



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

Arvid's Article - Family Blessed by two Swedish Doctors and one Swedish Intern

Many of you shared our first Swedish Doctor blessing when Dr. Margit Winstrom in her sharing her Brenham ranch home with us for a spring meeting and bonfire.



Dr. Margit Winstrom and her husband Dr. Bill

The second Swedish Doctor blessing was from Dr. Jennifer Blassingame who nurtured of D-I-L Dee and delivered our latest grandson Chase.



Dr. Jennifer Blassingame of College Station TX and Chase Phillip Johanson 17 March 2003

[<Continued on Page 4>](#)

Accepting Application for Lucia 2003

Now is the time to get the application for Lucia turned in for the Christmas Traditions Fest on Dec 13th. The Application on page 5 must be turned in by **September 20th**.

The Summer Picnic is Around the Corner

By Jay Flusche - Event Coordinator



Yep, it is that time again. It is time for our 4th annual Summer Picnic.

The mosquitoes just about drove us nuts two years ago at Bear Creek, so we decided on a change of venue last year. It really is a beautiful site.

We have reserved the swimming pool, playground area, and shaded green space at the Nanes pool in the Westador subdivision. It is absolutely beautiful. It is located at the corner of Nanes & 1960. Take IH45 to 1960. Go west on 1960 for almost a mile. Turn right on Nanes. The area is on the corner of Nanes & 1960.

[\[See Map page 3\]](#)

We have exclusive use of the area and pool from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 24th.

Feel free to bring your lawn chairs and a picnic lunch. We will play some games again this year.

We have a playground for the kids and a swimming pool (life guards are provided) and dressing rooms for all of us to use.

Games are nice & the pool is nice, but the main objective of the Summer Picnic is to relax & hang out with your friends from the Swedish Club. We will have some prospective members attending as well, so I hope that you can come out and enjoy some food, fun & fellowship with us.

[<For more see Page 3>](#)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Waooh, it's like a breath of fresh air flew into Houston.

I am talking about **Nina Björk**, the intern at the Consulate of Sweden. She took the initiative to arrange the celebration of Sveriges National Dag eller Svenska Flaggans Dag as we used to call it.

Nina contacted the Swedish organizations in Houston to find out if anyone was interested in helping out.

SWEA of Houston, SACC, The Consulate and The Swedish Club of Houston volunteered to help out.

Nina became the Chairman for this event and what a fantastic job she did.

Beside her job at the Consulate she spent hours, if not days, of her free time to make sure everything would be in place and that we "Old Swedes" would have a wonderful Swedish National Day. We did indeed.

It is very uplifting to see the younger generation of Swedes coming over here and getting so involved in preserving the Swedish culture.

Thank You Nina for a job well done. I think I can speak for everyone, involved in our Swedish organizations, when I say that we are really going to miss you, when you return to Sweden at the end of June.

A big Thank You also goes to **Jan and Mary Dryselius** for all their help and for a fantastic Gravad Lax.

Katrina Hånell, representing SWEA was responsible for the set up. All the tables were very nicely decorated with the Swedish flag. Thank you ladies you did a fantastic job.

From the Swedish Club I want to thank **Dina Jo Coburn and her daughter Sjerrie, Mary Lynn Koenig and also Nina** for helping my wife **Lynn** with all the food preparations. You did an outstanding job.

The Lindsborg Folk Dancers entertained us with several dances. Here is an other example of how the younger generation takes interest in preserving our Swedish culture. They did a wonderful performance in spite of a sweltering heat.

Let's not forget our own **Mario Pedone**. Thank you Mario for always being there to entertain us with your music. Your handling of the accordion is world class.

The Norwegian Seaman Church was a perfect place for this event. They let us graciously use their facility for this event. They were very helpful with last minute arrangements and not least during clean up.

Again it was very refreshing to see the involvement from the younger generation like **Nina and Sjerrie and the Lindsborg Folk Dancers**. **Let's keep the momentum going.**

Is this another yearly event? Well members, this is your club so let us hear from you. **You** decide our activities.

Ha en skön fortsättning på sommaren,

Leif

- ☺ *Lighten-Up* ☺ -

☺ Lars asked Ole, "Do ya know da difference between a Swede and a canoe?"

"No, I don't". said Ole. " A canoe will sometimes tip," explained Lars.

☺ Ole is so cheap that after his airplane landed safely he grumbled, "Vell, dere goes five dollars down da drain for dat flight insurance!"

