



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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

January/February

2009

Volume XXII-No. 1

PEA SOUP AND PANCAKES/ ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 24, 2009

6:15 p.m. - Social

(NOTE: Please bring your own beer and/or wine, as there will be no cash bar)

7:00 p.m. - Dinner

**Christ the King Lutheran Church
2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston**

You are invited to join us for a traditional Pea Soup and Pancake Supper at our Annual Meeting on **Saturday, January 24th**, at **Christ the King Lutheran Church**, 2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston. The evening will begin at 6:15 p.m. with a time for visiting with old friends and making new ones, followed by the meal at 7:00 p.m. **(NOTE: Please bring your own beer and/or wine, as there will not be a cash bar.)** Cost for the supper is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children (ages 3-12).

RSVP for dinner by **Wednesday, January 21st**, *by mail* using the form on page 7; *online* on the SCH website (www.swedishclub.org); or *by phone* to Diana Rodionov, (281-636-8153).



Ken Nilsson enjoys his pancakes topped with lingonberry jam.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to enjoy authentic Swedish food and fellowship and to help get The Swedish Club of Houston off to a great start for 2009!

Membership renewals due

A new dues year began January 1st. Annual dues are \$35 for a family membership, \$25 for an individual or \$10 for students.

Renew your membership now either *online* at www.swedishclub.org or *by mail* by completing the enclosed form and sending it with your check payable to "Swedish Club of Houston" to John Stavinoha, 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, TX 77401.

Scandinavian Folk Dancers

by Kathy Bjork

The Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston have been very busy. In October, we performed at the State Fair in Dallas. In November, we performed at the Norwegian Seaman's Church in Pasadena, and in December we sold glögg at Dickens on the Strand. It



The Scandinavian Folk Dancers performed at the Lucia Celebration.

was such a relief to be able to keep that tradition alive, and we had so many people tell us they were so glad we did. December also included a performance for The Swedish Club of Houston Lucia Celebration. All the events had huge attendance. Also in December, we performed for the City of Houston at the visitor's center in City Hall. That was very interesting. There were not many in the audience, but we had so much fun with those that were there.

The Scandinavian Folk Dancers extend warm Christmas greetings to everyone reading this. Have a wonderful 2009, and we hope your New Year's resolution is to join our group! We would love to have you. We practice in Rice Village at Christ the King Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m. most Mondays. We are not sure at this time when we will start in January, so please call first (Kathy, 281-480-4163).



President's Column
by Margaret St. Clair

Happy 2009! I hope all of you had wonderful holidays spent with family and friends.

As the New Year begins, it is time to

evaluate the previous year's activities and to make plans for the new one. I know there is always room for improvement, but I think that in 2008, The Swedish Club hosted five outstanding events:

January found us at Buffalo Grille for our **Pea Soup & Pancake Supper**, held in conjunction with our **Annual Meeting**. April brought the **Crawfish Party** at The Monument Inn with a performance by award-winning Swedish singer, Theresa Andersson.

In April we celebrated a **Swedish Bonfire** at the Winstrom Ranch near Brenham. Our fall event was **Smörgåsbord** at BraeBurn Country Club and in December we hosted **Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration** at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

It pleases me to note that most of our 2008 events had high or record high attendances. I think a lot of the credit for that goes to our hard-working and diligent Club members. Another factor for the high attendances may be that our members really enjoy coming to our events. I believe that we offer excellent venues where one can meet friends and make new ones—an important goal for any club!

So with all the successes of 2008, what changes are in order for 2009? One of the biggest changes will be that two of our officers will be leaving the Board. Nancy Webb, our Vice President, and Ken Nilsson, our Treasurer and Historian, are resigning. Nancy has been a board member for four years and has been our VP and Lucia chairperson for three of those years. Nancy states that even though she will no longer be on the Board, she still plans to work with Lucia. Ken has been a board member since 2005 and has served as Treasurer for three years. More recently, he added Club Historian to his resume. Speaking on behalf of all our members, I know we will surely miss them. They were definitely hard-working members of our team.

Another change is that I will no longer be serving as SCH President. I joined the Board in 2004 and became President in 2006. I plan to continue on the Board this year and will work with Nancy Webb and Diana Rodionov in the Lucia program. It has been an

honor to serve as your president. I have met and worked with so many nice folks, and now it is time to pass the honor on to someone else. Thanks to all of you for making it a memorable and positive experience.

