



2019-2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NEW MEMBERS FOR 2019-2020

Brenda Butler is a passionate advocate for arts education. Her interest in education began in public programs work at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, leading to a career in art education, teaching in public schools. At Minneapolis Public Schools, she has served as an arts administrator supporting arts work through management, mentorship and curriculum resource development. Currently, she is the Program Director for Pre-College Summer Session at Minneapolis College of Art and Design and Director at the Butler Family Community Foundation (headquartered in Manhattan, Kansas). Brenda holds degrees in Textile Design and Art History and a M.Ed in Art Education. She is pursuing a MPS in Arts and Cultural Leadership Program at the University of Minnesota, with a minor in Museum Studies.

Mohamud Mumin is the co-founder and curator at Soomaal House of Art — a Minnesota-based Somali art collective that provides studio space, studio critiques, artistic community, mentorships for younger Somali artists and an annual exhibition space with educational programming. In addition to writing, developing and presenting exhibitions, as well as working closely with the artists at Soomaal, Mohamud is a visual artist himself with many awards who has shown his work both nationally and internationally. He was the 2016 Malmberg Fellow at The American Swedish Institute, a 2016 and 2019 recipient of Midway Contemporary Art Visual Arts Fund grant, a 2013 and 2018 recipient of the McKnight Visual Artist Fellowship.

William ‘Bill’ Weiler is retired after a career that included investment analysis at Prudential Insurance, financial management at Famous Footwear as Vice President of Finance, and bank management at Wells Fargo, Norwest Bank Minnesota, and Midway National Bank. He presently volunteers at ASI, welcoming visitors at the front desk, as well as at Youthlink, a drop-in center for homeless youth, tutoring GED students. After his professional retirement, Bill taught in the MBA program at St. Thomas University for several years. His previous Board tenures have included Twin West Chamber of Commerce, Pyramid Mental Health Center, and Sojourner Women’s Shelter. For 10 years, he volunteered at the U of M Raptor Center assisting in the clinic. His current interests include reading, travel, skiing, and playing at golf.

Andreas Örnberg, PhD is a native of Stockholm, Sweden. Andreas has a Master of Science in Material Science and Engineering from KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, and a Doctorate in Corrosion Science from KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm. Andreas has 15 years of experience in the medical device field with leading product development and scientific services. Andreas is a long-time member of the ASI.

RETURNING BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Margaret (Maggi) Adamek is CEO of a strategic services firm that works with clients at the intersection of food, health, and agriculture, providing strategic planning, organizational development, program design and evaluation, meeting design and facilitation, coaching and customized training for clients in higher education, philanthropy, government agencies at all scales, and large-scale public partnerships. Her career has focused a great deal on racial justice, with a focus on Native American nations. For over twenty years, Dr. Adamek worked in Indian Country, including support for fair and Democratic tribal elections on Anishinaabe reservations; recognition of the perspectives of Sandy Lake and Rice Lake Bands in fishing rights issues of the Mille Lacs Band; and the presence of organized crime in Indian gaming. For nearly twenty years, she designed and led programs designed to promote healthy eating and sustainable agriculture at the University of Minnesota, while chairing a large national consortium of land grant universities working on the same effort. During this time, she worked to build strong and lasting bridges between the Anishinaabe and University partners. She holds a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from University of Minnesota and an undergraduate degree from Carleton College, where she volunteers as a class agent and reunion planning committee member. Most recently, Dr. Adamek's firm is conducting a multi-stage feasibility study for the Minneapolis Public Schools for the development of an urban educational farm; providing strategic planning and capital campaign plan development for an Anishinaabe cultural center focused on wild rice and water; and designed and executed a large public campaign resulting in the production of the Minnesota Food Charter.

Dr. Philip Anderson - Born and raised in Minneapolis, Philip J. Anderson is Professor Emeritus of Church History at North Park University in Chicago, where he taught from 1979-2013. Since 1989 he has served as president of the Swedish-American Historical Society, also chairing its publications committee. For many years he has been on the boards of Swedish Council of America, the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana College (Rock Island), and is the historical consultant to the Swedish American Museum in Chicago. Included among his publications is *Swedes in the Twin Cities: Immigrants and Minnesota's Urban Frontier* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2001). He lives with his wife, Karna, in Hovland and Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota.

