

11-30-15

Press Release - For Immediate Release

Bishop Hill, IL

Lucia Nights in Bishop Hill

Bishop Hill invites you to join the Lucia Nights celebration on Friday December 11 and Saturday December 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. This Swedish tradition is based on a legend of Saint Lucia, Queen of Light. Girls in Sweden today wake their families on December 13th carrying a tray of Lucia buns while dressed in a white robe and wearing a crown of candles.

Lucia Nights begins in Bishop Hill with the **Lighting of the Park Christmas tree** at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 11. The public is invited to bring edible ornaments to hang on the tree. Evening **attractions** include free musical performances in various locations in town. Businesses and museums will have a Lucia girl serving cookies. Around the village, each building will have a single candle in each window, and sidewalks will be illuminated. Special Christmas gifts will also be on sale.

On both Friday and Saturday evenings, Bishop Hill will be hosting a wide range of activities. The **Peoria Cooperative Academy Chorale** will be performing in VagnHall Galleri at 6 p.m. In the Welcome Center from 6 to 9 p.m., storyteller **Brian "Fox" Ellis** will be sharing traditional Swedish and Pioneer Christmas stories, mixed with a sing-a-long of many of your favorite carols. At the Steeple Building, **Hammer and Pick** will be playing from 6 to 9 p.m., with woodcarving demonstrations going on as well. In addition, the Bishop Hill Community United Methodist Church will host the annual **Soup and Chili Supper** beginning at 4:00 p.m. until they run out. A free-will donation is appreciated to cover the cost of the meal. Garden Thyme will also be selling three Christmas trees, each designed by a local artist. Each tree will be pre-decorated with a theme and a title given by the artist. For more information, visit Garden Thyme in Bishop Hill on Facebook.

On Friday, December 11 only, **Jazz on the Side** will be performing in VagnHall Galleri at 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, December 12 only, there will be a **book signing by Lilly Setterdahl** from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Welcome Center. *Second Love After 50* is Lilly's first contemporary novel, but her 19th book. *Second Love After 50* is a contemporary, family-oriented love story set in Illinois with Swedish characters centering around a 52-year old widow of the baby-boom generation and her chance at second love. **ROWVA High School Chorus will be caroling** throughout Bishop Hill from 5 to 6 p.m. The **Mountain Men** will be performing in VagnHall Galleri at 7 p.m. In addition, beginning at 7 p.m., there will be an **Old Fashioned Barn Dance** at the Colony School. **The Rusty Pickup String Band** will be performing. All dances taught and called by Gail Hintze and Jim Hicks. Admission is \$5 per person, and beginners are welcome. No partner is necessary.

For more information about Lucia Nights, call 309-927-3899 or visit www.bishophill.com.

*Lucia Nights is sponsored, in part, by the *Illinois Arts Council*, a State Agency.

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Attached photographs are courtesy of Lou Lourdeau