

11-16-09

**PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release**

The Arts Council of historic Bishop Hill invites you to join in the Lucia Nights celebration on Friday December 11th and Saturday December 12th from 6:00pm until 9:00pm both evenings. The name *Lucia* is derived from the Latin word for light. This Swedish tradition is based on a legend of a Sicilian martyr, Saint Lucia, Queen of Light. During a famine in Sweden, on the longest and darkest night of the year, Lucia appeared wearing a long white robe and encircling her head was a crown of candles. Legend has it that Lucia appeared on a ship laden with food. When the ship was unloaded both it and Lucia vanished. Lucia is a much loved saint in Sweden. Girls today wake their families on December 13th, dressed in a white robe and wearing a crown of candles carrying a tray of Lucia buns.

**A**ctivities begin in Bishop Hill on Friday at 6:00pm with the lighting of the park Christmas tree and holiday singing. Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> the following music will occur; The unique musical duo Rich Hartley and Jan Sams will perform at the Steeple Building at 6:30 pm. The *Galva Congregational Church Ladies Bell Choir* will perform at 6:45 pm at the VagnHall Galleri - second floor of the historic Blacksmith Shop and the Peoria Cooperative Academy Chorale will perform later at the VagnHall Galleri at 7:30 pm.

At the VASA National Archives Friday, December 11th there will be a Lucia procession after the tree lighting in the park, coffee and saffron buns will be served. A program of Swedish Christmas time traditions from "*Advent to Julgransplundering*" will be presented.

On Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> *The Mountain Men* will perform at 5:30 pm at the VagnHall Galleri, and, later at 7:00 pm the *Peoria Cooperative Academy Chorale* will perform at the VagnHall Galleri.

The Rusty Pickup invites you to an *Old Fashioned Barn Dance* Saturday, December 12th at the historic Colony School beginning at 7 pm. All dances taught and called by Gail Hintze and Jim Hicks. \$5 per person, \$15 max. per family. Beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Treats to share are always appreciated. The PCA Madrigal Choir will be singing during the dance break at the school.

Both Fri. and Sat. nights the Bishop Hill Community United Methodist Church will hold their annual *Soup and Chili Supper* beginning at 4:30 pm.

Each business and museum will be open until 9:00 pm and will have a Lucia girl serving cookies. Around the village, each building will have a single candle in each window.

Overnight accommodations are available.

This program is partially funded by a grant from the **Illinois Arts Council**, a state agency and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Bishop Hill is located 150 southwest of Chicago and 20 miles east of I-74 in Henry County. For more information please call 1-309-927-3345 or 1-309-927-3885. Visit the web at [www.bishophillartscouncil.com](http://www.bishophillartscouncil.com) or [www.bishophill.com](http://www.bishophill.com).



*Lucia Nights*  
**2009**

**Fri. Dec. 11th & Sat. Dec. 12th, Bishop Hill, IL**

**Festival of Lights** 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**Friday, Dec. 11, 2009**

- 4:30 pm - B.H. Methodist Church Soup & Chili Supper
- 6:00 pm - Lighting of the park Christmas tree with singing
- 6:20 pm - Lucia procession Vasa Archives, special program.
- 6:30 pm - Rich Hartley & Jan Sams perform Steeple Bldg.
- 6:45 pm - Galva Congregational Ladies Bell Choir - 2nd floor - VagnHall Galleri in Blacksmith Shop
- 7:30 pm - Peoria Cooperative Academy Chorale - VagnHall Galleri

**Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009**

- 4:30 pm - B.H. Methodist Church Soup & Chili Supper
- 5:30 pm - The Mountain Men - VagnHall Galleri - Blacksmith Shop
- 7:00 pm - Peoria Coop. Academy Chorale - VagnHall Galleri
- 7:00 pm - Old Fashioned Barn Dance at Colony School

**Each business & museum open until 9:00 pm with Lucia girl.  
Each building will have single candle in windows.**

Info. call 309-927-3345 or 927-3899 or e-mail: [bhha@winco.net](mailto:bhha@winco.net).

This festival is sponsored, in part, by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a State Agency.



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