



Bishop Hill

ILLINOIS



Utopia on the Prairie.
Founded 1846

2023-2024 Visitors Guide

enjoy
illinois

Welcome to Bishop Hill, Illinois

Many other 'historic villages' one might visit are actually reproductions. They may have done some archeology and built new, or moved a mish-mash of historic structures to an artificial commons. But Bishop Hill is very much the same town you would have seen if you came through in a horse and buggy 177 years ago. It is a living, fully functional village with a mayor and fire department. What makes us unique is that the entire town is a registered historic landmark. The people who live here still farm the surrounding country side, cut firewood for the winter, plant broom corn in the spring, and celebrate the changing of the seasons, just as our Swedish ancestors did. Yes, we do this for the folks who come to participate, but more importantly, we do it because it is our way of living authentically. The crafts and trades that supported our fore-fathers and mothers are still a source of livelihood today. The pottery and brooms you buy are the same ones we use in our kitchens.

Consider yourself invited to come, step into a land of authentic enchantment, and become a part of a living tradition.



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Yes, you CAN get here from there. Bishop Hill is...

- 160 mi from Chicago, IL
- 217 mi from Des Moines, IA
- 263 mi from Indianapolis, IN
- 218 mi from Milwaukee, WI
- 38 mi from Moline, IL
- 56 mi from Peoria, IL
- 224 mi from St. Louis, MO
- 4374 mi from Sweden.



Avoid disappointment and call ahead.
Check www.visitbishophill.com for the most current dates and times.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1

Bishop Hill Book Fair & From the Page to the Stage Storytelling Workshop

Come to The Commons and meet local authors and hear them read from their recent work. Attend a workshop to cultivate the storyteller within you. Purchase books and collect autographs from your favorite local authors. **FREE Storytelling Workshop 10am-11am. Book Fair 11am-4pm**
Contact Fox for details **309.696.1017** foxtales@foxtalesint.com

April 1-2

Spring Fling

Welcome spring and the beginning of the tourist season in Bishop Hill as various stores, museums and restaurants offer special discounts, events, and activities. Collect signatures from 6 businesses or museums and be entered for a gift basket drawing at the Colony Store. Call **309.927.3898** or email VasaArchivist@gmail.com for more information.

April 1-2

10am-4pm

Vasa Exhibit Opening

Join the Vasa National Archives and Museum as we open our doors for the 2023 season with an Opening Reception for two new exhibits. One looking at where some of the Vasa Lodges get their names. Many lodges honor famous or influential Swedes by naming the lodge after these people. The other exhibit will be "A Sampling of our Samling" (collection) featuring pieces that don't get to be seen very often. **FREE and open to the Public.** Call **309.927.3898** or email VasaArchivist@gmail.com for more information.

April 9

11am-2pm

Easter Dinner

Plan for a grand Easter Sunday meal at The Filling Station in beautiful downtown Bishop Hill. Reservations encouraged. **309.927.3355**

The Feeling Never Gets Old!

EVERY LABOR DAY WEEKEND

FOOD

FESTIVAL

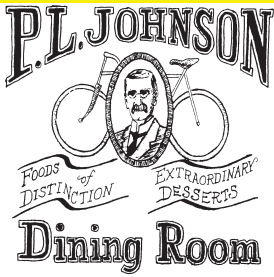
FUN

KEWANEE HOG DAYS!

Sept 1 - 4, 2023

kewaneehogdays.com

f t i



JUST NORTH OF THE PARK

Join us for a relaxing lunch in our Victorian dining room. Choose from many tempting entrees including generous sandwiches served on homemade Swedish rye bread, hot daily specials, savory soups, scrumptious desserts and our famous Swedish Meatballs-now also available Gluten Free!

Open 7 days a week ☎ 309-927-3885

Serving daily starting at 11 a.m. in Bishop Hill, Illinois

13

Your Home Base for Adventure!

22



110 Olson Street
Bishop Hill, Illinois

Twinflower Inn
Bed & Breakfast Bishop Hill, IL

Located in the Historic Colony Hospital

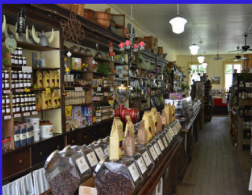
www.TwinflowerInn.com

kim@twinflowerinn.com • 309-927-3506 or 309-229-0222

Colony Store

31

101 W. Main St
Bishop Hill, IL
309-927-3596



Step back in time in this 1853

General Store.
Mon - Sat 10 -4
Sun 11-4

www.bishophillcolonystoreb.com

Join us

40

You are warmly invited to come and worship with us, and experience God's grace through our time together. We recognize that people look for God in many ways and many places. Whether you visit one of our churches in person or online, we hope you discover something here to encourage you in your spiritual journey.



Galva First UMC

Sunday | 9am
200 NW 2nd Ave.
Galva, IL 61434

Bishop Hill UMC

Sunday | 10:15am
405 E. Main St.
Bishop Hill, IL 61419



Avoid disappointment and call ahead.

