear of the faith of Jesus, in the garden and on the cross. We hear of the faith of the disciples and others at the time of the resurrection. And now we enter into a part of the church year which explores how this message was proclaimed and how so many thousands, millions, came to share that faith. But right in the middle we find the story of doubting Thomas. To me he is one of the most believable persons in the Bible. He doubted. Who of us has not? And this is coupled with the story of Jacob wrestling with the angel. I think these stories make a very unique pair, and if we look at them together we will find a very valuable lesson for our lives today.

First, let's look at Jacob. Like many of us, he was a religious man in his own way, and he was no fool in the ways of the world either. He was shrewd and crafty. He outsmarted his older brother Esau and tricked him into selling his birthright for a mess of pottage. Then, aided and abetted by his equally crafty mother, Rebecca, he cheated Esau out of his father's blessing by making himself look like Esau to his nearly blind father. Now Esau was not bright, but he did have a temper and he threatened Jacob's life, so Jacob took off.

That was twenty years ago, and now Jacob was going home for the first time. It was night on the banks of the river, he had sent his family and all his belongings to the other side, and tomorrow he would have to face Esau. Would Esau let by-gones be by-gones, or would he carry out his twenty year old threat?

Anxious and fearful of what tomorrow might bring, Jacob was alone. It was as if his whole past had caught up with him in that dark night. He remembered not only the trickery he had used on Esau, but also the dazzling vision he had once seen of a ladder reaching up to heaven. He remembered the nights he prayed, and the days he lived by his wits. Like most of us, he was a puzzling mixture; a man of God, and a man of the world. He was hard working and devoted to his wife and children. But when the chips were down, he was not against using whatever means were at hand--even God--to achieve his ends. But now it was night, and tomorrow there was Esau.

So the Bible tells us that with all of these memories and trembling for what tomorrow might bring, Jacob wrestled with a man. Was it a river demon? Some nameless diety? An angel? We don't know. Whether God sent a real man or this is an example of the Hebrew way of picturing an event so vividly that you can reach out and touch it, we'll never know. But in that night, we do know that Jacob wrestled with his past, with his conscience, with himself, and with God. And in that struggle, God humbled him. The story says that his hip was dislocated. But he was humbled, and only then did he find victory. He saw himself in relation to God, not as creator, but as creature. He knew once and for all that God was the Lord of his life. But it took this kind of an intense, personal struggle, it took the defeat of his own ego and strength to bring about the victory of faith.

Now let us turn and look at Thomas. We don't know too much about Thomas. He was one of the disciples and probably, like the

rest of them, was very disillusioned and heartbroken by the events of Good Friday. He was not with the rest of the disciples when they gathered on Easter Sunday. Why? Perhaps his sorrow was overwhelming at the death of his lord and master and he just wanted to be alone with his thoughts. Or perhaps he had just given up thinking he was a fool for believing in a man who died like a common criminal. We don't know what made him snap back when the other disciples told him of the resurrection, but, you know, he's so believable! I'll believe it when I see it. I'm really thankful he's there because he said what I probably would have said if someone told me that a man had raised from the dead. But Thomas was even more negative, "If I don't see the scars in his hands and put my fingers in his side, I won't believe". He didn't expect to.

A week later the disciples were gathered again, this time Thomas was with them. Jesus appeared behind locked doors and said, "Peace be with you". Then he looked right at Thomas and told him to touch his hands and side, and then he said, "Stop doubting and believe". What could Thomas say? "My Lord and my God". His doubt too, and I'm sure his struggle of the preceeding week laid the foundation for his unshakable faith. Jesus didn't chide or repress him, or ban him from the other more "faithful" disciples, instead he welcomed him and simply offered himself to him. And Thomas became one of those whose faith shook the whole world of doubters.

I think it only fitting that we look at Jesus in this light, too. The pages of the gospels are full of the struggles of Jesus. His very birth began with a manhunt for his life in which hundreds of

young children were slaughtered. As a young boy I'm sure he wrestled with many of the problems in the religion of his day. I'm sure he spent many nights wandering the hillsides alone trying to understand God and His will for his life. At the beginning of his ministry he was led into the desert to be tempted, first to give up his ministry, and then to use his power to gain great wealth and fame. But he resisted those temptations, not without a struggle. The Pharisees posed many tough questions to him and his answers were the result of much careful thought. And finally in the garden he experienced the most difficult struggle of all as he faced his own death on the cross. But like Jacob and Thomas, his doubts and struggles were rewarded with undoubtedly the strongest faith the world has ever seen.

And now we must look at ourselves. You know, I'm so glad that the Bible tells the stories of Jacob and Thomas, and of course, Jesus. I find myself in those stories. I know what they must have felt like two, three, four thousand years ago. And I think it really says something about the deep truths found in the Bible, for the old, old stories are still the stories of you and me. How many of us are like Jacob? Religious in our own way, practical enough to know what we must do to get ahead in this world, we pray to God when the chips are down, but when things get better . . . well, you know the story. And who of us is not like Thomas? I'll believe it when I see it. Really, wouldn't that have been your reaction if someone had told you that a man had raised from the dead? Is it part of your reaction even now? Or have we heard it so often

that we believe it merely on the basis of repetition? And how many of us have never wrestled with a problem the way Jesus did? No, we are all like all of these men as we live each day facing the host of very real problems that life sets before us.

But let me say this! We must become even more like them. We will never overcome our doubts by repressing them. It is only by facing them head on and wrestling with them that we can ever hope to come out on the other side. I don't worry nearly as much about the doubters as I do the people who just don't care. They will never wrestle with themselves or God. And they will never find him. It says in Jeremiah, "You will not find God until you seek him with all your heart". Each of these men sought God with all of their hearts, and they received that kind of faith so personal and so deep which comes only as the result of an intense encounter with God. That kind of faith can be yours as well. But I am convinced that you cannot obtain it in and of yourself. No man can give it to you. It is the gift of God. Each of these men struggled to find that faith, but in the end it was a gift from God.

When you are ready to risk the life of complacency and passive acceptance and take on your doubts and the whole world of doubters that faith will be yours. As with anything else, you will only get from it what you are willing to give to it. But your rewards will be a hundred fold. When you risk the very ground you stand on, you will be lifted to the company of angels.