

THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS and LUCIADAGEN

Join your friends for a lovely evening in a Houston version of Swedish Jul. Share Swedish Christmas heritage with your Children, your Grands, and your friends.

Enjoy the Lucia Service in the Chapel, Swedish Music, and crowning of the new Lucia. <see page 3 >

After Lucia Service, enjoy also the Fellowship, Refreshments, Swedish Market and Bake Sale <See page 6 >.

Watch The Scandinavian Folkdancers Performance and Special Recognition for their faithful service over many years. Even join them in a fun beginner learning session. <See page 4 & 5>

It's free even the parking.

No reservations are required except for children wanting to participate < see page 2>. Note that some costumes are available.

Saturday, December 14th, 2002 -3:30 PM Immanuel Lutheran Church 306 East 15th Street Houston, TX 77008

The church is conveniently located in the Heights. See the Swedish Club Website: www.swedishclub.org for map and directions.

COMING ON JANUARY 25th, 2003

SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON ANNUAL MEETING
ELECTION OF OFFICERS
PEA SOUP AND PANCAKE SUPPER

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Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen – Dec 14th

Santa Lucia day and the procession and ceremony accompanying it, have long been an important pre-Christmas tradition to Swedes around the world. Here in Houston, the Swedish Club tries its' best to bring a little of that special day to the citizens of our community. Every year we select a young lady from our club membership to wear the Lucia crown during our pageant and to represent the club at a heritage festival in Barkeryd, Småland, Sweden in August of the following summer. This year's Lucia is Cathy St. Clair, a senior at Texas A&M University, majoring in Elementary Education. She is the daughter of David and Margaret St. Clair.

Our Christmas Traditions and Lucia procession is scheduled for Saturday, December 14, 2002 from 3:30 PM to 6:00PM at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 306 E. 15th St., Houston, TX, 77008. Our event includes a short church service, during which the Lucia leads her procession of female attendants and star boys down the aisle to the musical strains of "Santa Lucia, the Neapolitan Boat Song". The attendants and star boys will be performing some traditional Swedish songs this year, thanks to SC Board member, Marita Vilson, who had agreed to teach the songs and rehearse with the attendants.

After the service, we will gather in the fellowship hall for some traditional Lucia day refreshments. These will include, but are not limited to, traditional Luciabullar (saffron flavored buns), Pepparkakor (ginger cookies), Lingonsaft (lingonberry flavored punch), and coffee. These goodies are provided by Lynn Mauritzson, owner of Cookie Boxes, Etc. and wife of club President Leif Mauritzson.

During the reception the Gulf Coast Scandinavian Dancers have graciously agreed to perform some traditional Scandinavian folkdances. This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the formation of the dance group and we are marking this milestone with some special acknowledgements and a presentation of awards by Jan Dryselius, the honorary Swedish Consul for Texas.



Liz Cadwallader crowning Lucia 2001-Allana Clarke

Our annual Christmas bazaar will be open and operating in the fellowship hall before, during and after the ceremony. Scandinavian gift and folk items will be available for purchase. What a wonderful way to finish (or start!) your Christmas shopping.

The club is looking for girls and boys to participate as attendants and star boys. Female attendants must be between the ages of 5 and 20 and star boys must be between 5 and 15. Attendants wear all white clothing with silver trim and accessories. The club will provide the trim and accessories, and is able to provide some articles of clothing, but anyone having their own outfit is encouraged to wear it. SC Board Member, Marita Vilson, will be contacting all attendants and star boys to schedule rehearsal dates and distribute musical material. Please contact Ingrid Melrose at (281)579-8143 or e-mail her at Glmelrose@aol.com if you would like to participate.

COME ONE! COME ALL! THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

< See page 6 for Bake Sale Fundraiser >

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In Her Own Words - Lucia 2002: Cathy St. Clair

My appreciation and knowledge of my Swedish heritage has evolved over time. It began when I was a child with my mother serving pickled herring and lingonberries at our Christmas dinners, explaining that these were traditional holiday foods that her Swedish grandparents had enjoyed.