Check www.visitbishophill.com for the most current dates and times.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 15

1pm

***The Happy Invention: History and Significance of the Picture Postcard
by Katherine Hamilton-Smith at the Dairy Building***

In 2016, the world's largest public collection of postcards and related materials, the Curt Teich Postcard Archives, was given to the Newberry Library by the Lake County Forest Preserve District. Katherine Hamilton-Smith, the founding curator of the Teich Archives, presents a look at the documentary power and significance of picture postcards. She touches on the Curt Teich Company of Chicago, the role Illinois played in the history and development of postcards, and on the picture postcard as a cultural icon. **FREE and open to the public.** For more information, contact the Bishop Hill Heritage Association at **309.927.3899** or bhha@mymtc.net

April 22

Annual Swedish Stomp & Skamparoo

Run or walk historic Bishop Hill and the beautiful hilly country roads surrounding the village or cheer on friends and family in this 5k event. Starts and finishes at the Colony School. New this year - Pancake breakfast! Hosted by the Bishop Hill Old Settlers' Association. **7:30am Onsite Registration and breakfast starts | 9am race start** www.bholdsettlers.org or bholdsettlers@gmail.com

April 28

6pm

Valborg and Wiener Roast

Experience an ancient Swedish traditional bonfire as we welcome spring's return at the Vasa National Archives. Yard games, activities, hotdogs, hot coffee and cocoa will be available. **FREE and open to the public.** In the event of rain, we will be in the Vasa National Archive Basement. Call **309.927.3898** or email VasaArchivist@gmail.com for more information.

May 6-7

Bishop Hill Civil War Days

To honor Bishop Hill's very own Company D, IL 57th Volunteer Infantry, the BHHA has organized Civil War Days for Saturday May 6 and Sunday May 7. There will have a living history encampment in the village park with programs going on every hour on the hour. Some of the programs that are scheduled are: a vintage baseball tournament, artillery demonstration, an appearance by General U.S. Grant, a Civil War Ball, lecture on President Lincoln, a medical demonstration, an afternoon skirmish, and much, much more. The Steeple Building Museum will also have a special Company D exhibit. Event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Bishop Hill Heritage Association at **309.927.3899** or bhha@mymtc.net

May 14

***Mother's Day Breakfast Buffet at The Filling Station 7am - 10am
Mother's Day Dinner at The Filling Station 11am - 2pm***

Reservations encouraged. **309.927.3355**

May 19-21

Bishop Hill Quilt Show - Red, White & Blue

A bedazzling display of color will fill the Colony School. This year's theme is Red, White & Blue. Quilts may be antique, miniature, patchwork, appliqué or something else. **Admission is \$5.** Challenge quilted on display at The Steeple Building Museum. *Sponsored by The Prairie Queen Quilt Club, Bishop Hill Arts Council and The Bishop Hill Heritage Association.*

May 20

10am

Make and Take Quilt Square Painting

Join local artist LuAnn White, at The Commons, as she walks you through the process of making your own barn quilt. Plywood and all paints provided. **\$35.00.** Contact Fox for details **309.696.1017** foxtales@foxtalesint.com

June 3

1pm

Dancing Queen: ABBA Tribute Band Concert

To honor the 2023 National Day of Sweden, the Bishop Hill Heritage Association is pleased to announce that an ABBA tribute band will be performing at 1pm in the village park. DANCING QUEEN: An ABBA Salute is the ultimate tribute to the music of ABBA – sure to capture the hearts of fans and audiences of all ages! This live show is full of musical precision, fabulous flair and fashion, and promises a mesmerizing ABBA experience for every Chiquitita, Super Trouper, Fernando, and Dancing Queen around! **Concert is FREE and open to the public.** For more information, contact the Bishop Hill Heritage Association at **309.927.3899** or bhha@mymtc.net

HENRY CO MUSEUM

Corner of Knox and Park Streets, Bishop Hill

OPEN DAILY 10AM TO 4PM
May 1st through October 31st
309-927-3528



NEW!

BAKERY

MERCANTILE

CAFE

32



H.WYATT

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BISHOP HILL, IL 61419

309/
927-3300

www.hwyattco.com





June 10th *Stories of the Land: A Celebration of Centennial Farms at The Commons*

Workshop 10am - 11:30am, followed by a Performance of John Deere
Join Storyteller and historian Brian "Fox" Ellis as we explore the history of your family farm and the stories of the landscape before our time. Bring old plat maps, old family photos, and you will leave with a pocket full of stories about your family and local farm history. w/ Farm Bureau & Soil and Water Conservation. **FREE** (Donations appreciated). Contact Fox for details **309.696.1017** foxtalesint.com