Electronic Newsletter

We've been telling you in a little box

Remember you can see and download the newsletter and most of the pictures in full color on the Club website www.swedishclub.org

Your Executive Board requested we try to find a method to improve the service, brighten the paper, and save the cost. Many of you have answered our email positively and only two have answered that they did not want to use the electronic copy.

We would simply send you an email telling you when the newsletter is ready on the website. You can then read it on-line or download and print if necessary. It is loaded in Adobe Acrobat so anyone can read and print it. .

You can try it now on the direct link: <http://www.swedishclub.org/scnews.htm> . The Acrobat Reader is a free program at www.adobe.com

If you didn't get an email (or two) asking you to try this service, it means we don't have your current email address. PLEASE send an email to arvid@johanson.us so we can collect your address.

Even if you still want the paper newsletter, please send your email address anyway so we can update you quickly of change or new events between bi-monthly newsletters.

Swedish Club Picnic Facts and Map

[Continued from Page 1]

What: The Swedish Club Summer Picnic

When: **Sunday August 24, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m**

Where: Nanes Pool & Recreation Area
17101 Nanes (corner of Nanes & FM1960)

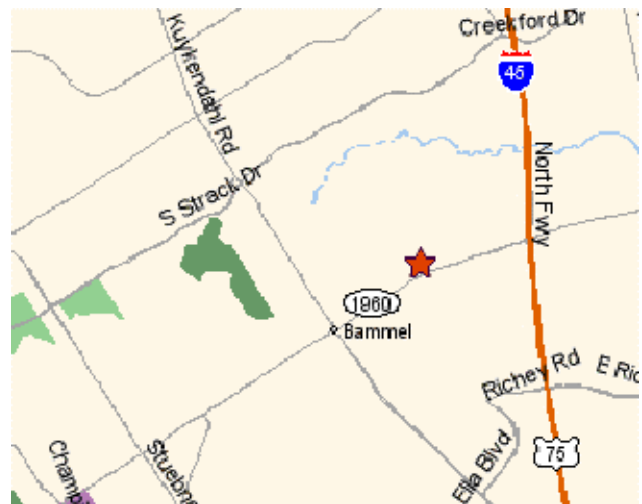
Who: Swedish club members & friends as well as prospective club members

What to bring: snacks/drinks and/or a picnic lunch

Cost: No charge (however, if we could get each family to contribute a couple of bucks, it will help to pay for the life guards)

Why or why not... it's summer

I hope to see you there. If you have any questions or suggestions, call Jay Flusche at 713.777.2824 or Email me at jay.flusche@puffer.com



MAP TO NANES POOL

Arvid's Article (Cont'd)-

Family Blessed by two Swedish Doctors and one Swedish Intern

The Swedish Intern was the hero in getting a Houston celebration of Swedish National Day. Ha! So you thought she was a medic also? Well she pulled off some surgical miracles getting many different Swedish organizations working together. Unfortunately Nina Björk has returned to Sweden. We will miss her enthusiasm and energy.



Nina Björk – Consulate Intern - Hero

Did you see the Lindsborg Swedish Dancers at the National Day Celebration? These students train and travel on their own expense. It was hard to believe that they would come so far to perform for us at no cost. It was a very welcome performance although most of us were worried about the heat effect on the students in their Swedish costumes.

For more on the dancer see



http://www.svenskhylningfest.org/folk_dancers.htm

The Svenskhylningfest will be Oct 18-19 this year. Eleanor and I plan to attend....JOIN US:
For more on Lindsborg (Little Sweden in KS) see



http://www.lindsborg.org/dala_scene.htm

I want to be a Texas Viking , AGAIN!

Your editor received an interesting call and an email from Pontus Holmberg, a computer engineer/programmer who finished up his work here in Houston and would like to come back.

“I am a 27 year-old boy from Sweden, who has spent the last year in Houston.

I just finished my temporary assignment for my company (a major Swedish-Swiss Company) and went back to Sweden. But, I liked Houston so much that I now want to go back. I am also engaged to a girl from Houston, and have made several friends there during this period...

I hope some Company is interested in a Swedish guy with a positive attitude and who loves new challenges and meeting new people!

I have become a real Texas Viking over there...
So, I should be an interesting employee...

I am happy to send my Resume to anyone interested..