Lucia 2002 Cathy St. Clair with Mom and Dad

My parents further reinforced the importance of my Swedish forbears by showing me my great grandparents' home in Galva, Illinois and by visiting the nearby Swedish colony of Bishop Hill. I learned that my great grandfather, Gottfrid Jacobsson, was born in the small village of Orlunda, near Vadstena, and that he emigrated to Galva (named after Gävle, Sweden) in 1911 when he was 24 years old. His wife, my great grandmother, was a first generation Swede whose family came to Galva from the town of Kungsberg in the 1860's. Their only child is my grandma who, over the years, lost all contact with any family who remained in Sweden.

When I was 14, interest in my Swedish ancestors suddenly became very personal. That is when my grandma received a telephone call from her nephew, Leif, in Sweden---whom she never knew existed! That phone call was a life-changing experience for our family. Leif put grandma in touch with her newly found half-sister and the rest was history! My grandparents and mother have made two trips to Sweden and have returned to share their experiences with me. Through their stories, photographs and home movies, I have met my new family half a world away! So my introduction as a child to a few Swedish customs and a little family history has now evolved into a

greater understanding and appreciation of what it was like for my great grandfather to grow up in Sweden and come to the United States.

I am an honors student at Texas A&M University majoring in elementary education. This year I am doing my senior internship with a kindergarten class in College Station. Next year, after I graduate, I plan to teach kindergarten. I enjoy working with children and feel that there is nothing more rewarding than preparing them for the future. I am involved with Child Evangelism Fellowship, which is an organization that shares the gospel with underprivileged children in Byran/College Station. For the past three years I have also been a Fish Camp counselor which is an orientation camp for incoming freshman to Texas A&M

I would consider it a privilege to serve the Swedish Club of Houston as the 2002 Lucia representative to Barkeryd. Although my ancestors did not emigrate from there, I feel that it would be an excellent opportunity for me to see first-hand the sacrifices and hardships that so many Swedes endured before finding new life in America.



Cathy St. Clair Swedish Club Lucia 2002

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The Scandinavian Folkdancers 30 years in Texas, 2002 by Ingalisa Calissendorf

How does a Folkdance group get started in Texas – of all places ???? My husband and I came to Texas from Sweden in the early 50 's, I asked around and wondered, among all the Swedish descendants in Austin, Texas -- the Swedish descendants concentration point - - if we could not find a Folkdance group there. We asked many persons and at the end we had the privilege to meet the very important and charming man, in the Swedish Community, Mr. Carl T. Widén, a man that had done wonderful things in Austin in preserving Swedish History in the Capital City of Texas. He answered my question: "The Swedes that came where to pious, it was a sin to dance, and by that, they lost a large piece of the cultural paj in form of folkdance, folkmusic and folkdress."

It was the key for us, or the starter gun that went off, whatever you want to call it, for us to try in our part of Texas, Galveston-Houston area, to start a folkdancegroup, with a big thank-you to Carl Widén that wished us good luck for the future in preserving this important part of the culture.

We needed dance instructors, first we turned to the International Folkdancers in Houston, They gave us Coleen Moore and Monroe Rathkamp. We tried some variations here and there. But finally 1972 we set down and organized a formal group our own Folkdancegroup, "The Scandinavian Folkdancers" with purpose to preserve, understand and appreciate our Scandinavian heritage

We have secured dance instructors one time from Norway and two times from Sweden during the years. We have also learned much from our trips to Sweden from the dancers there, 1981, 1986, 1992 and 1998, and also from dance groups that has visited us in Texas.

We joined "Svenska Ungdomsringen" for folkdancers in Sweden, and we also own them a round of thanks for help during the years. We support and our members of Scandinavian organizations in local area.

Our Folkdance group has always had a spectrum of Scandinavians and their descendants, sometimes one group more than the other, it has varied over



the years. It is our strength, because we all are minorities in Texas. It is very nice to dance dances from the whole Scandinavia.