Aimee Richcreek Baxter is a systems professional who has served as Financial Systems Specialist at Macalester College since 2012. She has also an accomplished freelance photographer, having owned her own photography business, Baxtercreek Photography, since 2010. Aimee brings with her previous Board experience, most recently as a Trustee of the Schubert Club of Minnesota. Aimee's connection to the Turnblad family has roots in her childhood, as she grew up in Vasa, MN, the town where ASI founder Swan Turnblad settled upon emigrating to Minnesota from Sweden.

Karl Benson is the owner of Cooks of Crocus Hill, a retail business and culinary educator. He has been active at ASI for years, assisting with the development of ASI's cultural enterprises and recently with the events welcoming Chef Magnus Nilsson. Karl has also served on the board of Urban Roots, the President's Advisory Board at Saint Paul College, Council of St. Peder's Lutheran Church and on the Marine St. Croix City Council.

Michael Bjornberg is a Minnesota-based architect with over 35 years of experience working with historic buildings. He was part of the team that designed and completed ASI's own Nelson Cultural Center campus expansion and has worked on key historic landmarks across the United States including University of Notre Dame's Main Administration Building, Football Stadium and South Dining Hall, University of Minnesota's Coffman Union, University of Minnesota Morris Campus, Historic Fort Snelling, Hamm's Brewery Complex, St Paul Union Depot, and the restoration of the Minnesota State Capitol. Additionally, Michael has worked on college campuses across the United States doing strategic planning, design guideline development, facility assessments, and new construction planning. He has also served as Board Chair of both the Preservation

Alliance of Minnesota and the AIA National Historic Resources Committee and as Professor in Practice at the University of Minnesota's School of Design teaching Adaptive Reuse of endangered historic sites.

Dr. David Carlson is a retired internist who practiced medicine at Allina Medical and in private practice for over 30 years. He volunteers with the Patient Partners program for retired health care professionals at Abbott Northwestern Hospital and has sat on the boards of Abbot Northwestern and Gustavus Adolphus College. David and his wife Karen are long-time ASI members and live in Edina.

Brad Engdahl is a retired trial attorney from Robins Kaplan LLC. His family has been involved at ASI for generations, starting with his grandparents, Walfrid and Augusta. Brad has also served on the board of Advocates for Human Rights, a non-profit organization that investigates human rights violations, represents immigrants and refugees who are victims of human rights abuses, and advocates for international human rights standards.

Barbara Linell Glaser, Ed.D A native of Minnesota, Barbara has a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Minnesota and a Doctorate in Family and Community Education from Columbia University. She was the Founding Director of Great Camp Sagamore: a National Historic Site and Education facility in the Adirondack Mountains of Upstate New York. She has worked in the fields of community education, historic preservation and land conservation through her private company Linell Lands, and by serving on the Boards of the Adirondack Council, the Adirondack Land Trust, Saratoga PLAN, the Saratoga Institute, the Nordlys Foundation, The Community Foundation for the Greater Capitol Region, and the Pitney Meadows Community Farm. Barbara is a lifetime member of the ASI and splits her time between Minneapolis and Saratoga Spring's New York.

Mary Dee Hicks is a former Senior Vice President at Personnel Decisions International where she consulted with organizations on the selection and development of their leaders. Mary Dee and her husband George (co-founder of Värde Partners) have an ongoing involvement in several initiatives at Gustavus Adolphus College. She has served in a variety of leadership roles at her congregation, Edina Community Lutheran Church, and is a partner with Social Venture Partners, an engaged philanthropy group that supports teens. Mary Dee earned a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Minnesota. She proudly embraces her Swedish heritage and her roots on St. Paul's East Side.

Diane Hofstede- As an eight-year riverfront Minneapolis City Council member, led in key initiatives, including the approval of the Minnesota Vikings Stadium and the rebuilding of the 35W Bridge, organized and chaired the Audit Committee that established the financial audit department in Minneapolis, re-developed the historic Pillsbury A-Mill, and began the rebirth of the Mississippi Riverfront. During my tenure as a multi-term Board Chair of the Minneapolis Public Library, I led approval, fundraising, and the completion of Minneapolis Downtown Public Library, a showcase of environmental sustainability, influenced by my visit, with the delegation to establish the sister city relationship with Uppsala, Sweden with Minneapolis Mayor Sayles-Belton, and Bruce Karlstad in 1999. Twenty year Senior Financial Advisor with a national investment company, and Minneapolis Public School Teacher and curriculum writer for the district.

Laurie L. Holmquist- A Global Account Manager for Delta Airlines, who has been actively involved in various activities at ASI and who lived in Sweden both as a student and working professional.