The last event at which I will preside is our upcoming **Annual Meeting/Pea Soup & Pancake Supper** to be held Saturday, January 24th, at Christ the King Lutheran Church. It will be an important meeting because we will be voting on our SCH Directors. According to our bylaws, we can have as many as 15 Directors. Currently we have three openings. If you would like to serve, please contact me immediately at 281-493-4978.

See you January 24th at Christ the King Church!

Margaret

BITS & PIECES

 *Tusen tack* (a thousand thanks) to **Nancy Webb** and **Diana Rodionov**, Lucia co-chairs, for another wonderful Christmas Traditions and *Luciadagen!* Young and old alike had a wonderful time.

 A very hearty "thank you" goes out from your editor to **Ken Nilsson** and **Dave St. Clair** for so faithfully taking pictures at our various Swedish Club events throughout the year. Their excellent photographs provide a great way to document and remember the fun, food and fellowship we experience as we celebrate and enjoy together our Swedish heritage.

 **Nordstjernen**, first published in 1872, is Swedish-America's oldest newspaper. Check the web site, www.nordstjernen.com, for news, events, classifieds and more, or subscribe to the twice-monthly print version for \$41 yearly.

 Visit <http://www.listentosweden.com/home.php> to "**listen to Sweden.**" If you have ever wondered what a country sounds like, this is the web site for you! Elise Peters, Executive Director of Swedish Council of America, says she especially liked the Map of Ballads. Listen and enjoy!

News from Sweden

(from Swedish Council of America's
November and December 2008 "eUPDATEs")

- Swedish archaeologists remain busy throughout Sweden as new roads and building projects are developing. Recently, a team working in western Sweden uncovered 1700-year-old artifacts in an area which once connected the sea to inland lakes. Visit <http://www.thelocal.se/gallery/456> to see a gallery of photos of the Iron Age finds.
- The Swedish National Seismic Network, located at Uppsala University, reported that an earthquake measuring between 4.5 and 5.0 on the Richter scale rocked southern Sweden on December 16, 2008. The epicenter was located about 30 kilometers east of Malmö. This was likely the biggest earthquake to hit Sweden since 1904. For more information in English, see <http://www.thelocal.se/16374/20081216>.
- VisitSweden.com and its included site CommunityOfSweden.com were named the Best Website in Sweden for 2008 by Internetworld, a newspaper in Sweden. VisitSweden.com is Sweden's official site for tourism and travel. CommunityOfSweden.com is a forum where visitors can share photos, stories, and tips about traveling in Sweden. Visit these sites as you plan your next trip to Sweden—or as a way to feel that you have been there!
- Stockholm rolled out the red carpet for visitors from around the globe during early December to celebrate Nobel Week 2008. Events included lectures, connected to the subject for which the prize is awarded, given by all laureates. The highlight of the week was the award ceremony and gala banquet on December 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death.



Mark your calendar SCH Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 28 - Kräftskiva (Crayfish Party)
Saturday, April 25 - Valborgsmässoafton
Bonfire/Barbecue

Places to go and things to see . . .

(from Swedish Council of America's
December 2008 "eUPDATE")

Chicago, IL: January 16 - March 15, 2009, the Swedish American Museum Center will promote Scandinavian culture and the appreciation of art through the quarterly-rotating exhibit, "Colors of Nature: Oils and Watercolors," by Siv Lindgren. Lindgren was born in Kalix, Sweden, where she was first inspired by her artistic mother and the natural beauty of her homeland. At age 17, Lindgren immigrated to Chicago in order to work with her aunt at a prestigious dress-making shop on Michigan Avenue and attend the Art Institute of Chicago. The beauty of rural Sweden is the foundation for Lindgren's love of nature and is reflected in her paintings of flowers and Swedish and American cities and landscapes. For more information visit www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org or call 773-728-8111.

Minneapolis, MN: The exhibit "Radiant Knits: The Bohus Tradition" will be on display at the American Swedish Institute from January 23 - March 29, 2009. The exhibit focuses on the history of the Swedish Bohus style of knitting and the Bohus Knitting industry (1939-1969), and features original couture garments knitted in the Bohus style, built around Susanna Hansson's collection of vintage garments. This will be the first time that Bohus garments have been on exclusive exhibit in the U.S. since the 1964 World's Fair in New York. The exhibit is included with museum admission: \$6 adults, \$5 ages 62+, \$4 ages 6-18 and students. The American Swedish Institute is located at 2600 Park Ave. in Minneapolis. For information call 612-871-4907 or visit www.americanswedishinst.org.