We have danced over large area of Texas. Kansas, Colorado during the years. We have friends not only in Scandinavia but also in large areas of the U.S. We have had shows of folkdresses with historical and cultural background, not only in Texas but also in Kansas and Dearborn, Michigan, and Oakland, Nebraska. We continue to dance for Swedes, Norwegian and Danes on their Festivals here and there. We dance at the Folklife Festival in San Antonio every year, and our well known moneymaking project for-music, notes and trips—and for the future, we accomplish with participation at the Charles Dickens Festival at the Strand in Galveston every December. We sell our homemade Glögg, with big success.

Without dance instructors we would not have made the 30 years. We like to honor our three instructors that have made it possible, for without them the Folkdance group had not existed today. Gwen Uzzell, Runa Joslyn and Howard Phillips are the three. We feel much appreciation and thankfulness for what they have done for us during the years, and still have interest in us. Today, Howard Phillips is the instructor and we owe him our gratitude and thanks.

We have had a number of very capable and accomplished leaders; after me Ingrid Llanos and now Allan Abedor who will take the group to new highs and a grand future.

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SCANDINAVIAN FOLKDANCERS UPDATE by Jay Flusche

Normally, the beginning of Fall is a pretty slow time for the folkdancers. We try to get back into the routine of practicing and learning some new dances to perform in the Spring. The Fall of 2002 has been atypical.

As soon as we got back together for our first practice, we prepared for a performance September 29th at Grace Lutheran Church in Conroe. Grace is putting together an Arts & Entertainment series for 2002-2003 that features a different entertainment group each month. It can be dancing, drama, performances, etc. We were the first group to perform in the series, and we were quite well received. The fellowship center was full. During one of the breaks, Howard asked the attendees if they were part Scandinavian. Over half of the attendees did! The vast majority was Norwegian. Who would have thought that Conroe would have such a large Scandinavian presence?

On October 10th & 11th, we got to perform at the State Fair of Texas. It was a lot of fun. We danced twice on Saturday and twice on Sunday. It was the same weekend as the UT vs. Oklahoma football game, so needless to say, the atmosphere was electric. We performed on the same days as the Dixie Chicks, and the crowds that watched us were much larger than the crowd that the Chicks drew. Well, okay, maybe that is not completely true, but we did have a lot of folks watch us dance.

www.swedishclub.org

The Dallas Norwegian Dancers hosted us and invited us to their Fall shrimp boil on Saturday night. They are so nice to us. They arranged for us to have free lodging, free food, and arranged for us to get invited to dance... what more can you ask?

Our next performance is at the Norwegian Seamen's Church in Pasadena. The church has their Christmas Bazaar on Saturday November 16th. We dance at 1:00 p.m.

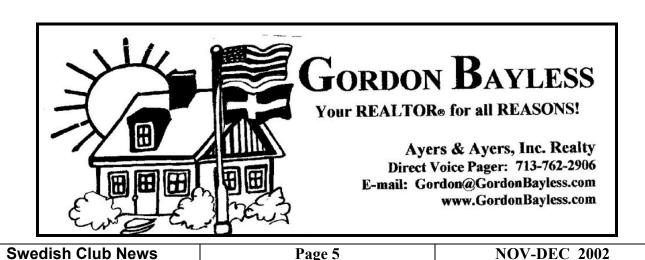
I usually take that opportunity to buy some traditional holiday food & Christmas gift items.

Speaking of traditional holiday food & gift items: we will also be dancing at the Lucia program on December 14th at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Plan on attending. The Lucia/Christmas Traditions program is a free event and it is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit.

As always, if you see us around, please come up and say hello. It is always good to see folks from the Swedish Club.

As you can see, we keep busy with practices and performances. It is a lot of fun, and it is a good way to completely escape your normal life for a couple of hours a week. If you have any questions or are interested in seeing what Scandinavian Folkdancing is all about, you can give me (Jay Flusche) a call at 713.777.2824, or you can call our director, Howard Phillips, at 713.661.5619.

EventsLine = 713.774.2739



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thank you to all of you that had the opportunity to come to Inwood Forrest Country Club, for our annual smörgåsbord.