Laurie Jacobi is a well-known graphic and textile designer who incorporates legends of nature in her designs, including Nordic legends. She has been a long-time ASI member and Swedish language student as well as exhibiting at ASI and designing a commemorative blanket for the Royal Visit in 2012. Laurie has served on the Southwest High School Music Boosters board for three years as well as volunteering her time by organizing the Adult Forums at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church.

Herbert (Ted) Johnson- Born in Minnesota, second and third generation Swedish American heritage among others. BA and MA degrees from U of M, with 3 kids and a granddaughter. Had four careers as Academic Library Director, Medical Equipment sales & service, Financial Services, and US Army Reserve, Lieutenant Colonel. Joined ASI in 1969 for charter flights and remained member though lived away for 40 years, including six month sabbatical in Lund. In Atlanta active in Scandinavian American Foundation of Georgia, Vasa's Nordic Lodge 708, Sons of Norway, Swedish male chorus, Vasa Drangar, and nine years of Swedish language study. Swedish Council of America Emeritus board member. Hosted about 15 international high school and college students from around the world. Rotarian since 1975 and led Group Study Exchange Team on month's visit to Sweden in 2002. Have served as Lutheran Lay Assistant minister since 1971. Moved back to MN in 2011. Joined the North Suburban and ASI Male choruses, Svenska Sällskapet, and Shoreview YMCA Community Board. Volunteer at the ASI as facilitator, crafts, kids programs, admission, and special events.

Dr. John Litell is a physician practicing critical care at Abbott Northwestern Hospital and emergency medicine at Hennepin County Medical Center. He was born in Sweden and after moving with his family to Minneapolis as a child, he spent many years attending and working at Sjölund, the Swedish language village at Concordia Language Villages. He remains a native Swedish speaker and has begun pursuing occasional translation work, following the example of his father, Richard Litell, the editor of Scandinavian Review, and his mother, Kristine Mortensen, a former ASI board member. After completing his medical training at Penn State and Mayo Clinic and holding faculty positions at Harvard Medical School and the University of Michigan, John has returned to Minneapolis with his partner Britt Erickson and their new baby.

Russ Michaletz is soon to retire as a Partner at Deloitte Tax LLP in Minneapolis. He has sat on the board of Gustavus Adolphus College (his alma mater) and Minnesota Private Colleges. Russ and his wife Jan, who has served on ASI's board in the past, are long-time members and live in Edina.

Elizabeth Olson currently serves as Chief Financial Officer for Caring Bridge Inc. Over the past 25 years, she has been a leader in financial management in both the for-profit and non-profit arenas, including heading up the finance and accounting function for Volunteers of America, a diversified social services agency, and managing all financial and HR interests for Grassroots Solutions, Inc., a nationally-known engagement and advocacy consulting firm. She has also served as an investment consultant at Slocum & Associates, where she worked with institutional clients to create investment policies and recommend asset allocations, and in financial positions at both Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Northwest Airlines. Elizabeth also lends her financial and leadership skills as a volunteer for a number of local organizations, serving on the Financial Leadership Committee at the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, as a trustee for WomenWinning, and formerly as the Treasurer for the Wayzata Symphony Orchestra. Elizabeth's aunt, Dr. Mary Towley Swanson, was a distinguished scholar of Scandinavian art history and active on ASI's exhibitions and collections committees. Elizabeth is a Minnesota native; she received her B.A. in English and Economics at Oberlin College and her MBA at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

Linda Wallenberg is a long-time ASI member, educator, and teacher of Swedish language and culture. From 1977 until 1993, Linda served as the dean of Sjölund – Concordia Language Villages' Swedish language summer program – and again as a Sjölund staff member from 2000 to present. For her contributions to Swedish language learning, Linda was awarded the Order of the Polar Star in 1988 by HM Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden. She is also a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College who has had a long career as a high school English teacher and gymnastics coach within the Eden Prairie, MN school system. Linda brings with her a wealth of intercultural competence, Swedish language skills, and robust networks within both the Scandinavian region and the American-Scandinavian communities of the U.S.

Dr. Maggi Adamek, Dr. Philip Anderson, Aimee Richcreek Baxter, Karl Benson, Michael Bjornberg, Brenda Butler, Dr. David Carlson, Brad Engdahl, Barbara Linell Glaser, Ed.D, Mary Dee Hicks, Diane Hofstede, Laurie L. Holmquist, Laurie Jacobi, Herbert (Ted) Johnson, Dr. John Litell, Russ Michaletz, Mohamud Mumin, Elizabeth Olson, Linda Wallenberg, William Weiler, Andreas Örnberg