



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston
Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

May/June

2007

Volume XX-No. 3

President's Column

by Margaret St. Clair



Sommar hälsningar!
Yes, summer is almost upon us! It seems like yesterday that we held our annual meeting, kicking off the New Year 2007. And last month, many of you enjoyed a wonderful

Kräftskiva—Swedish-style Crawfish Party—at The Monument Inn. Many thanks to our hard-working board members, John Stavino, Mark Swanson, David Bash and Dina Jo Colburn, who organized everything.

Our last event, before we break for summer, is Valborgsmässoafton—Swedish Bonfire and Texas Barbeque. It is coming up very quickly (May 5) at the ranch of our members, Dr. Margit Winstrom, and her husband, Dr. Bill Riley. They are so gracious to have us again. If you have not been there before, I hope you plan to attend this year. It is a fantastic, fun-filled, relaxing day in the country for young and old alike. And it is free! Please see the article on this page for more information.

In conclusion, I hope that all of you have a great summer, whether you travel near or far. If you are one of the fortunate who will go to Sweden, I must take this opportunity to remind you to visit Barkeryd in Småland on August 5. That is when The Swedish Club's 2006 Lucia, Morgan Halvorsen, will represent the Club at Barkeryd's Hembygdsfest. This festival is a wonderful celebration of our Texas/Swedish history. It is an event not to be missed!

Take care and see you October 20 at Smörgåsbord!

Margaret

VALBORGSMÄSSOFTON in TEXAS!

*Swedish Bonfire
and Texas Barbecue*

Welcome Back Spring!

**Saturday, May 5, 2007
3 PM**



Join us for this **FREE*** event
at the **Winstrom Ranch**

west of Brenham

@ 3383 Peters Lane

(see directions @ www.swedishclub.org)

*The festivities start with games, some of which
are customary Swedish ones. Win prizes!*

*Enjoy a hayride, a bonfire at sunset
and traditional singing!*

WHAT TO BRING:

- Food to grill for yourself (hot dogs, hamburger, steak)
- Beverage, and
- Side dish to share

***PLEASE NOTE:** Even though the event is free, please let us know by Thursday, May 3, that you are coming, either on the SCH website at www.swedishclub.org, or by calling Pelle Fisk @ 281-348-2584.

Swedish Club Lucia

By Nancy Webb

This years' *Luciadagen*, our annual Lucia celebration, will again be held at Christ the King Lutheran Church in the Rice University Village area, on Saturday, December 8, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. This is particularly appropriate, as the church was founded by predominantly Swedish Americans and was the second church in Houston begun by the Swedish Lutheran Church in America.

Applications for The Swedish Club's 2007 Lucia are now being accepted. She will be presented at the Annual Swedish Christmas Traditions and Lucia Procession.

Candidates must be young women between the ages of 16 and 24, and members of the Club. They must also be able to attend the *Luciadagen* celebration, and be able to represent the club at the Texas Day Celebration in Barkeryd, Sweden in early August 2008. Round-trip airfare will be provided for our 2007 Lucia from Chicago to Sweden by SAS. As the Houston Swedish Club's Ambassador to Barkeryd, she will be in a parade, and take greetings to the people of Barkeryd on behalf of the club. On her return, she must write an article on her Swedish experience for publication in the newsletter.

Applications should include name, address, phone number, email address and date of birth. Please include a photo and a short essay on your Swedish heritage and special interests.

Send applications to: The Swedish Club of Houston, c/o Nancy Webb, 3707 Darcus St., Houston, Texas 77005.

We also need helpers for the Lucia celebration, for refreshments, assisting the boys and girls in donning their costumes, decorations, and organizing the bazaar. If you have an interest in participating please contact either one of us!

Nancy Webb (713.661.1011 or newebb@kelsey-seybold.com) and Diana Rodionov (281.636.8153), Co-chairs, Lucia Program

News from the Consulate . . .

Svensk Hyllningsfest, in Lindsborg, Kansas, is a biennial tribute to the Swedish pioneers, occurring in October of odd-numbered years. The festival features art, crafts, special foods, ethnic music, folk dancing, parade, smörgåsbord, and special entertainment. Many of Lindsborg's residents don traditional Swedish folk costumes for the event, and Swedish folk dance groups and musicians add to the Swedish flavor of the festival.

The next *Svensk Hyllningsfest* will occur October 12 - 14, 2007. Please join us for a true Swedish experience in the heart of America! Lindsborg is located just twenty miles south of Interstate 70 at Salina, or seventy miles north of Wichita on Interstate 135. For more information about *Svensk Hyllningsfest*, guest accommodations, or other special events in Lindsborg, please contact the [Lindsborg Chamber of Commerce](http://www.lindsborg.org). For information on lodging and dining, as well as other area attractions, you may wish to visit the Lindsborg Chamber of Commerce web site at: <http://www.lindsborg.org>.

To learn read more about *Svensk Hyllningsfest*, see www.svenskhyllningsfest.org.