The food was well prepared by the chef under supervision of Gunhild Jansson. Her Jansons Temptation was the best I have had in a very long time. Gunhild was also responsible for the beautiful flower arrangements on the tables. Thanks for your generosity, Gunhild. This year's herring selection, cheeses, crisp bread and the smoked salmon, was imported from Sweden. Lars Westerberg was instrumental in making this possible. Lars' company Robin Maritime Agencies, LLC helped sponsoring this event. Lars also arranged for sponsorship from T&T Offshore, Inc., Blumar Offshore and Shipping Services and World Ship Supply (Texas), Inc. Without these sponsors it would not be possible to have the cheese, herring and salmon selections that we had.

The highlight of the evening was without any doubt Christer Fuglesang. Christer gave a very interesting speech about his upcoming space flight. Now we look forward to the next smörgåsbord and hope that he will honor us with his presence and let us know how his space flight was.

Our next event will be The Christmas Tradition, Dec. 14. Here you will have the chance to get a taste of Swedish Christmas. Do not miss this event. This year Ingrid and Liz have by passed me and given Lynn all the info. This year you are just about guaranteed to have the Lucia buns, pepparkakor and pepparkaks huset.

Now is also a good time to start thinking of who you want to see serve on your board. The election will come up in January. If you are interested please let us know. Former board members are welcome to serve again. Let's keep our club alive.

I hope you will have a wonderful holiday season.

Må Gott!

Leif

Lucia Fundraiser

We are doing something a bit different this year at the Lucia program. We will be having a fundraiser, but it is a bit different from the typical fund raising effort.

We are asking folks to bake & donate a traditional Swedish holiday delicacy. The baked item will be sold at the Lucia program. The Swedish Club will keep the proceeds, and a person coming to the Lucia program will have the chance to come away with traditional baked goods.

Everyone is a winner! You get to show off your baking skill; someone else gets to buy your goodies; the club gets to help defray the cost of the event.

So, please consider helping in this fund raising idea. It will take a couple of hours of your time, but it will be time well spent.

By Jay Flusche



2001 Swedish Market Table and Rod Anderson Family

WANTED: YOUR recipes for the Swedish Club Recipe Book. Mary Lynn Koenig is putting together the book as a club fund raiser. English or Svensk is OK. (Her husband, Pelle, will translate.) Email to MaryLynnKoenig@bigfoot.com or 26951 Crown Haven Ct., Kingwood TX 77339.

Texas Folklife Festival Needs a Swedish Entry

The Swedish straw ornament makers from Round Rock will not be attending the 2003 Texas Folklife Festival. The festival has contacted the Swedish Club to see if we have anyone interested in displaying/selling Swedish crafts.

The festival is held in San Antonio every year. In 2003 the dates are June 5-8.

If you are interested, or if you would like more information, please contact Jay Flusche at 713.777.2824 or at jay.flusche@puffer.com. Or, you may leave your information on the Events Line at 713.774.2739 and Jay will contact you.

by Jay Flusche

MATHS OLOV WESTLUND, 52, passed away Friday, Oct 18, 2002. Mr. Westlund was born in Karlstad, Sweden to Olov and Britta Westlund. He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Lisa Anne Westlund; daughters Amanda Westlund and Lauren Westlund, mother, sisters, brother, relatives and friends. Maths came to the states at age 16 as an exchange student, worked for 20 years with ABB Lummus Global as Senior Project Controller. Owned a professional photography business earlier and was an avid golfer. Memorial contributions can be made to the American Heart Assn; the American Lung Assn. or the Houston Hospice.

Remembrance of Maths by Mona Raspler

MATHS WESTLUND was very active in the Fundraising aspect, raising over \$ 6000./year for several vears 1995--1998, for the SWEDISH CLUB. He was instrumental in organizing The Great Golf Tournaments at Tour 18 Golf Club to benefit our dream of a SWEDEN HOUSE.