Best Regards

Pontus Holmberg

pontusholmberg@hotmail.com “

+46 21 131814 (Sweden)

+46 70 2828057 (Cell Phone)

COMING EVENTS

Fall: Smorgasbord. Watch the September issue or the website for details

Dec 13th : Swedish Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration.

2003 SWEDISH CLUB LUCIA INFORMATION & APPLICATION

By Ingrid Melrose

Applications for the Swedish Club of Houston's 2003 Lucia are now being accepted. Our 2003 Lucia will be presented at the Swedish Christmas Traditions and Lucia Procession scheduled for Saturday, December 13, 2003 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 306 E. 15th St., Houston, TX.

Candidates must be young women between the ages of 16 and 24, who are members of the club. Club membership can be either individual or as part of a family membership. They must be able to attend the Swedish Traditions program on December 13, and must be able to represent the Club at a celebration and parade in Barkeryd, Sweden on Sunday, August 2, 2004. Round-trip airfare for our 2003 Lucia will be provided from Chicago to Sweden. The Lucia is responsible for her own ground or air transportation to and from Chicago. On her return to Houston, the Lucia must write an article for publication in The Swedish Club News about her experience in Sweden.

Participants are also needed for the Lucia procession. The procession is made up of female attendants, ages 5 – 20 and star boys, ages 5 – 15. Attendants and star boys wear all white clothing with silver trim and accessories. The club can provide some articles of clothing, but individuals are encouraged to provide their own.

For sixteen years the Lucia program has provided a wonderful way to travel and learn about our Swedish ancestry and our Texas connection with Barkeryd, Sweden. As an ambassador of the Club, our Lucia will be in a parade and send greetings to the people of Barkeryd from The Swedish Club of Houston.

Applications, along with a short essay about your Swedish roots, interests and why you would like to represent the club in Sweden, and a current photo must be postmarked by September 20, 2003. For questions or further information, please call Ingrid Melrose at (281) 579-8143.

THE SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON APPLICATION FOR 2003 LUCIA CANDIDATES AND ATTENDANTS

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Address: _____ Phone No: _____
E-mail address: _____
I would like to be: (check one) Lucia _____ Attendant _____ Star Boy _____

Lucia candidates only: Please write a short essay and enclose it with your application and a current photo.

Mail applications and enclosures to: Ingrid Melrose, 1902 Stemply Ct., Houston, TX 77094.

Lucia Candidate Requirements: * 16 -24 years of age * **member of The Swedish Club of Houston** * available for the club's Christmas Traditions program on Dec. 13, 2003 ; be able to represent the Swedish Club of Houston at Barkeryd, Sweden on August 2, 2004, and write an article for The Swedish Club News on your return from Sweden.

Wrap-Up - OUR CELEBRATION OF THE SWEDISH NATIONAL DAY by Nina Björk-Event Coordinator (Former Intern at Consulate)

On June 7th, some 70 people got together at the Norwegian Seamen's Church in Pasadena to celebrate the Swedish National Day (which is June 6th.) The event was jointly planned and held by the Consulate of Sweden in Houston, the Swedish Club of Houston, SACC Texas and Swea and most of the guests were members of one or more of these organizations. We also had nine members of the UNA (United Nations Association) joining us. These people come from different countries all over the world.



Consul Jan B. Dyselius welcomed the guests with a speech and led the group through singing the National Anthem. Mario played beautifully on his accordion during the meal, a traditional Swedish smorgasbord, and the Lindsborg Folk Dancers, 40 high school kids from Kansas, performed for about 45 minutes.

All guests were also offered a copy of a Swedish newspaper of their choice, courtesy of Mark Rome at My Newspaper, a company who prints and sells foreign newspapers to customers in Houston. He can be contacted via the company's website: <http://www.mynewspaper.biz>.

I would like to thank all people who helped out with all the preparations for the festivities for all their hard work and support. Special thanks to: Leif and Lynn Mauritzson for cooking the food, to Gunhild Jansson, Katarina Hånell, Jan Dryselius,



Leif Mauritzson and Johan Bengtsson for working with me on the planning committee, to Mario for the lovely music, to the Lindsborg Folk Dancers for their beautiful performance, to Mary Ekelöf for the lovely decorations and to the Norwegian Seamen's Church providing a perfect location for the celebration. All the guests enjoyed themselves thoroughly and I hope this will become a long-lived tradition in Houston!



