

Donor Showcase

Scandinavian Gems — Karlström Shines On

Continuing Signe’s legacy are her son, Olof Karlström, and his wife Olivia Maynard. Supporting Signe’s beliefs in helping and inspiring others, and having great regard for the Scandinavian social system, Olof and Olivia are generous supporters of the School of Social Work, the School of Education, and the Law School. Helping to fund research in social and economic justice, poverty, diversity, family, community organization, and social welfare issues in Flint, Detroit, and other metropolitan areas, it is clear that they do all they can to make our local communities better places for everyone.

As part of the commitment to community involvement, the Signe Karlström Memorial Event was designed to showcase innovative and artistic presentations from a Scandinavian perspective. Through music, performance, and lectures, this event continues to inspire and enlighten the public. Past events include

- The Rilke Ensemble (2000) ,
- *The Night Walkers* by Kristina Lugn (2001),
- Leif Janson, Swedish Theater and Film Historian and Translator (2002),
- Scandinavian Chamber Music Concerts (2003),
- David Östlund, historian & Fulbright-lecturer, Stockholm University (2004), and
- Göran Therborn, Director of the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences, Uppsala, and University Professor of Sociology at Uppsala University (2006).

We are delighted that this endowment is able to continue in perpetuity and look forward to the next Signe Karlström Event. For additional details, please visit our website at www.lsa.umich.edu/german. If you would like to be notified of the next event, please email Johanna Eriksson, Scandinavian Studies Director at johanna@umich.edu



Olof Karlström and Olivia Maynard have generously challenged the Department and its Scandinavian supporters—in consideration of Swedish language and culture. **They are providing a matching gift to every contribution made to the Swedish Language Studies Fund or Endowment.** This fund is used to support all aspects of the Scandinavian program including public events, books and material, as well as scholarships for student exchanges, internships and the spring study tour. Please consider making your donation count twice. This special agreement will remain in effect until December 31, 2008. If you would like additional information on donating to any of the Department’s programs, please contact Sheri Sytsema-Geiger at sytsema@umich.edu.



Signe Karlström was born in Sweden in 1906. She arrived in the US in 1922 and began her lifelong devotion to civic and charitable organizations in the Detroit area. She helped found the Jenny Lind Club; served as the Secretary and Program Coordinator of the Swedish Council; and was Knighted and received various honors and medals from the Kingdom of Sweden.

Signe was a great supporter of the Scandinavian Studies Program here at U-M. Her commitment to Scandinavian ideals continues with the annual Signe Karlström Event—inaugurated in her honor—one year after her death in 1988.