



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

Club Updates



- Don't forget! The Blue Marlin leaves from Kemah on September 28th for a seafaring adventure!
- Our annual Smörgåsbord will be held on a Friday this year. Join us on November 1 for a great meal and great company! Reserve a table now! Details on page 4.
- The Swedish Consulate hosts a passport machine one October 21 and 22. Contact the Consulate for more info.

In the News



- Ordning&Reda is now available in the US. Their North American products can be bought at J.C. Penney stores across the US:
http://bit.ly/ordning_reda
- Is IKEA the only place in Texas to get Swedish food?, one local Austin journalist asks: <http://bit.ly/swfoodtx>
- The Washington Post spends time in Sweden with Classic American car fans: <http://bit.ly/Amcarweek>

Friends of Lucia

As you probably know, Continental Airlines is no more (and, as a result, the Swedish Club of Houston has lost its sponsor of Lucia's airfare from Houston to Sweden). Thus, it becomes incumbent upon the members of the Club to step up and donate to support the long-standing tradition of the Club of sending its Lucia to Sweden. Several sponsorship levels are available.

The Swedish Club of Houston has been represented by its Lucia at the Texas Day celebration in Barkeryd since 1988. The Lucia program has provided a wonderful way for the members involved to travel and learn about our Swedish ancestry and Texas connection to Barkeryd.

Why is Barkeryd important? This small parish had half of the population emigrate to Texas between 1836 and 1927! Conditions were bad and the opportunity of settling in America was given to the people of Barkeryd. Around 1867 many young people left Barkeryd; S.M. Swenson and Svante Palm paid for their passage to come to work for them in Texas, where workers were needed to help on the farms.

If you would like to help support this long-standing tradition of the Club, you can mail a check along with this form, or donate online at swedishclub.org.

Yes, please list my name as a Friend of Lucia / No, I wish to remain anonymous

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Sponsorship Level: \$500 – Speaker of the Riksdag / \$300 – Prime Minister / \$150 – Deputy Prime Minister / \$75 – Cabinet Minister / \$50 – Governor / \$30 – County Councilor / \$15 – Municipal Commissioner

Make check payable to: The Swedish Club of Houston

Swedish Club of Houston, c/o Karen Wolz, 4526 Waynesboro Dr, Houston, TX 77035

Historic Events

September and October



September

Sunday September 3, 1967 in Sweden was known as **Dagen H** (short for right-hand traffic day). This was the official day Sweden switched from driving on the left side of the road to the right. Officials decided the switch would help with safety and bring the country into line with other European countries. Before the switch, buses, intersections and other areas were prepped for the switch. A public campaign to inform the public introduced commemorative items like milk cartons and clothing. There was even a song, [*Håll dig till höger, Svensson*](#) ('Keep to the right, Svensson'). No fatal accidents occurred as a result and head-on incidents dropped sharply afterwards.



October

On October 5, 1981, Raoul Wallenberg was made an honorary citizen of the United States for his heroic action of saving 10,000 Hungarian Jews during WWII. Wallenberg was arrested by the Soviet Union in the 1940s. No one knows what ultimately happened to him afterwards. Some say he was executed. Others say he lived in jail for decades. Many streets, schools, and sculptures in the US honor his legacy.

Info summarized from wikipedia.org

SCH Autumn Smörgåsbord

When: Friday, November 1 2013, 7:30 PM (cash bar opens 6:30 PM)

Where: BraeBurn Country Club (8101 Bissonnet St.)

How much: \$25 members, \$30 nonmembers, \$15 youth 12 and under, cash bar

Seating is limited, and reservations are required.

Submit your reservation online (do it now, before you forget!)

<http://www.swedishclub.org/component/forme/?fid=3>

Or pay with a check by mail -

Make checks payable to :**The Swedish Club of Houston - Smörgåsbord** % John Stavinoha

807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, TX 77401



Table 1: Crisp bread, limpa bread, assorted cheeses, imported herring, imported smoked salmon, Gravad lax with mustard sauce, deviled eggs, garden salad, pickled cucumber salad

Table 2: Swedish meatballs with cream sauce, Lingonberry sauce, Swedish ham, Janssons Temptation (potato, onion, and anchovy casserole), boiled new potatoes

Dessert: Blueberry cobbler with vanilla sauce, ice cream

Table Drinks: Coffee, iced tea, lingonberry drink

Halloween in Sweden



Halloween started in Ireland in the 1800s. Later, Irish immigrants brought the tradition to the US. The original Irish traditions morphed to fit local American customs. In Sweden, something similar is happening. Sweden is slowly importing Halloween, a celebration that is seen today as traditionally American. How did it happen? And what does Halloween look like in Sweden?

It started in the early 90s when the Hard Rock Cafe partnered with a gag gift shop called Butterick's (similar to Spencer's). They promoted the holiday first as a marketing opportunity.

From there, the tradition slowly expanded. Halloween parties caught on the bigger cities between '92-'95. Newspapers started writing about the holiday around '97. From there, it slowly grew and is now considered an established celebration.

Celebrations are similar to the US, but with a few changes. First, people celebrate between October 31 and November 6, but many advocate for October 31. (A mix up with "alla helgons dag" is responsible for the confusion). Children do dress up, but trick-or-treating is not as common. If they do, kids can show up anytime between late October and early November! Scary costumes like witches and ghosts are popular. Superheroes and princesses are less common. Halloween is not just for kids either. Adults celebrate too with costume parties at home or even at clubs, restaurants, or other businesses.

Pumpkin carving is also becoming more popular. Öland has a good climate for growing pumpkins, so many of the Halloween decorations come from this area. In 2010, a poll revealed that 4 out of 10 Swedes said they plan to mark the holiday in some fashion. Almost a billion kronor is spent annually on treats, decorations, and costumes.



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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.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCH Events:

Blue Marlin Boat Tour

September 28

Autumn Smörgåsbord

November 1