June 18th *Father's Day Breakfast Buffet at The Filling Station 7am - 10am*

Father's Day Dinner At The Filling Station 11am - 2pm

Reservations encouraged: **309.927.3355**

June 24-25 *Midsommar Music Festival*

Bishop Hill's Midsommar Music Festival will return as a 2-day festival this year on Saturday June 24th and Sunday, June 25th with a strong line-up of musical performers, such as Bucky Halker, Chris Vallillo, and the Nordland Band. Other highlights of this event include a Scandinavian folk dance workshop, a Swedish Maypole celebration, and much more. Join us as we celebrate this Swedish holiday. **Festival is FREE and open to the public.** For more information, call **309.927.3899**, visit www.visitbishophill.com, or email bhha@mymctc.net

June 24-25 *Midsummer Respite*

10am - 4pm

If you get too hot or dry while exploring Bishop Hill during this summer celebration, the Vasa National Archives invites you to take a break and enjoy fika with us. Fika is a Swedish custom of offering visitors a drink and a snack. To help pass the time while you cool off, we have a make-and-take clay sculpture station for you. **FREE and open to the Public.** Call **309.927.3898** or email VasaArchivist@gmail.com for more information.

June 28 *Indigo Dyeing Workshop*

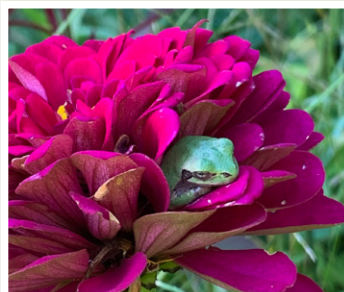
Class is from 8 am. to 3 p.m. at the Dairy Building on June 28, 2023. Class size is limited to 10. You will learn about growing and harvesting Japanese Indigo and processing it to dye cloth. **Class fee: \$75. includes \$25 supply fee.** Each person will receive their own dyed fabrics, written directions, and how to finish fabrics at home. Please contact Sheri Wood with any questions about the classes or to register for classes at (309) 299-8007 or at sheri_jeanne@hotmail.com

July 7 *Native American Star Stories at The Twinflower Inn*

Join Storytellers Jo Lakota and Brian "Fox" Ellis for an evening of star lore from many tribes. There will be drumming songs and a chance to sing-a-long. There will also be large telescopes for star gazing after the program. Stories 7pm - 9pm with stargazing after dark. **Suggested Donation \$10.** Contact Fox for details **309.696.1017** foxtalesint.com

July 8 *Concert in the Park*

Concert is **FREE and open to the public.** For more information, contact the Bishop Hill Heritage Association at **309.927.3899** or bhha@mymctc.net



Prairie Arts Center

- »Fiber Arts
- »Handmade Gifts
- »Handmade Brooms



Demonstrations in Weaving, and Broom Making

203 Bishop Hill Street
 Bishop Hill, IL 61419
 309-927-3008



BISHOP HILL 26
OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION

Established in 1896



Celebrate the rich legacy of our founders through cultural events and activities. Join us; we welcome new members!

Rent the Colony School

Perfect for any event or gathering
 Full Kitchen • Air-Conditioned • Wifi

Find us on [Facebook](#) or at www.bholdsettlers.org
 PO Box 68 / Bishop Hill, IL 61419



Augustana College



**SWENSON
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 IMMIGRATION
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National archives and library for Swedish-American historical research Publishers of *Swedish American Genealogist*

639 38th Street
 Rock Island, IL | 61201-2296
 309-794-7204

www.swensoncenter.org



Avoid disappointment and call ahead.

Check www.visitbishophill.com for the most current dates and times.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 23
9am

Antique Car Show

Antique and classic car show at the Bishop Hill Village Park. Registration is from 9am-11:30am; Judging is noon-1:30pm; Award Presentation at 3pm. *Sponsored by the Bishop Hill Old Settlers' Association.* www.bholdsettlers.org or bholdsettlers@gmail.com

July 28-30

Crochet Lovers Weekend Retreat

at Twinflower Inn. Call **309.696.0833** for more information.

August 5

Country Music Concert in the Park

Concert is **FREE and open to the public.** For more information, contact the Bishop Hill Heritage Association at **309.927.3899** or bhha@mymtc.net

August 12

5th Annual Bishop Hill Hummingbird and Pollinator Festival

We will start with an early morning Bird Hike, beginning at the Twinflower Inn at 7:00. There will be bird banding in the prairie near the cemetery and a Master Gardeners Workshop on Designing and Planting Your Own Pollinator Garden. A native plant sale, crafts, make & take bird house building kits, lectures, storytelling, music, and a live bird of prey program with hawks and owls will ensure there is great fun for the whole family. An evening dinner theater with John James Audubon rounds out the day. **FREE** (Donations appreciated). **Reservations required for the dinner theater -\$35.** Contact Fox for details **309.696.1017** foxtales@foxtalesint.com

