



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

Club Updates



- Our Christmas Traditions program will take place at Faith Lutheran Church in Bellaire. The event will begin at 3 PM. To volunteer, or sign up your kids for the procession, please contact Marie Teahen at lucia@swedishclub.org
- Club member Evan Wood is this year's SCH Lucia. She has been interested in all things Sweden for many years. Read more about her story on page 2.
- Looking ahead: Our Pea Soup & Pancakes Annual Meeting is in January at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Rice Village. The exact date is not set, so watch your email and swedishclub.org for updates.

In the News



- Swedish tourist officials have started a new campaign, "Visit a Swede". The initiative urges international travelers to meet up with a local Swede during their travels. More info: <http://bit.ly/VisitASwede>
- Princess Madeleine has announced her engagement to fiance Chris O'Neil, a British-American businessman. More info: <http://bit.ly/MadeleineEngagement>
- Sofia Talvik, who played for us at the Crayfish party last March, is continuing her US tour. Check out her video here: <http://bit.ly/TalvikTravels>

Our 2012 Lucia



Evan Wood, daughter of Doug & Pam Wood, has been selected by the Board of Directors to be our 2012 Lucia! She is 17 years old, and is currently in her first year of college and holds a part time job at Campioni. She loves animals and flying airplanes. Her *mormor* was from *Norrland* and here is Evan's compelling argument of why she should be this year's Lucia:

"Ever since I was very young I have been interested in Sweden. It's a rather odd interest, I admit, but when you understand why exactly I have been so curious about this beautiful country and culture, it may make a little bit more sense.

My grandmother, "Mormor", was a Swede. I'm mentioning her in past tense because she passed away many years ago when I was just a little girl. At the time of her death I failed to recognize how significant her life would be on my own little life. In fact, I remember barely feeling any emotions of sadness or loss during that time. It wasn't until a few years later that I finally mourned her death and became curious about the nature of this woman who I never really knew but was so connected to in multiple ways.

Not surprisingly, the country from which my mormor came from also became of interest to me. For many years I researched Sweden, Swedish culture and almost every aspect pertaining to Sweden. After some time and many google searches titled simply "Sweden", I came to a groundbreaking conclusion for my life. I was not simply interested in Sweden because of my grandmother, but now more so because I was the one that was interested in Sweden, independently of my mormor. And, even though I love her, my vague goal of living there in the near future is based on my own motivation, rather than that of living someone else's life."

Meet Evan during our Annual Christmas Traditions program on December 8 from 3-5:30 PM:

Faith Lutheran Church, [4600 Bellaire Blvd](#), Bellaire

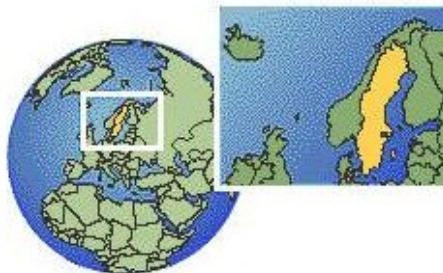
3:00 PM Bazaar opens with entertainment by accordionist Joyce Calderon

3:30 PM Lucia Procession followed by refreshments

4:30 PM The Scandinavian Folk Dancers

Dancing around the Christmas Tree

Know your Geography



Sweden is first divided into provinces (landskap), then into counties (län), and further into municipalities (kommun). How well do you know them? Can you place them on a map? Test your skills with these online games to find out:

Provinces:

<http://bit.ly/SweProvinces>

Counties:

<http://bit.ly/SweCounties>

Municipalities (50 most populous):

<http://bit.ly/SweMunicipalities>

Other quizzes of interest:

Cities in Sweden:

<http://bit.ly/25SweCities>

Islands of Stockholm:

<http://bit.ly/SthlmIslands>

Gothenburg Landmarks:

<http://bit.ly/GBGLandmarks>

Historical Events

November and December



Stockholm Bloodbath

The Stockholm Bloodbath occurred between November 7 and November 9 in 1520. Over eighty people were executed by beheading at Stortorget (the Great Square in Gamla Stan). Danish King, Christian II invaded Sweden and besieged Stockholm for four months, his troops fighting against those in Sweden who resisted the Kalmar Union between Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. Once the city gave in, King Christian II crowned himself king and allowed Archbishop Gustav Trolle to imprison anyone who opposed the union. Nobility, merchants, and locals who were thought to oppose the union were accused of heresy. An accusation of heresy required no trial. The accused were brought to the square and executed on the same day. One of those killed was Erik Johansson, the father of Gustav Vasa. Once Vasa learned about the executions, he traveled to Dalarna to raise a revolt. He would go on to depose Christian II and be crowned king of Sweden on June 6, 1523. The bloodbath was meant to strengthen the union's hold on power but it ultimately created the conditions for a revolt, one which would lead to the permanent separation of the union between Denmark and Sweden.



First Nobel Ceremony

The first Nobel Prize ceremony was held on December 10, 1901 five years to the day of Alfred Nobel's death in 1896. Nobel was in France when a newspaper erroneously published his obituary. It accused him of being a merchant of death because he invented dynamite.. Nobel did not want to be remembered in such a way, so he wrote a will that set aside 94% of his assets to establish yearly awards in science, chemistry, medicine, literature, and peace. The economics prize was established later in 1969.

Info summarized from wikipedia.org

Start Your Search

Did you know that 1 in 5 Swedes emigrated to the United States between 1821 and 1930? Maybe someone in your own family was one of the five. Would you like to learn more about them and other family members who left Sweden? You can start your search close to home. The Houston area is home to two genealogy centers. One center is the biggest in Texas and the other is one of the biggest in the country! Here is more information about these research centers so you can start your search today:

The Genealogy Center in Conroe, Texas is a part of the Montgomery County Memorial Library System. It houses one of the biggest and most thorough collections in Texas. If your ancestors came through Texas, this is a good place to start. You can access census records, newspapers, military records, family histories, passenger lists, obituary searches, special collections, and more. The center is open Monday through Saturday. They are open late until 9 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

More information about The Genealogy Center can be found on their website:

<http://www.countylibrary.org/gen.htm>

The Clayton Library is a well-known research center in the heart of Houston. It was voted "one of the 9 genealogy libraries you need to visit before you die" by Family Tree Magazine. The library is located in the museum district close to Herman Park.

The collection is so large, it is housed in four separate buildings. Parking is free, as is wi-fi and access to the databases with a library card. Bring your ID to sign up for a card, if you don't have one already.

The library also conducts orientations. The next orientations are scheduled for November 17 and December 15 at 10:30 am. These visits will help you familiarize yourself with the collection before starting your research. The library is open Tuesday through Saturday.

More information about the Clayton Library can be found on their website:

<http://www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton/>

If you can't visit these two centers, try your local library. Many libraries subscribe to the Ancestry.com website. You will need to be in the library to access the database, but everything is free to search, including many Swedish records from Genline.com.



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*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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Club Events:

Christmas Traditions

December 8, 2012

Annual Meeting

January 2013