Seattle, WA: From February 6 - April 5, 2009, the Nordic Heritage Museum will welcome the exhibition "Knitting Along the Viking Trail," featuring work by renowned Swedish knitting designer Elsebeth Lavold. The artist's inspiration for the exhibited pieces comes from the ornamentation of Viking-age relics, from small pieces of jewelry to monumental rock carvings to runic inscriptions. Lavold's works reinterpret and adapt Viking craftsmanship, giving new life to this most celebrated aspect of Nordic cultural heritage. For more information visit www.nordicmuseum.org.

Lucia 2008

The Swedish Club of Houston had a very successful *Luciadagen* celebration on St. Lucia Day, December 13, 2008, at Christ the King Lutheran Church .



Margaret St.Clair, SCH President, lights the candles on Lucia Eden Shapiro's crown.

The procession into the candlelit church was led by Eden Shapiro, our Lucia 2008. She was beautiful and serene, as she led a record number of attendants and starboys—38! One of the attendants was her sister-in-law,

Lauren. The Service of the Word was celebrated in the sanctuary and officiated by Rev. Dr. Robert Moore, senior pastor of Christ the King. President Margaret St. Clair greeted the crowd of approximately 250 and explained the origin of the Lucia legend and the significance of St.Lucia Day in Sweden.



A record number of children participated this year as starboys and attendants.

Soloists Howard Phillips and Veronica Corell Butler (a former Lucia) sang lovely renditions of “*När juldagsmorgon glimmer*” and “*Glans över sjö och strand*” in Swedish,



accompanied by Christ the King organist Mark Mummert. Nancy Webb presented Eden as the 2008 Lucia and placed her Lucia pewter necklace around her neck, as the organist played “*Lucia sången.*” After the “*Sankta Lucia*” song was

One picture was not enough to show all the children.

sung by all, the celebration adjourned to the Parish Hall.

Guests were greeted by Dave St.Clair, and Laura Millikan. Thank you, also, Laura, for preparing the worship bulletins. Thank you, Jay and Athena Flusche, for providing and decorating a fresh evergreen tree with Swedish Christmas ornaments. Margaret St.Clair made the beautiful centerpieces, and thanks to Margaret, Diana Rodionov, Gunhild Jansson, Karen Wolz and



In fact, it took three pictures to show everyone!

Laura Millikan for making the *julgranskarameller*. Thanks to all Club members who provided baked goods, which were enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Carol Clarke, once again the kitchen chair, and to her helpers, Dina Jo Colburn, and Athena Flusche. We all enjoyed the authentic glögg, supplied by Ingrid Llanos and the folk dancers.

Sally Phillips spoke, with all the children gathered around her, about Swedish Christmas traditions, and as she mentioned the *jultomte*, lo and behold,



The *tomte* made an appearance and distributed *julgranskarameller* to the eager children.

he appeared with *julgranskarameller* for all the children! Thank you, Allan Clarke, for your facilitation again of the annual surprise!

The Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston, led by Howard Phillips, led the children in some folkdances, and then entertained the group with a performance. We

also had a very successful bazaar and raffle. Thank you to the Rod Anderson family for offering so many authentic Swedish bazaar items, and many thanks to Ingrid and Annett Philipson for such a successful sale



Lucia Eden Shapiro and her family were introduced at the reception by Nancy Webb, Lucia event co-chair.

of raffle tickets. Thank you also to Margit Winstrom, who donated a number of books on Sweden, bringing in almost \$60 from their sale, to Karen Wolz for manning the book sale table, and to Cathy Wahren for selling club T-shirts.

Our Lucia, Eden Shapiro, was introduced to the group. She was accompanied by her brother Benjamin and his wife, Lauren, her parents, Dianna and Adrian, her paternal grandparents, Dodie and Dr. Ed Shapiro, and maternal grandmother, Annette Stryk. She is a senior honor student at Bellaire High School, and her great-great-grandfather emigrated to Texas from Sweden. It is

fitting that she will represent our Club the first weekend in August, 2009, in Barkeryd at the Texas-Sweden festival.