August 26-27 **Bishop Hill Chautauqua**

Join us for this 2-day historical re-enactment brought to life through storytelling and music. Spend the weekend in the village park with several characters from our past such as Bob Dylan, Abraham Lincoln, Jenny Lind, Carl Sandberg and many more. Saturday afternoon, enjoy Fika with some of the performers. **FREE and open to the public.** For more information, contact the Bishop Hill Heritage Association at **309.927.3899** or bhha@mymtc.net

August 30

Indigo Dyeing Workshop

Class is from 8 am. to 3 p.m. at the Dairy Building on June 28, 2023. Class size is limited to 10. You will learn about growing and harvesting Japanese Indigo and processing it to dye cloth. **Class fee: \$75. includes \$25 supply fee.** Each person will receive their own dyed fabrics, written directions, and how to finish fabrics at home. Please contact Sheri Wood with any questions about the classes or to register for classes at (309) 299-8007 or at sheri_jeanne@hotmail.com

Sept. 9

Old Settlers' Day

This event celebrates the founding of the Village on Sept 23, 1846. Events for the day include a free band concert at Noon followed by a program at 1pm, and a free will offering Dessert Social/Reunion for Henry County Schools at the Colony School following the program. *Sponsored by the Bishop Hill Old Settlers' Association.* www.bholdsettlers.org or bholdsettlers@gmail.com

Sept. 16

Indigo and Walnut Dyeing Workshop

Class is from 8 am. to 3 p.m. at the Dairy Building on June 28, 2023. Class size is limited to 10. You will learn about growing and harvesting Japanese Indigo and processing it to dye cloth. **Class fee: \$75. includes \$25 supply fee.** Each person will receive their own dyed fabrics, written directions, and how to finish fabrics at home. Please contact Sheri Wood with any questions about the classes or to register for classes at (309) 299-8007 or at sheri_jeanne@hotmail.com

Sept. 17
7am - 1pm

Honor Flight Fundraiser at The Filling Station

Fundraising event for the Honor Flight of the Quad Cities. All day breakfast buffet. Silent Auction. Brown bag Raffle. Live Music. Be there! **309.927.3355**

potter4now@yahoo.com

Text 309-883-1035

J. Goard Pottery

John 6:68

Bishop Hill Pottery Festival, Oct. 14

204 Johnson Street
Bishop Hill, IL 61419

Next to P.L. Johnson's
Dining Room



Demos * Candles * Soap * Textiles * Baskets * Jewelry



18

8



The Bishop Hill Creative Commons

309 North Bishop Hill Rd.

309-937-3851 bishophillcommons.com

Regional Artists & Traditional Crafts
Workshops & Storytelling
Concerts almost every Sunday
Like us on Facebook for event updates!

Your Tomten headquarters!





Avoid disappointment and call ahead.

Check www.visitbishophill.com for the most current dates and times.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 23-24** **Agriculture Days – Jordbruksdagarna** (Swedish for “earth work days”)
10am - 4pm As always, there will be a variety of traditional craft demonstrations, music, food, vendors, hands-on activities for the children, and Colony Stew made by the Bishop Hill Old Settlers’ Association. Enjoy the petting zoo and the antique tractor display, with demonstrations. This 19th century harvest festival is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Bishop Hill Heritage Association at **309.927.3899** or bhha@mymctc.net.
- Sept. 23** **Bake Sale**
Sponsored by the Bishop Hill United Methodist Church. For more information contact the parish office at **309.932.2460**, or contact the pastor at preachinghope@gmail.com.
- Sept. 23-24** **Butter Making**
10am - 5pm Bishop Hill colonists were excellent butter and cheese makers. Stop by our booth in the Demonstration area to learn about butter making and make your own butter to take home. **FREE and open to the Public.** Call **309.927.3898** or email VasaArchivist@gmail.com for more information.
- Sept. 24** **Ag Days - Worship in the Park**
10am Join Pastor Rebecca Gerhard for a Sunday service in the Village Park. All are welcome!
- Oct. 7** **Ghost Stories Around the Bonfire at The Twinflower Inn**
Featuring The Peoria Prairie Tellers and Brian “Fox” Ellis. Silly scary stories at 6pm and more seriously scary stories at 7pm. This annual event draws a large gathering of strange spirits and even stranger stories sure to send a shiver up your spine! \$10 suggested donation. Contact Fox for details **309.696.1017** foxtales@foxtalesint.com
- Oct. 14** **Bishop Hill Pottery Festival**
The Bishop Hill Pottery Festival will include demonstrations in pottery and the art of Raku. It will include a number of various artists from the surrounding area featuring glass, wood, textiles, candle and soap making. Help welcome back Special Needs Bakery. For more information call **309.883.1035**
- Oct. 14-15** **Bargain Hunter Weekend**
Come celebrate the bounty of fall in Bishop Hill as various stores, museums and restaurants offer special discounts, events, and activities. Collect signatures from 6 businesses or museums and be entered for a gift basket drawing at the Colony Store. Call **309.927.3898** or email VasaArchivist@gmail.com for more information.
- Oct. 21** **Woodcarving Workshop**
Learn basic woodcarving skills and take home your own Tomte ornament! Students will be provided the wood blank, along with a quality carving knife, protective Kevlar glove and thumb guard. This class is designed as a beginner’s class but some experience handling a knife and working with wood will be helpful. The participants will learn proper carving techniques with emphasis on safety. The class will be taught at the Dairy Building. **Reservations required.** Register by calling **309.927.3899** or emailing bhha@mymctc.net.
- Nov. 4** **Dala Pig Painting Workshop**
Carol Curry will be conducting a pig painting workshop at the Dairy Building in Bishop Hill, Illinois. Participants will hand-paint a small pig using traditional Swedish colors and designs that you can take home. Paint, brushes, pig, and other supplies will be provided. **Reservations required.** To reserve your spot, call **309.927.3899** or email bhha@mymctc.net.
- Nov. 4-5** **Hopewell Weaving Weekend**
Join Jennie Hawkey of Hopewell Weaving for a two-day weaving workshop. This year’s workshop will be Inkle Loom Weaving. Looms and materials will be provided, and all levels of experience are welcome! This event takes place at the Colony School, and out-of-town participants can include a stay at the Twinflower Inn. For work shop details, times, and more information go to hopewellweaving.com or contact Jennie at hopewellweaving@gmail.com.



