



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

Club Updates



- The next big event is the **Smörgåsbord**. The feast is set for **Friday, October 21st at the BraeBurn Country Club**. Grab a pen and mark your calendar now! Keep an eye on the website and next newsletter for more specifics.
- **Carrie Anderson** will be traveling to Barkeryd on August 6th to represent the club during the annual Barkeryd festivities. Happy travels, Carrie! We'll be able to read about her adventures in an upcoming newsletter.
- What are club members discussing on [Facebook](#) this month? Read a quick roundup of the ongoing conversations:

Club members are asking each other where they reside in the Houston area. Several members in the Woodlands are discussing a mini get together.

A question about freelance translation work, an informative article about the Swedish currency, and a picture slideshow have also been posted.

In the News

[The Local.se](#) reports that researchers from Gothenburg will travel to Minnesota to study how the Swedish language has changed over time in America. They will capture sound samples from current speakers and compare them with samples taken during a previous study in the 60's and 70's. Those early samples were taken from 1st generation immigrants through 3rd generation speakers. More info:

<http://bit.ly/minnesotalanguagestudy>

Clothing retailer *H&M* is set to open its first Texas store, a 24,000 sq. ft store in Dallas, later this year. Rumors have been swirling that the company is scouting Houston real estate for a future location. *H&M* is the third largest clothing store in the world with about 2,000 stores in over 37 countries. More info:

<http://bit.ly/HMinTexas>

Swedish citizens now have a new way to keep up with travel information from the *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. The UD has released a free app for iPhones. Everything from passport requirements, required immunizations, and travel warnings are available through the app. An Android version is on tap for an Autumn release. More info:

<http://bit.ly/UDResklar>

Happy Hour

Stina Bengtsson is in the beginning stages of organizing Monthly Happy Hour events for Club members and other Scandinavian groups in town.

If you need more information or would like to get involved in planning, please contact **Stina** at emailstina@gmail.com



Question and Answer

What are your favorite Swedish foods? What food is a must-have when you travel back to the Old Country? Do you haul back an entire suitcase full of food when you return? Tell us about your food adventures, your likes, your dislikes, good places to purchase products, and the meals you just can't miss.

We'll publish your answers in the next newsletter in honor of the Smörgåsbord in October. You might even find some of your absolute favorite dishes waiting for you there!

Send your stories, pictures, anecdotes, culinary tales, and favorite foods to us: newsletter@swedishclub.org



Name Days

Namnsdagar		07:12	ok
Datum	Namn		
21/10	Ursula, Yrsa		
22/10	Marika, Marita		
23/10	Severin, Sören		
24/10	Evert, Ellert		
25/10	Inga, Ingall		
26/10	Amanda, Rasmus		
27/10	Sabina		
28/10	Simon, Simone		

In Sweden, each day of the year has a different name associated with it. The tradition of name days in Europe began in the Middle Ages. The Catholic church began the tradition to honor various saints on different days and the tradition grew to include names for every day of the year.

After the Reformation, the tradition continued. The calendar became more widely used in the 17th century when the aristocrats and royals began following the tradition.

Farmers also utilized name day information to recall when to plant and harvest certain varieties of crops, such as potatoes and hay. Each crop variety was named after the day it should be planted or harvested on.

The names on the calendar were consistent throughout the Middle Ages. It wasn't updated until the 18th century. The list has been updated at different intervals since then. The most recent calendar is from 2001.

What happens on your name day? You might receive a card, a cake, or a little present. And you'll probably hear "*Grattis på namsdagen*".

Has your name ever appeared on the calendar? Check here to find out: <http://bit.ly/namedaylist>



Applications for The Swedish Club of Houston's 2011 Lucia

Our 2011 Lucia will be presented at the *Swedish Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration* on *December 10th at 4:00 PM* at Christ the King Lutheran Church, near Rice Village.

Lucia Candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Single young woman 16-24 years old who is a member of the Club
- Able to attend the Swedish Traditions program in December
- Able to represent the club at the Texas Day Celebration & Parade in Barkeryd, Sweden in August 2012 (round-trip airfare provided from Houston)
- On her return, Lucia must write an article for publication in The Swedish Club News.

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 & star boys wear all-white clothing and accessories. The Club can provide some articles of clothing, but individuals are encouraged to use their own.

Lucia candidates only: In addition to the application, you must also write a short essay about your Swedish connections, your interests & why you want to represent the Club in Sweden. You must also provide a current photo of yourself. Applications must be postmarked by October 7, 2011.