I would also like to take the opportunity to thank you all for these past five months I have spent in Houston. I return to Sweden on June 30th, but will keep the memories of all of you in my heart forever.

Nina Björk
Consulate of Sweden in Houston

<See Pages 7 & 8 for the Consul's speech>

Swedish National Day Speech by Jan Dryselius

Consul of Sweden in Houston

As Consul of Sweden for Texas, it is my pleasure to give you an official welcome to this Celebration of Swedish National Day. It is great to see so many true Swedes here. I hope you will enjoy all the traditional food and decorations.

Swedish National Day is June 6 but since it has yet to become an official Swedish holiday as it is scheduled to be in 2005, we, and most of our countrymen in America, are using today, the closest Saturday, as the best possible date to commemorate the day.

June 6 is an important date in Swedish history. On this day in 1523 Gustav Vasa was elected king of the entire territory we today call Sweden. This all took place in Strängnäs as, unfortunately the Danes were occupying Stockholm. Gustaf Vasa wasted precious time with the Danes entering Stockholm only three weeks later. My type of guy! Also On this date in 1809 Sweden's first written constitution was ratified. It was at that time second only to the US constitution which remains the oldest functioning constitution in the world. Our modern constitution of 1973 is based on the 1809 charter so I think it quite appropriate to maintain that our constitution retains its distinction as the second oldest constitution. But 110 years ago Arthur Hazelius, the founder of Skansen, Stockholm's wonderful open air museum, arranged a huge spring party, which he dubbed "Swedish Flag Day" that lasted for four days ending on June 6, to spot-light this historically important date. At first this was basically a local celebration tied to Stockholm and environs but as interest and enthusiasm grew it spread across Sweden and finally evolving in 1983 into what we now know as Sweden's National Day.

So, Happy Birthday! It's our 20th!

Curiously enough today also happens to be the official date when the union between Sweden and Norway was dissolved anno 1905. (Did we know there was oil there?). . . nevertheless, both countries appear satisfied with the way things turned out.

The "Norwegian Seaman's Church" and the "Church of Sweden Abroad" continue to show the common bond of yesteryear caring for our respective maritime souls and local sinners. So in some areas we still stand united.

Åge and Gerd, I wish to thank you and the rest of your staff for your kind hospitality. Please, everyone, put your hands together and as we say "show your love and appreciation". It is extremely difficult to leave your homeland. Every thing from 'back home' becomes more vivid – more important. One is never more Swedish than when 'utomlands'.

SAS, IKEA, Tetra Pak, Alfa Laval, Volvo, Hasselblad, SAAB, SKF and Ericsson are but a few of the well known names, nay beloved symbols of Swedish ingenuity. How about those Absolut ads? And all of you, I'm sure, visited the Museum of Natural Science exhibition of the Vikings and saw even more impressive reminders of your heritage. And perhaps you spent some time viewing the most recent Nobel exhibit celebrating the first 100 years of the Nobel Foundation.

Swedish National Day Speech (Cont'd) by Jan Dryselius - Consul of Sweden in Houston

Other memorable facts: more different kinds of minerals have been found in Sweden than anywhere else in the world; more vacation or summer homes (sommarsugor) per capita are found in Sweden than anywhere else in the world; the largest available selection of wines can be found in systembolaget; the first European who spotted a kangaroo was born in Piteå! Yes, I know, little known facts – but surely vital to someone! How about Kåre Walkert from Kumla – the loudest snorer in the world (93 decibels). See, Mary not me! Or the pair of 5200 year old skiis found outside the village of Kalvträsk in Norrland?

How about the zipper, the refrigerator, and the wrench? The seat belt, ATM, computer mouse, and telephone receiver, paper clip, matches – made out of wood - of course, it was even a Swede, keeping in mind the lovely ladies, who designed the curves of the almighty Coca-Cola bottle!

So, here we are. Away from Sweden ready to celebrate National Day with others of same heart. We relish the traditions, the friendships and salute Sweden. I want to thank Nina Björk, my intern at the Consulate, her determination, enthusiasm, research and other contributions in making this all possible. Also, I want to thank Leif Mauritzon & his beautiful and talented wife, Lynn, for all their hard and enthusiastic work in preparing all the delicious food. .” And I wish to thank Sandra Kollén, our new summer intern, as well. Please introduce yourselves to her if you have not done so. I also wish to thank Mary Eklöv for the wonderful decorations – simply Swedish.