Colony Church



Colony School



Bjorklund Hotel

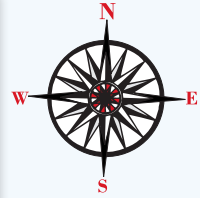


Discover Bishop Hill

www.visitbishophill.com



Kids can re-enact colonial life at Spets Stuga Playhouse.



Krans Livery Stable

Bishop Hill Cemetery



BHHH Steeple Building


Stroll the Enchanted Mile:

In Bishop Hill you can get everywhere from anywhere in less than a mile! Less than 5 blocks long and 7 blocks wide, you can easily stroll around the entire town, taking in more than 40 historic homes, galleries, shops, and museums. Create your own itinerary or enjoy a virtual guided tour on the Clio app.

See map legend on next page -> -> ->



Shops & Services

- 1 Summer Cottage, 661-993-0611
- 2 Line of Sight Studios, 708-221-3337
- 4 Hantverk Galleri, 309-927-3064
- 5 Entwined, 309-927-3222
- 8 Bishop Hill Creative Commons, 309-927-3851
- 14 Mother Corn Studio
- 16 Entwined Boutique
- 17 Peasant Works,  peasantsworks
- 18 J. Goard Pottery
- 19 Prairie Arts Center, 309-927-3008
- 19 Vintage Goods Shop, 309-714-2863
- 23 Garden Thyme, 309-373-5314
- 23 Post Office, 309-927-3595
- 25 Feathered Nest, 309-737-0260
- 31 Colony Store, 309-927-3596
- 32 H Wyatt Bakery, 309-927-3300
- 34 Sugar & Spice

Food & Drink

- 5 Krans Kafe, 309-927-3136
- 10 The Filling Station, 309-927-3355
- 13 PL Johnson's, 309-927-3885
- 15 The Colony Inn, 309-927-3335
- 32 H Wyatt Bakery, 309-927-3300

Lodging

- 22 Twin Flower B&B, 309-927-3506
- 38 Lila Vita Guesthouse, [airbnb.com](https://www.airbnb.com)

Museums

- 11 Colony Church, 309-927-3345
- 21 Krans Livery Stable, 309-927-3899
- 24 BHHA Steeple Building, 309-927-3899
- 27 Bjorklund Hotel, 309-927-3345
- 36 Vasa Archives & Museum, 309-927-3898
- 41 Henry County Museum, 309-927-3528
- 47 Bishop Hill Museum, 309-927-3345


Points of Interest


- 2 Dairy Building
- 3 Spets Stuga
- 6 Jansson House
- 7 Meat Storage House
- 9 Fire Station
- 12 Boys Dormitory
- 19 Colony Blacksmith Shop
- 20 Eric Krans House
- 22 Colony Hospital
- 23 Colony Carpenter Shop
- 26 Colony School
- 28 Olson Barn
- 29 Colony Residence
- 30 Colony Administration
- 37 Eric Troil House
- 39 Red Oak House
- 40 Methodist Church
- 42 BH Municipal Building
- 43 Swanson House
- 44 Jacobson House
- 45 Krusbo House
- 48 Mrs. Smith's Boarding House

Points of Interest

- # Open to public
- # Walk-by viewing only

Open Year Round*

 ATM** at Bishop Hill Creative Commons

 Public Restroom

* Events can be postponed please call to avoid disappointment.

** ATM available for the convenience of our visitors. Not all shops accept credit or debit cards.



The Bishop Hill Visitors' Guide is a publication of the Bishop Hill Arts Council. We wish to thank the **Bishop Hill Heritage Association, Lou Lourdeau, Carlee Hawkins, Joella Krause,** and **Vasa National Archives** for the use of their photos.