For ticket orders and additional information write:
Svensk Hyllningsfest
P.O. Box 323
Lindsborg, KS 67456

Texas Swedish Pioneer Association Annual Meeting Palm Valley Lutheran Church Round Rock, Texas Sunday, June 24, 2007

The Texas Swedish Pioneer Association will observe the 90th anniversary of this annual meeting, which has met each year since 1917. The date is Sunday, June 24, 2007, in Palm Valley Lutheran Church, Round Rock, Texas, located at 2500 E. Palm Valley Blvd./US Hwy. 79N, about 2.5 miles east of IH-35, near Dell Diamond baseball stadium. 155 years ago, in 1852, the first Swedes settled in this beautiful Palm Valley location.



Palm Valley Lutheran Church, ca. 2006
Photo Courtesy of Jean Sellstrom

At 2:30 p.m., the program begins with an organ concert by Dr. Elsworth Peterson. Then, at 3:00 p.m., Rod Johnson, President, will open the meeting, which includes both the Swedish and English languages. Jean Sellstrom will give a talk on Swedish immigration to Texas. A group of women from Elgin, Texas, will sing several songs in Swedish.

The Texas Swedish Pioneer Association honors the memory of Sven Magnus Swenson, the first known Swede to arrive in Texas in 1838. Swenson made it possible for many of his former countrymen to immigrate to Texas by paying the cost of their passage.

90 years ago, in 1917, the Association celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first large group of 100 Swedes who arrived in Texas from Småland in 1867. This meeting has continued since that time, always near "Midsommar." Years ago the gathering was known as "Swedish Old Settlers," and lasted for days—a real celebration!

All who attend the meeting are invited to a "Coffeetime" after the program to enjoy the fellowship, meet old friends and/or perhaps meet some new ones.

Anyone of Swedish heritage is considered a "member" of this association. There are NO membership requirements or dues!

Even today, people still need to take time to remember and honor their Swedish ancestors and be proud of our rich heritage. The Swedish immigrants to Texas added greatly in making this a wonderful state.

VÄLKOMMEN!!

Jean Sellstrom

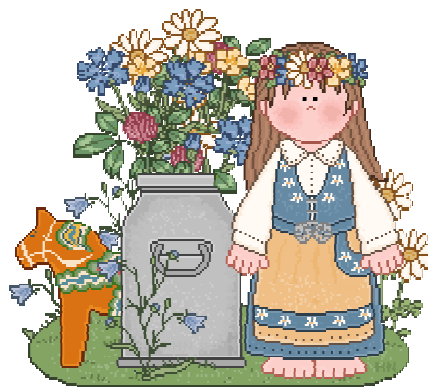
(EDITOR'S NOTE: My husband and I attended this meeting last year, and I highly recommend it to anyone interested in the history and heritage of Swedes in Texas.)

Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston to Perform:

By Kathy Bjork, President

The Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston will perform in San Antonio at the Folklife Festival on June 9 (at 3:00 and 7:30) and June 10 (at 1:00). All performances will be on Stage 5. If you are in the area, please stop by to say 'hej.'

We have been invited to dance at the Swedish Pioneers meeting in Round Rock on June 24th. We are trying to get enough members for a performance, but if we can't, it sounds like an interesting event to go to anyway.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CARL LINNAEUS!

Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778) was the most famed botanist of his time and remains by far the most internationally well-known Swede that has ever lived. He is known as the father of modern taxonomy, and his system for naming, ranking, and classifying organisms is still in wide use today (although with many changes). It was Linnaeus who coined the name *Homo sapiens*.



Linnaeus was born on May 23, 1707, at Stenbrohult, in Småland in southern Sweden. In addition to being a botanist, Linnaeus was a physician, a lecturer, a gardener and a prolific writer. He also pioneered the study of how indigenous people use plants for medical and other purposes, making him the first ethnobotanist.

According to Kennedy Warne, in "Organization Man," in the May 2007 issue of "Smithsonian" magazine, "(Linnaeus) conjectured that micro-organisms 'smaller than the motes dancing in a beam of light' might be responsible for transmitting contagious diseases—long before medicine embraced the idea of pathogens. . . . And he gave an important tweak to the Celsius scale of temperature measurement. Anders Celsius, a Linnaeus contemporary, had designated the boiling point of water to be 0 degrees and the freezing point to be 100. It was Linnaeus' idea to flip the scale." (p. 110)

The 300th anniversary of Linnaeus's birth is being celebrated around the world throughout 2007. For more information about the Linnaeus Tercentenary Celebration, visit www.linnaeus2007.se.

(*Tack så mycket* to Ken Nilsson, who provided information from articles in "Natural History" and "Smithsonian" magazines, along with additional material from the Web.)