THE SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON APPLICATION FOR 2011 LUCIA CANDIDATES, ATTENDANTS & STARBOYS

Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Address: _____

Phone No.: (____) _____ - _____

Email address: _____

I would like to be (circle one):

Lucia / Attendant / Starboy

Mail to: The Swedish Club % Karen Wolz, 4526 Waynesboro Dr, Houston, TX 77035



Svenljunga: Texas for a Day

Barkeryd can rightfully claim the title of having the longest and strongest ties to Texas, but did you know there is another Swedish town that enjoys being Texan - if only for a day?

Every year in late August, the residents of Svenljunga (population 3,500) dust off their cowboy hats and pull out their boots for *Texasdagen*. The event has been running for about 20 years and is a highlight for many area residents.

Svenljunga is about 60 miles outside of Gothenburg. And if you're in the area in late August, you too can attend the festivities. What can you expect to see during the celebration? Well, you can grab your most comfortable pair of running boots and join the other runners during the Texas race. You can watch as town square morphs into a dance hall with the help of the Texas Kickers line dance squad. They come out every year to teach the good people of the area how to properly line dance. You'll even see some cowboys parading their horses around town.

After running *Texasloppet* and line-dancing the afternoon away, you can sit down and order yourself a pizza at the Texas Pizzeria. There's nothing fried on the menu, but we can forgive them the oversight. Texas food tastes definitely don't fit everyone. Enjoy your meal, but try not to get any food on your clothes because you'll want to enter the contest for the best dressed Texan later on.

Once you've eaten your share, you can enjoy a little live country music before the big announcement. Every year, the town chooses the next Texas Sheriff. You can't have a festivity without it. The proud winner receives a sheriff star and bragging rights for the year.

Sure, we residents of the Lone Star State don't go around in boots and hats everyday. We don't line dance all that much. And we definitely don't take our horses out and ride around town - unless it's Rodeo time that is! But it's fun to know that the Texas mystique lives on in many places on the other side of the Atlantic.

Do you have any Texas sightings in Sweden? If so, share them with us! Send your pictures and stories to: newsletter@swedishclub.org



Swedish Texan Profile: Swante Palm

Swen Andersson was born in Båshult, just south of Barkeryd lake in 1815. He spent his formative years being tutored in basic subjects and a bevy of languages. As a young man, he worked in the court system as a scribe, bailiff and clerk. Later, he edited the weekly newspaper in Kalmar, the *Calmar-Posten*. Around that time, he changed his last name to Palm.

In 1844, his nephew, S.M. Swenson, suggested Palm move to the newly formed *Republic of Texas*. Palm took up the offer, citing debts and an unrequited love as reasons for his departure to the New World. On May 1st, he set sail for New York on the brig *Superb* with 13 other passengers, all of them immigrants. After 5 weeks, they landed safely in New York, but Palm was only able to make it to Buffalo before his savings dwindled, so he took a traveling sales job helping Swedish businessmen.

Palm knew something about the Texas heat and thought it best to wait for cooler weather before arriving, so after collecting enough funds, he gradually worked his way down the coast, walking 700 miles and traveling another 425 by ship through the states. He and a few friends boarded a steamer for New Orleans on December 9th, finding letters from Swenson welcoming them to Texas. On December 23rd, they landed in Galveston, reaching Houston on Christmas day.

Palm spent a few years helping his nephew with accounting and other business matters before taking up even more projects, such as a mercantile partnership, a job as postmaster of La Grange, and a diplomatic trip to Panama.

Agnes Alm emigrated from Kalmar in 1853. She caught Palm's eye and the couple were married less than a year later in La Grange at Palm's residence, Nya Båshult, named after his boyhood home. They soon moved to Austin and settled down on 9th street. Agnes gave birth to their first child after the move. Sadly, their son died in infancy. He would be the couple's only child.

In Austin, Palm kept busy as postmaster and took up other government positions. The Swedish government gave him a consul position a few years later. He was knighted for his work abroad and the locals in Austin called him Sir Swante, thinking he had been given the title after being knighted.

Palm also had a great enthusiasm for books. Curating his collection was a constant hobby. During his Panama trip, he even tried to take a wagon load of books along with him until the ship's captain convinced him otherwise. The collection, one of the largest in the state, was given to the University of Texas just before Palm's passing in 1899. His 10,000 volumes doubled UT's collection.

Information summarized from *The Swedish Texans* by Larry E. Scott.



THE 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 your news to newsletter@swedishclub.org or by post to the return address below.

THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

c/o Sara West
4023 Sherwood West
Kingwood TX 77339-1037

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