This year, transportation is being provided for Lucia on Continental Airlines from Houston to Stockholm. Sincere thanks to John Stavinoha who was able to obtain this corporate support. This will be the 21st anniversary of our Lucia attending this festival. While in Sweden, Eden will be visiting relatives whom she has never met, and her mother has been one of the students in the Club's Swedish classes for the last two years, which will now come in handy on their visit!

My special thanks to Diana Rodionov, Lucia Co-Chair and Club Secretary, for all her help in contributing to the success of this event from every aspect. Special thanks, also, to David Webb, who assembled the battery lights, obtained the Lucia buns, helped dress the children, and provided overall moral support!

Very special thanks to our President for the last three years, Margaret St.Clair. I admire her dedication to the Club, and her willingness to do whatever is necessary for its continued success. Margaret, tack så mycket!!

Nancy Webb,
Vice President and Lucia Co-Chair



Laura Millikan, Diana Rodionov, Margaret St.Clair and Karen Wolz, with and under the direction of Gunhild Jansson (not pictured), made 50 *julgranskarameller* (candy-filled tissue paper decorations) to hang on the Christmas tree and hand out to the children at the Lucia celebration.



SCH President, Margaret St.Clair, is pictured with Jonas Hafström, Ambassador of Sweden to the United States. Ambassador Hafström was the guest of honor at a dinner celebrating the 25th anniversary of Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce, Texas, and the appointment of Jan Dryselius, founding member and former president of SCH, as Honorary Consul General.

Senior Sawyers and Volunteers Create a Museum

by Aleasa Hogate

During the summer of 2006, a group of the Senior Sawyers, volunteer carpenters at the Kalmar Nyckel shipyard, 1124 E. 7th Street, Wilmington, Delaware, worked on a major project renovating an old carving shop according to the exhibit concepts designed and planned by Aleasa Hogate, volunteer Education Director, to create the "Experience New Sweden" exhibit. What was once just an un-insulated, enclosed pole barn with a potbelly stove and shop lights was completely gutted and turned into an attractive museum room. The room is now completely insulated, paneled in a warm golden natural wood and provides a perfect setting for the small but all-inclusive museum on the early history of the first permanent European Colony in the Delaware Valley, New Sweden history in a nutshell.

The "Experience New Sweden" exhibit project was a major undertaking for the entirely volunteer New Sweden Centre organization. Dedicated June 16, 2007, the exhibit is currently open by appointment only but provides an excellent starting place for anyone interested in learning about this nearly forgotten era of early American colonial history.

Volunteers from New Sweden Centre welcome your visits and will be happy to give you a tour. In the "Touch History" section of the museum, children of all ages can enjoy trying out colonial games from the 17th century. Colonial clothing is also available for young children to try on to see what they would be wearing if they lived in Delaware Valley in the 1600's, presenting a great photo opportunity.

Aleasa Hogate and others created an interior corner of a log cabin with a corner Swedish fireplace scene with a 17th century homemaker mannequin. "Explore New Sweden" panels highlight other sites to visit in the area. As part of your visit, you may view the "Life in New Sweden" video.

To schedule a visit to NSC museum, either call 302-429-0464, e-mail ridder1640@aol.com or info@colonialnewseden.org, or check the on-line calendar of events in the area on the web site www.colonialnewseden.org.

"Fresh from Sweden, January 2009" by the Consulate General of Sweden in New York, www.swedennewyork.com

❖ *Everlasting Moments (Maria Larssons eviga ögonblick)*, directed by Academy Award-nominated film maker Jan Troell and starring Maria Heiskanen, Mikael Persbrandt and Jesper Christensen, has been nominated for the 2009 Golden Globes, and chosen to compete for the Oscar nomination in the category Best Foreign Language Film of 2008. Based on the real-life account of Troell's wife's grandmother, the film takes us through the life of Maria Larsson in early 20th-century Sweden. She is a young working-class mother, married to an abusive alcoholic, who wins a camera in a lottery. Her decision to keep it alters her whole life; photography grants her renewed passion, intellectual independence, and new eyes with which to see the world.

❖ Eton of Sweden, one of the world's finest shirt makers, is set to open its first exclusive brand store in the U.S. at one of New York's most treasured landmarks, The Plaza, on January 20. Eton was founded as a small family business in the Swedish town of Gånghester in 1928. Today, it remains a family-owned company that combines cutting-edge fashion and technology with traditional values and handcrafting. Eton Shirts are available in exclusive brand stores and men's departments in more than 35 countries worldwide.