Travel Specials to Scandinavia

Thank you to Erich Wolz who pointed out that SAS is running a "Late Spring Early Summer" offer on trips to Scandinavia. For example, one-way travel with required round-trip purchase for New York (Newark), Washington DC (Dulles) or Chicago to Stockholm, Oslo or Copenhagen is available for \$249. See <http://www.travelzoo.com/Newsflash.asp?295262> for details.

If your summer travel plans include Sweden, please consider sharing something about your trip with our SCH membership. Send a brief writeup (including pictures) about interesting sites you visited, family history, recommendations to other travelers, etc., to Laura Millikan, 6102 S. Sumac Dr., Pearland, TX 77584, or by email to ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net.

Those Clever Scandinavians!

Submitted by Jean Sellstrom

After having dug to a depth of 10 meters last year, Scottish scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Scots, in the weeks that followed British scientists dug to a depth of 20 meters, and, shortly after, headlines in the UK newspapers read: "British archaeologists have found traces of 200-year-old copper wire and have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the Scots."

One week later, "The Klub," a Sunburg, Wisconsin, newspaper reported the following: "After digging as deep as 30 meters in corn fields near Eau Claire, Ole Johnson, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Ole has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Scandinavians were already using wireless."



2007 SWEDISH CLUB LUCIA

Applications for The Swedish Club of Houston's 2007 Lucia are now being accepted. Our 2007 Lucia will be presented at the annual Swedish Christmas Traditions and Lucia Procession scheduled for Saturday, December 8, 2007, 4:00 p.m. This year's celebration will again be held at Christ the King Lutheran Church, near Rice Village.

Candidates for Lucia must meet the following requirements:

- ▶ Single young woman, 16-24 years of age;
- ▶ Member of the club (either individual or as part of a family membership, including granddaughters);
- ▶ Able to attend the Swedish Traditions program on December 8;
- ▶ Able to represent the club at the Texas Day Celebration and Parade in Barkeryd, Sweden, on the first weekend of August, 2008;
- ▶ Responsible for own ground or air transportation to and from Chicago (round-trip airfare provided from Chicago to Sweden);
- ▶ On her return to Houston, 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, which is made up of female attendants, ages 5-20, and star boys, ages 5-15. Attendants and star boys wear all-white clothing and accessories. The Club can provide some articles of clothing, but individuals are encouraged to use their own.

For twenty 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 take greetings to the people of Barkeryd from The Swedish Club of Houston.

NOTE: Lucia candidates, in addition to completing the application below, must also write a short *essay* about their Swedish heritage, their interests and why they would like to represent the Club in Sweden, and must provide a *current photo* of themselves. The application must be postmarked by **September 28, 2007**.

For questions or further information, contact Nancy Webb (713-661-1011 or newebb@kelsey-seybold.com) or Diana Rodionov (281-636-8153), co-chairs of the 2007 Lucia program.

THE SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON APPLICATION FOR 2007 LUCIA CANDIDATES, ATTENDANTS AND STARBOYS

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ Phone No.: _____

E-mail address: _____

I would like to be (check one): Lucia _____ Attendant _____ Starboy _____

Lucia candidates only: Please include your **essay** and **current photo** with your application, postmarked by **September 28, 2007**.

Mail applications and enclosures to:

The Swedish Club of Houston, c/o Nancy Webb, 3707 Darcus St., Houston, Texas 77005

KRÄFTSKIVA 2007

If you missed it, make your plans now for next year!!



There were plenty of *kräftor* (crayfish) for everyone!



Gunhild Jansson and Margaret St.Clair



Jeff Sorenson, James Stavino
and Zack Sorenson



Lynn and Kevin Rodgers



Mark and Emmie Swanson and Mary Lynn Koenig



Claude Hippard and Jim Commander



John and Edie Stavinotha (sitting)
and Biv and "Baby" Sorenson



Al and Carol Clarke and
Margaret and David St.Clair



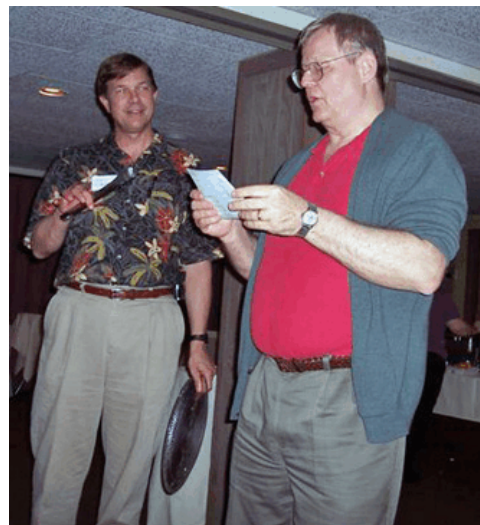
Even the kids had a great time!



Ken and Bertha Nilsson



Cindy Commander, Knut Gezelius
and David Bash



With the help of John Stavinotha,
Jan Dryselius leads the group
in singing *snavsvisor*.



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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 **YOUR NEWS** to ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net or by post to the return address below.

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www.swedishclub.org

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Events Line = 713.774.2739



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