Together with Willie Barnevik, Peter Widmark, Olle Lundblad and myself and others volunteering their help including many corporate sponsors who paid the fees, bought mulligans and donated prizes. It always ended in suspense as the big billboard came up with the names of the winning teams of the FOUR PERSON SCRAMBLE. At the outdoor Barbeque dinner, Don Turbyfill and I, distributed the different donated prizes to the happy but tired winning groups. A long but fun day. This event could never had happened as such a successful fundraiser without our two members Maths Westlund and Willie Barnevik, who worked on organizing it all year long.

Now Maths has left our world for ever, hopefully playing golf where he is. Willie has moved back to Grebbestad, Sweden, we know he is playing, Olle has moved with Sandvik to Florida, Peter has moved to N.H. We miss them all.

May the family feel his love for them even now and be at peace with his passing. Maths will be remembered always.

Don and I, former Swedish Club Presidents, are still here but was not capable of continuing the great Golf Tournament without this kind of support. Is there someone in our Club that is willing and able?

The next day, the family, and I as a member of the "extended" family, joined the bridal couple for a midday lunch of wonderful fish pies, salads, strawberry tort, and wine and beer while we watched the World Cup Final in the delightful seaside cottage that the couple would call their home for the first week of their marriage.

Double Treat - Continued from Page 9



The Österlen area, as this part of Skåne is known, has much to offer in the way of art, castles and culture. The rolling hills are beautiful and full of surprising finds for people like me. For example, on the morning of the wedding, I decided to explore the country lanes near Kivik. Just by chance I ended up near the sea at an area containing Havängsdösen, a stone-marked grave which is about 5,000 years old. It was uncovered as a result of a strong storm in the early 1800's. No one was there, and I felt I was the first to find it. Silly me!

by Gordon Bayless

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SWEDES IN THE SOUTHWEST

THE JACOBSON HOUSE



Located on the northwest corner of the campus of the University of Oklahoma in Norman is the Oscar Jacobson House. Built in 1916-1917 the house has several characteristically Swedish motifs (scrollwork, stucco, classical columns). It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. The house now serves as a museum and art center

Oscar Brousse Jacobson was born in 1882 in Westervik, Sweden. During childhood, he immigrated to the United States with his family and lived on a farm in the Swedish community of Lindsborg, Kansas. He fell in love with the American West, traveled extensively and even became a cowboy. After receiving degrees from Bethany College in Kansas and Yale University, he established a national reputation as a landscape artist. He also fell in love with a French woman named Jeanne d'Ucel; they were married and began a lifelong adventure which lead them to Norman, Oklahoma.

When Oscar Jacobson arrived at The University of Oklahoma in 1915 to direct the Art Department, his artistic career was established and his mission was to give the school a national reputation in the arts. He revolutionized the teaching of art by abandoning the academic style and introducing the "modern" approach of the French painters. He also recognized the utilitarian aspect of art and brought woodcrafters and potters into the Art Department. One of these, John Frank, was recruited from the Art Institute of Chicago; he went on to found a successful ceramics company, Frankoma Pottery.

An outgrowth of Jacobson's work establishing the School of Art was founding the Museum of Art in 1936. His ability and ingenuity resulted in a remarkable collection of Native American, oriental and contemporary art that forms the basis of today's

collection in the Fred Jones, Jr. Museum of Art. Jacobson was head of the Museum until 1952.

Jacobson was the first art authority to recognize Native American art as fine art. He encouraged Native American artists to come to The University of Oklahoma and study formally. Providing stipends for their support and markets for their work, Jacobson nurtured the talent of many Indians and was rewarded by seeing a group

many Indians and was rewarded by seeing a group known as the "Kiowa Five" become internationally famous. This fame was a direct result of his arranging for Native American artists to be exhibited in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1928. In 1929, a portfolio of the exhibition paintings entitled "Kiowa Art" was published in France.

The Native American artists who became known as the "Kiowa Five" were James Auchiah (1906-1974), Spencer Asah (1905/1910-1954), Jack Hokeah (1902-1969), Stephen Mopope (1898-1974), and Monroe Tsatoke (1904-1937). Lois (Bougetah) Smoky (1907-1981) was also in the group. They were young and they were Kiowa Indians from the Anadarko area of Oklahoma. Because of their talent and the opportunities afforded them at The Uni- versity of Oklahoma, they became international celebrities. It is well- remembered that these young men were occasionally homesick for Anadarko and the Indian community and that during those times they would gather at the Jacobson House to sing their Native songs and beat their drums.