Last but certainly not least, I want to thank Mary, my wife, who supports me Tirelessly, putting up with all my quirks and idiosyncrasies. Thank you for all the hours you always put in and nobody sees but me!

So now, show your love and appreciation for these and all others who Contributed to make this celebration possible today in our usual loud and vociferous fashion a fyrfaldigt leve!

Leve De!

HURRA! HURRA! HURRA! HURRA!

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Memorials

by Liz Cadwallader:

Allan Eggleton – born August 1, 1920 passed away May 2, 2003. Allan was a very active member of the Swedish community for many years. Allan and his wife Dorothy were members of the Gulf Cost Scandinavian Dance Group, Swedish Club of Houston and other Scandinavian organizations in Houston. His wife Dorothy Eggleton, two sons and one daughter and their families survive him. Allan will be greatly missed by all his friends and family.

Ingrid Werler – Born June 14, 1923 in Malberget, Sweden and passed away June 8, 2003 in Houston. Ingrid was loved by all her friends and family in the Houston area. Ingrid has been a member of The Swedish Club of Houston, SVEA and The Linneas of Texas. Her husband John E. Werler; son John H. Werler and wife LeeAnn and grand children Brittnei Ann and Benjamin Werler survive her. Ingrid always had a passion for life. Ingrid will be missed by all that knew her.

Folkdancing Update

by Jay Flusche

In the big scheme of things, three months is not a large measure of time. However, for the Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston, the past three months have been jam packed with activity.

In April, we danced at the Houston International Festival, where we performed a smorgasbord of dances from Iceland, Norway, Denmark, and of course, Sweden. Since Mexico was the featured country this year, we even danced to some traditional Mexican music!

We also performed down in Danevang, Texas at a birthday celebration for Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. The town of Danevang goes all out when it comes to celebrating their Danish heritage. The town was featured in the March issue of Texas Highways, and the Danish Heritage Museum is an interesting place to visit.

In early May, we had an Open House at our practice facility at Christ The King Lutheran Church (by Rice University). The Open House had a twofold purpose. First, it allowed the church members to see how their new dance floor was

being utilized, and second, it allowed us to do some recruiting of potential new members. We are going to have another Open House in September.

On May 31st, we danced at the Danish Club's summer picnic at the Nottingham Forest Club. This was a lot of fun because after we finished dancing, there was plenty of food and drink as well as an opportunity to go swimming in the Nottingham Club pool.

It seems like no matter where we perform, there is always fun, food, drink & entertainment provided for us. I have met so many wonderful people through dancing. It has been a wonderful experience... but, that will be a different newsletter article. Now, back to the update...

Since we had been so busy during the past couple of months, when June arrived, everyone was thankful. We were ready for a break, but we were also ready for the Texas Folklife Festival (TFF) in San Antonio June 5-8. Performing at the Texas Folklife Festival is a unique experience. We are housed at a downtown hotel and each given approximately \$20 in tokens to spend at the festival. We dance on Saturday and Sunday, and we always have time to be tourists as well. This year, different members went to the Tower of the Americas, the Mexican Market, the Alamo, and the Riverwalk,

Although the TFF has been going on for over 30 years, each year has something new. I strongly recommend going to San Antonio to visit the TFF. It is always the first full 4 day weekend (Thursday through Sunday) of June.

The folkdancers have been going to San Antonio for the TFF for over 20 years. It is definitely the highlight of the year. It is also a great way to end the folkdancing season. Spring of 2003 has been great. Right now, we are all enjoying the summer. We will be ready to start up again in September.

Why not consider coming by when we have our Open house in September, and get a taste of what the Scandinavian Folkdancers are all about? We will have the details in the September/October newsletter. See you then...



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club News is published 6 times a year by the Swedish Club of Houston. Articles, photos, etc. are welcome. We would especially like personal news of our members, explanation of family traditions and Swedish culture, news of Swedes and of Sweden that is not in the general news, and your favorite Swedish shops, products, or resources.

Please send the news by email to
arvid@johanson.us or
when necessary by post to
Arvid Johanson,
2010 Dowling Drive,
Richmond TX 77469-5114.

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IN THE NEXT (Sept. - Oct.) EDITION OF SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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- Smorgasbord Info
- Christmas Traditions Promo
- ¿¿ Your Article ??

Swedish Club News
www.swedishclub.org

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July-August 2003
EventsLine = 713.774.2739



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