Nov. 10-12 Letter Writing Lovers Weekend with Bonnie Tawse - Twinflower Inn
Call **309.696.0833** for more information.

Nov. 11 A Native Thanksgiving with Storyteller Brian "Fox" Ellis at The Commons
Explore the origins of this blessed holiday and the Native American roots of many of our favorite foods. Weaving fresh, local foods with a story for each course enjoy a delightful dinner with friends and family, the real reason for the season, and be immersed in the deeper layers of our nation's history. Dinner at 6pm, Performance at 7pm. **Reservations required.** Contact Fox for details **309.696.1017** foxtales@foxtalesint.com

Nov. 24-26 Julmarknad- Christmas Market
Visit traditionally decorated shops and museums. Encounter Swedish folk characters roaming the village. Special music, Swedish foods, unique gifts, and more. Enjoy the Christmas Cookie Walk at the Colony School Friday and Saturday only. Event is free and open to the public. For more information, call **309.927.3899**, visit www.visitbishophill.com, or email bhha@mymctc.net

Nov. 24-25 Advent Wreath Workshop - Bishop Hill Methodist Church
We will be explaining the meaning of Advent, providing a prayer calendar of little things people can do to get ready for Christmas, and crafting Advent Wreaths for families to take home. For more information, contact the parish office at **309.932.2460** or contact the pastor at preachinghope@gmail.com.

Nov. 24-26 & Dec. 2-4 Make and Take Dala Horses (while supplies last)
During the holiday weekends, paint stations will be set up in the Vasa National Archive for painters to decorate their own wooden Dala Horse. Participants are welcome to leave their Dala horses at the archive to dry while shopping in Bishop Hill. Paint, brushes, and smocks provided. During the week, the paint stations will not be available, but you can take Dala Horse kits home to paint. Each kit includes 3 colors of paint, 2 brushes, and a Dala Horse. The Dala Horses are available for a **\$8 donation per horse** whether you paint here or at home. Painters can call or email to reserve horses to ensure supply. Call **309.927.3898** or email VasaArchivist@gmail.com for more information.

Nov. 24-25 Cookie walk at the Colony School - 9am - 3pm (pay by pound)



Join the Bishop Hill Arts Council

Since 1982, BHAC has supported the arts and artisans that reflect the traditions of Bishop Hill. The BHAC produces and distributes the annual visitor's guide, hosts the visitbishophill.com website, and utilizes print and TV media to market Bishop Hill. The BHAC yearly provides funding for events such as Midsummer, Julmarknad, and Lucia nights. As financing permits, the BHAC sponsors concerts, workshops, and classes. By joining the BHAC, you can help support the arts and ensure the economic vitality of Bishop Hill. The BHAC meets monthly the second Wednesday of each month at 9 am.

Individual members receive: Special discounts offered at participating stores, voting privileges.
Business members receive: Promotion on BHAC website & Facebook, Verified listing in Visitor's Guide, Voting privileges at meeting.

Name: _____

Business or Organization Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership Category: Individual (\$25) _____ Business (\$75) _____

Please make checks out to Bishop Hill Arts Council, and mail with this form to BHAC, ATTN: Membership, PO Box 47, Bishop Hill, IL 61419. For more information, contact BHAC at bhac@mymctc.net



Planning a wedding? A Family Reunion? A corporate retreat,

bus tour, dog show or baby shower? Bishop Hill can offer space and atmosphere! The 1861 Colony School, the 1854 Dairy Building, Krans Cafe, H. Wyatt Bakery and the Bishop Hill Commons are available to rent. The Vasa National Archive and the Steeple Building have space as well. Contact them directly for rental information. Looking for food to go with that rental? The Filling Station and PL Johnsons can make it for you. Contact them directly for menu options.

EVENING MEALS in Bishop Hill:

The Filling Station 10 serves dinner every Friday. **The Colony Inn Tavern** 15 has pizza and pub foods, but other nights it is recommended that you make reservations at one of the many restaurants that are within a short drive.



Ongoing Events...

Vasa Game Nights - January through March

Join in the fun! Meet new people. Everyone welcome. Bring a game, bring a snack. Beat the winter blues! Tuesday evenings. 6-8pm **309-927-3898**

Concerts at the Commons

Join us for our weekly concert series with some of the best bands touring the world- from Ireland to Peru, Nashville to Austin and all points in between. These family friendly concerts are great fun and you get to see Grammy winning artists in an intimate setting. Full schedule at Bishop Hill Creative Commons on FB or contact John Taylor at john.r.taylor@gmail.com. Potluck at 6pm. Music at 7pm.

Art Workshops at The Commons

Weekend and weekday hands-on workshops for kids and adults throughout the year. Follow us on FB or call **309-927-3851** for upcoming events.