Oscar Brousse Jacobson was cosmopolitan; the Kiowa Five were not.

These events were taking place in the 1920's when travel anywhere was not common and international travel was reserved for the few. One can only imagine the awe that these Native Americans felt and inspired as they entered the international art world. Their spirit and courage are to be admired as they followed an age-old Kiowa tradition of journeying to the four corners of the Earth.

The Jacobson House hosts many shows, celebrations and markets during the year. It is well worth the drive (or detour, if on the way to Lindsborg). More information can be obtained by speaking with the Executive Director, John Parrish at 405-366-1667 or visiting the website www.jacobsonhouse.com.

Submitted by Mary Dryselius

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Member's Trip to Sweden DOUBLE TREAT: A SWEDISH WEDDING AND ÖSTERLEN EXPLORATION

The long summer day on the Saturday following *midsommar* was typical for the southeastern coast of Sweden's Skåne. Billowing clouds and intermittent showers threatened to spoil a day I had been looking forward to for over a year. But as I arrived for the 4 o'clock wedding of Lena and Tobbe Arenbo (Lena is the daughter of my Swedish "brother" Christer), the skies cleared and the sun shinned on the beautiful country church in the village of Vitaby.



I had never attended a wedding in Sweden. .The families greeted us in the vestibule upon arrival at the church, and after we and they were seated, the watchman rang the church bell to signal the start of a beautiful service.



Jeremyah Clarke's A Trumpet Voluntary set the musical stage for the bride and groom to enter, followed by the reading of Psalm 199:1-2, opening remarks by the lady priest, and a reading from the Bible. Vocal music was provided by a popular singer, Eva-Lotta Ekelund, who first sang Evert Taube's Så Skimrande Var Aldrig Havet before the lighting of the wedding candle, and then sang Carol King's You've Got a Friend. The priest said the first prayers followed by the congregation's Lord's Prayer. Following the betrothal, Psalm 200:1-4 was read, after which the priest gave her talk before the soloist sang Marie Fredriksson's Annu

Doftar Karlek. The recessional was August Soederman's Broellopsmarsch ur Ett Bondbroellop.

Lena and Tobbe awaited us in the church garden as we exited, and after congratulating them, we drove a short distance to a lovely old country estate, Kiviks Esperöd, which was the site of the wedding dinner and dance. In the estate's central courtyard, a young man played a large African drum while we sipped champagne and munched freshly picked strawberries until the bridal couple arrived.



The dinner was spectacular and was prepared by one of Skåne's upcoming chef's, Eva Thuresson, who wowed us with her innovative dishes to accent the wonderful beers, snaps and wines selected personally by the bride and groom. At each guest's place was a booklet containing songs to be sung between courses and a few remarks written by the bridal couple about each person in attendance. Since my description advised all that I was a "Texasmåklare som håller svenskan flytande sedan utbytesåret pa Gossis I Helsingborg 1963-64," I felt obligated to give my wedding speech and toast in Swedish. It seemed to surprise everyone, but I was more surprised that everyone understood me (or at least politely said they did)!

A couple of interesting traditions: a bench was placed in front of the bridal couple's place at the head table, so that during the course of the evening we guests could sit and speak with the couple; and when the groom finally had to surrender to nature's call, all the men quickly lined up and quickly kissed the bride before the groom's return.

After the plates and tables were cleared, we danced the night away under the midnight sun while enjoying drinks and latter a wedding "breakfast" in the anteroom with its huge open fireplace. By the time I went home, I was not sure whether it was the morning or the night sun!

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

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THANKS TO ALL THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS EDITION

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IN THE NEXT (JAN-FEB) EDITION OF SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

- January General Meeting and Board Election at a Pea Soup and Pancake Supper- Jan 25th.
- YOUR ARTICLE-Think about it !!
- YOUR RECIPE !?!

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