

Augustana Winter Traditions: Food Traditions

Andrew Remeselnik

Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois

Adam Huffstutler

Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois

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Augustana Digital Commons Citation

Remeselnik, Andrew and Huffstutler, Adam. "Augustana Winter Traditions: Food Traditions" (2018). *Celebration of Learning*.
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Smorgasbord: Remembering Our Swedish Heritage or Marking Our American Evolution?

Andrew Remeselnik and Adam Huffstutler

Jul Smorgasbord

Smorgasbord is a Swedish tradition in which many parties come together with traditional Swedish dishes and partake in a grand banquet. Typically celebrated in the winter, smorgasbord initially served as a communal gesture of the wealthy, excluding those who could not contribute an exquisite and typically expensive meal. Today however, smorgasbord is practiced amongst most Swedish, eliminating the necessity of a high-class status, as seen in its display at Augustana College. Founded by the Swedish, Augustana College strives to recognize its Scandinavian roots, historically inviting anyone who is willing to pay a minimal fee. In recent years, however, the tradition of smorgasbord has largely strayed from its Swedish culture, and has adopted a widely more American perspective of the holiday.

Americanization

Essentially, the Americanization of Augustana's Smorgasbord served to please the members of the community, allowing all from differing ethnicities, ages, and customs to come together under a single tradition

- Introduction of Santa to please the children
- Cuisine served as main meal, not appetizer
- American Christmas songs
- Party for the faculty, Students And Family
- Foods like Macaroni & Cheese and Christmas Ham



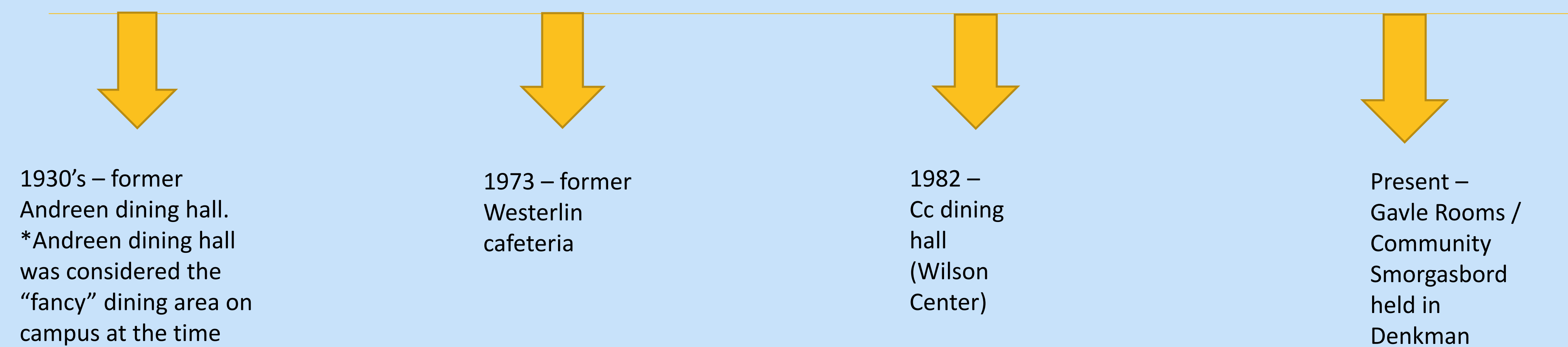
What it Means to Those in Our Community

- For the faculty and staff on campus, it is a time for all to gather together with colleagues and family and share in holiday cheer. It is also an event that allows them to celebrate Augustana's rich Swedish heritage & cultural ties.
- For members outside of the Augustana community, Smorgasbord serves as an opportunity to come enjoy our beautiful campus and experience one of the many Swedish-based traditions we hold here at Augie.
- Just this year, the community-wide Smorgasbord was reintroduced on campus, inviting all members of the QC to partake for a capped family-fee. The event is hosted by the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center and is held in Denkmann



Timeline of Locations Around Campus

Through the years, Augustana's Jul Smorgasbord has been hosted in many different locations that we all know and love around campus. The location reflects the purpose of Smorgasbord for that year, utilizing banquet space to impress guests, or community space for all of campus to enjoy.



Americanization of the Smorgasbord Menu

Herring in Wine and Cream
Breads - Limpa and Swedish Rye
Bondost Cheese
Parsley Buttered Potatoes
Scandinavian Vegetables - Peas, Carrots, Zucchini
Sill Salat
Ostkaka
Uott Builar
Bruna Boner
Anil potatis
Swedish Meatballs
Potato-Sausage



Sliced Ham - No cherries
Fresh Fruit Bowl with Caramel Dip
Tossed Salad with assorted dressings
Coleslaw
Vegetable Tray with Dip
Baked Salmon
Caraway Cheese

Major Contributors:

Kai Swanson:

Kai Swanson's parents were both students at Augustana College in the 1950's, when Augustana's student body was almost exclusively Swedish. He believes that primary reason for the institution's growth in diversity was the Swedish-American trend of spreading around the United States. Mr. Swanson followed in his parents' footsteps, enrolling in the college, where his father served as the campus Chaplin. Though Swanson attended Augustana in the 1980's, graduating in 1986, he nostalgically recalled his earliest memories of the college, ranging as far back as the late 1960's. After graduation, Swanson found employment in the college's radio station, WVIK, beginning as a morning news anchor and eventually promoted to the editor of Augustana's college magazine. In 2003, however, Mr. Swanson applied to become Assistant to the College's President, Dr. Bahls, and became the assistant in 2005. He continues to assist the president, as well as holding other roles on campus, like President of the Augustana Historical Society, allowing Augustana to employ him for 32 years. He holds a very key role in the planning and execution of Augustana's Smorgasbord.



Austin Albert:

Austin Albert is a 3rd Year Student at Augustana College, majoring in Scandinavian Studies. Aside from his academic expertise, Albert was uniquely beneficial as he was invited to Augustana College's hosting of smorgasbord in 2017 for his role in the institution's choir. Aside from asking to perform, Albert and his peers were able to indulge in the array of dishes and conversation with the other guests. Albert is unique, however, as he has been a participant in a larger smorgasbord celebration that is held annually in Indiana. With such experience, he offered insight to how the differences between Augustana's custom and that of the truly Swedish.



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