Trivia at The Colony Inn

Every other Friday at 6:30pm.
Last Saturday of the month at 2pm.



Avoid disappointment and call ahead.

Check www.visitbishophill.com for the most current dates and times.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 2-3

Julmarknad

Sights, sounds, and aromas of Christmas past. Swedish folk characters will roam the village. Special music, Swedish food specialties, abundance of handmade wares, and antiques. Chocolate Walk fundraiser at the Bishop Hill Creative Commons. **FREE and open to the public.** For more information, call **309.927.3899**, visit www.visitbishophill.com, or email bhha@mymctc.net

Dec. 2

9am-4pm

Chocolate Walk

Chocolate by the pound at the Bishop Hill Creative Commons.
A fund raiser for The Bishop Hill Arts Council.

Dec. 8-9

Lucia Nights-Festival of Lights

Experience a unique Swedish holiday. Luminaries line the sidewalk and candles are in every window. Live music at several locations. Young girls dressed as St. Lucia serve drinks and sweets in shops and museums throughout the village. All Bishop Hill restaurants and shops will be open. December 8 is the Christmas Tree lighting in the park at 6 p.m. On December 9, Barn Dance at the Colony School. **FREE and open to the public.** For more information, call **309.927.3899**, visit www.visitbishophill.com, or email bhha@mymctc.net

Dec. 8-9

6pm-9pm

Vasa Closing Reception

Come say goodbye to the Vasa exhibit on where the Lodges got their names. This is also a final celebration of the 2023 season. Coffee and cookies will be available to visitors at the Vasa National Archives for the closing reception. **FREE and open to the public.** Call **309.927.3898** or email VasaArchivist@gmail.com for more information.

Dec. 16

2pm-6pm

Christmas Open House - PL Johnson's & J Goard Pottery

Holiday Open House at J Goard Pottery & PL Johnson's. Lots of gift ideas, door prizes and refreshments!

Dec. 25

6am

Julotta

Celebrate Christmas in a unique way by attending the annual Julotta service at the Colony Church. Held annually since 1970, the candlelight service incorporates traditional readings and hymns in both Swedish and English. Coffee and rusks served after the service. Be sure to dress warmly as the sanctuary is unheated during the event. **309.927.3345**

Jan. 1, 2024

11am - 2pm

New Year's Day Smorgasbord at The Filling Station

Reservations encouraged. **309.927.3355**

Jan. 4-7

You and Your Next Book: The Twinflower Inn's Annual Writer's Retreat

This is a time to meet with other authors to share your ideas, receive positive feedback and spend much of the time in your room quietly writing without the disturbances you might find at home. Come for two to four days. Whether you are just starting a book or ready for a final draft, we will meet you where you are and take you a few steps further down the road to publication. More than a dozen books have been published as a result of this retreat! **Reservations required.** Contact Fox for details **309.696.1017** foxtales@foxtalesint.com

Feb. 14

5pm-8pm

Sweetheart Dinner at The Filling Station

Reservations encouraged. **309.927.3355**

Mar. 13

5-8pm

St. Patrick's Day Dinner at The Filling Station

Corned Beef, cabbage and all the fixin's. Reservations encouraged. **309.927.3355**



Bishop Hill:

Like the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock and the Quakers who followed William Penn to Pennsylvania, the Jansonists were a group of Protestants who fled oppression seeking religious freedom on the shores of America. Eric Janson was known as the Wheat Flour Messiah. He had a debilitating illness cured by a miracle that reshaped the rest of his life. He began preaching about our personal relationship with the Lord, not one filtered by the state religion. After being jailed for his beliefs, he fled Sweden with more than 1000 followers. These people sold everything they owned, some families were divided, and they took the arduous journey across the North Atlantic to America in 1846.

They sent a scout ahead to purchase property in what was then the western wilderness of Illinois. The first winter they lived in dugouts along the creek. Cholera claimed the lives of many. They soon built a church for worship, large dormitories for housing, a bakery and a brewery to feed their growing numbers. They built industry: brooms, buggies, and woven rugs for income. They built a community that shared the wealth harvesting the bounty of the land. They built a hospital, a school, and administrative offices. More than a town, they built what became a successful economic enterprise that valued the labor of women and men, and educated their children.



Steeped in History

The preaching and philosophy of Eric Janson is too complex for these few paragraphs, except to say that his convictions inspired many and caused consternation among more than a few. He was murdered in the Henry County Courthouse over a quarrel with his cousin's husband. The community was then managed for a number of years by a board of trustees. The community was eventually dissolved and the holdings were divided among the members with women and children also receiving shares of property, unusual in the 1860's.

Bishop Hill became a hub for thousands of Swedish immigrants who eventually settled much of the Midwest, from Galva to Galesburg, Minnesota to North Dakota.