❖ Henrik Ibsen's classic *Hedda Gabler* has been adapted by Christopher Shinn and directed by Ian Rickson, with a cast featuring Peter Stormare and Mary-Louise Parker. Previews began on January 6 at American Airlines Theatre in New York. Opening night is January 25 with a limited engagement through March 29. Peter Stormare is one of Sweden's most accomplished actors. He has performed leading roles in *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *Miss Julie*, *King Lear* and *Hamlet* under the direction of the legendary Ingmar Bergman. More recently, he has performed in several Hollywood films alongside actors such as Nicole Kidman, Matt Damon, Chloë Sevigny and Willem Dafoe.

**Raoul Wallenberg
remembered in January
(from Swedish Council of America's
January 2008 "eUPDATE")**

The Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States, an affiliate of Swedish Council of America, acknowledges two important dates in January. On January 17th, 1945, Raoul Wallenberg was arrested by Soviet troops, never to be seen again. In addition, January 27th is the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, as designated by the United Nations General Assembly.

Near the end of World War II, a 31-year-old Swedish businessman, Raoul Wallenberg, volunteered to leave the safety of his neutral homeland and travel to war-torn Budapest to save the lives of Jews threatened by the Nazis. Hungary had the largest remaining Jewish community left in Nazi-occupied Europe. Through the use of forged protective passports of his own design, Swedish safe houses, and his influence on

political authorities in many spheres, he was able to save the lives of more than 100,000 Jews in six months. On January 17, 1945, Raoul Wallenberg was arrested by Soviet troops on unknown charges, and tragically disappeared into the prison system. His fate remains a mystery today.

For his heroic actions, the United States named Raoul Wallenberg an Honorary Citizen of the United States in 1981. He stands alongside Winston Churchill, the Marquis de Lafayette and Mother Teresa as one of only four persons to receive this honor. In April 1997, the U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp honoring Wallenberg's wartime heroism.

Note: The above text is from "A Study of Heroes," an education program developed by the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States, 230 Park Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10169, phone 212-499-2695. Read more about Wallenberg and the work of the committee at its website, <http://raoulwallenberg.org>.

**Reservation Form
Pea Soup and Pancake Supper
Saturday, January 24, 2009**

Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston
(Reservation must be received by Wednesday, January 21st, for dinner)

Mail this form, with your check made payable to "Swedish Club of Houston," to:
Swedish Club of Houston
c/o Diana Rodionov
11307 Willow Field Dr.
Cypress, TX 77429

Name(s) _____

Telephone _____

Number of Member and Guest tickets _____ x \$15 = \$ _____

Number of Children (3-12 years) _____ x \$ 5 = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____



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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, and your favorite Swedish shops, products or resources.

Please send news to ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net or by post to the return address below.

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THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

c/o Laura Millikan
6102 S. Sumac Drive
Pearland, TX 77584-8064

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Membership Application

Membership Type:

- Application
- Renewal

Annual Dues:

- \$35 Family Membership
- \$25 Individual Membership
- \$10 Student Membership

Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Street: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone Number: Home (____) _____

Work (____) _____

E-mail Address: Home _____

Work _____

Please e-mail my newsletters to:

- Home
- Work
- Both
- Neither; I prefer hard copy

Yes! I would like to serve on the Board:

- Officer
- Newsletter
- Membership
- Finance
- Swedish School
- Programs
- Publicity
- Sponsor Relations
- Webmaster

Yes! I can help chair/co-chair an event:

- Pea Soup/Pancake Supper
- Kräftskiva* (Crayfish)
- Valborgsmässoafton* (Bonfire)
- Smörgåsbord*
- Lucia
- I have another idea!

I prefer to help "behind the scenes" with an event:

- Make baked goods
- Make cookies
- Make craft items
- Help with decorations
- Set up/clean up
- Greeter
- Reporter/Photographer
- Serve refreshments
- Sell raffle tickets

The following optional information would help us plan club activities:

Occupation: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Hobbies: _____ Spouse's Occupation: _____

Single Married Spouse's Hobbies: _____

Name(s) and year(s) of birth of children living at home: _____

Mail this form, with your check made payable to "**Swedish Club of Houston**," to:

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c/o John Stavinoha
807 Mulberry Lane
Bellaire, TX 77401