At the turn of the last century many of the colony buildings were falling into disrepair. The Old Settlers, The Bishop Hill Heritage Association and the State of Illinois stepped up to save the buildings still standing. Throughout the 1970s restoration and preservation became the call to arms. With help from the Swedish Royal family, descendants of the hardy pioneers and thousands of hours of volunteer labor, Bishop Hill became a thriving community once more. With tens of thousands of visitors every year, visitors from all 50 states, Sweden and other Scandinavian countries, Bishop Hill has a well-earned reputation as a place to step out of the hustle and bustle and back to a simpler time. Truly a Utopia on the Prairie, it is the kind of place where it is easy to expect enchantment!



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- Exhibits on Sweden and Nordic people, arts, places, immigration, and other topics
- Learn about the Vasa Order, a Swedish-American Fraternal Organization
- Research your Swedish heritage and the Vasa Order's history in our archive.

109 S. Bishop Hill St., Bishop Hill, IL

309-927-3898

VasaArchivist@gmail.com

VasaArchives.org

Vasa Order.com



Find us on:
facebook.



OLOF KRANS: *Bishop Hill's Painter*

Olof Krans, Illinois's foremost folk artist, journeyed with his family from Sweden to join the Bishop Hill Colony at the age of 12.

As his contribution to the 50th anniversary celebration in 1896 of the founding of the Bishop Hill Colony, Krans painted his childhood memories of communal life.

The remarkable Olof Krans Bishop Hill Collection can be viewed at the Bishop Hill Museum. **47** Currently 91 of Krans's paintings are on exhibit, making this the largest collection of Olof Krans folk art in the world. Additional Krans paintings are on exhibit at the Bishop Hill Heritage's Steeple Building Museum. **24**



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The organizations of Bishop Hill work together to preserve this special 19th century community for the many visitors who come from all over the world to explore and experience what Bishop Hill has to offer. Bishop Hill organizations depend on volunteers to make things happen. Special event weekends, tours, gardening, ticket taking, cleaning, renovating and the publication of this visitor guide can only happen with the dedication of our volunteers. Consider volunteering once a week, once a month or for one event and help to preserve and nurture this unique historical town.

Bishop Hill Heritage Association

PO Box 92, Bishop Hill, IL 61419 • 309-927-3899

The Bishop Hill Heritage Association was organized in 1962 with the original goal of saving the Colony era buildings that were in disrepair and restoring them to functional use. They continue to maintain these historic properties and the culture unique to Bishop Hill. The administrative office, museum and archives of the BHHA are located in the 1854 Steeple Building. The BHHA also manages the 1908 Krans Livery Stable museum and the 1854 Dairy Building which is used for workshops and concerts and is also available to rent for meetings and get togethers. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. The BHHA also offers group tours by appointment. Become a member at www.bishophillheritage.org

Bishop Hill Old Settlers' Association

PO Box 68, Bishop Hill, Illinois 61419

The Old Settler's Association was organized in 1896 to observe the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Bishop Hill Colony. In 1953 they purchased and restored the 1861 Colony School. The schoolhouse, kitchen and grounds are maintained by the group and are available to rent for meetings, parties and special occasions. www.bholdsettlers.org

Bishop Hill State Historic Site

P.O. Box 104, Bishop Hill, Illinois 61419 • 309-927-3345

The State of Illinois has been an active partner in Bishop Hill's preservation since 1946 when the village donated the Colony Church, 1848, and Village Park, est. 1853, to the People of Illinois. The Colony Hotel, 1852-1861, Colony Barn, c. 1856-1860, Boy's Dormitory, 1847, and the Bishop Hill Museum have been added to the site. Today the site is administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Henry County Historical Society

202 South Park Street, Bishop Hill, Illinois 61419

The history of Henry County, Illinois is close at hand when you enter this one story museum housed in a former school house. Displays are nicely organized and catalogued to make your visit one that won't be forgotten. You will find items that were typical of historic Henry County, including a steam engine, tools, clothing and quilts. The museum also displays a replica general store, a harness shop, and professional offices. www.henrycountyhistoricalsociety.net

Vasa Order of America National Archives Inc

109 South Bishop Hill Street, Bishop Hill, Illinois 61419 • 309-927-3898

The Vasa Archive preserves the records of the Vasa Order of America, a Swedish-American fraternal organization with lodges through the US, Canada and Sweden. The Vasa Archive collects genealogical information on Vasa members and their families. Visitors can utilize the archive's records to conduct their own genealogical research or hire the archivist to conduct the research for them. Assistance is available for those doing their own research. Visitors can listen to over 1,400 of Lennart Setterdahl's Swedish Immigrant interviews. Space for meetings and special events is available for rent.

Bishop Hill Arts Council

PO Box 47 Bishop Hill, IL 61419 • 309-927-3064

For more than three decades the Bishop Hill Arts Council has promoted the arts and artisans that reflect the traditions of Bishop Hill. The Arts Council produces this visitors' guide, sponsors performing and visual arts events and activities throughout the year.



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