



# THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

*Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986*

## Club Updates



- Valborg was a great success! Marie Teahen wrote about the event on page five, including pictures.
- Find out more about upcoming SCH events this May and June - including a movie night and an a cappella event.
- Photos from our most recent gatherings can be found on the club's Facebook page: [http://bit.ly/SCH\\_Club](http://bit.ly/SCH_Club)
- Love to write? Enjoy learning more about Sweden? Want to become more involved with SCH? If so, being the next newsletter editor is for you! Write to [newsletter@swedishclub.org](mailto:newsletter@swedishclub.org) for more details.

## In the News



- If you're in San Antonio (or want to take a weekend trip), mark your calendars for June 7th and 8th. The Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston will be performing during the Texas Folklife Festival that weekend! Read more: <http://bit.ly/Txfolklife14>
- The brutal northern winter took its toll on an iconic Swedish American landmark in Chicago. Read more: <http://bit.ly/chiwatertower>
- Self-Driving Cars are now on the road in Sweden. Read more about this new technology hitting the streets of Gothenburg: <http://bit.ly/self-driving-volvo>

The Swedish Club of Houston invites you to our annual

# Movie Night

- Experience Swedish Cinema

## Swedish Cinema:

Known for producing many critically acclaimed movies with directors such as Ingmar Bergman & playwright August Strindberg.



## Location:

*Stag's Head Pub*

Huge selection of beer from around the world

Voted best bar food in Houston

**Saturday May 30, 2014 at 7:30 pm**

Stag's Head Pub  
2128 Portsmouth St.  
Houston, TX

Food, beer, wine and soft drinks will be available for purchase.

RSVP online (for planning purpose only)

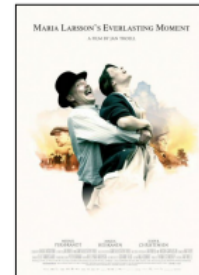


## ***Everlasting Moments***

"Maria Larssons eviga ögonblick"  
Director: Jan Troell

Swedish with English subtitles

Winner of Guldbagge Award for Best Film  
Nominated for Best Foreign Film  
at the 66<sup>th</sup> Golden Globe



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## ***Swedish Language Links***

Want to improve your Swedish? Or maybe you want to get a head start before you begin taking lessons with SCH? If so, these websites will help you get where you want to go:

<http://www.digitalasparet.se/hot/indexf.htm> - This website is made for everyone - beginners up to adults. It includes a listening section and interactive exercises.

<http://www.sesam.nu/> - Sesam is a newspaper written for people learning Swedish. It includes simple phrases and easy to understand wording. If you like this, try Swedish Radio's Klartext programs. You can listen to the news in easy Swedish. Go to [www.sr.se](http://www.sr.se) and search "Klartext".

<http://folkets-lexikon.csc.kth.se/folkets/> - The People's Dictionary. This free resource can be used to look up words in either language. It also includes a free app online so you can look up words or phrases on your phone. Anyone can add to this dictionary.

<http://tyda.se/> - Another good online dictionary with entries for unusual vocal and phrases. Type in a phrase and see the equivalent in the other language.

<http://ielanguages.com/swedish.html> - A nice guide to typical words and phrases. It also includes a basic explanation of Swedish grammar and other useful links.

<http://www.digitaldialects.com/Swedish.htm> - Visit this website to play a few simple games. These games will help you learn basic phrases, numbers, colors, etc.

<http://www.acapela-group.com/> - Practice your pronunciation using this website's text-to-speech function. Type in a few words in Swedish and hear them spoken back to you. You can even choose between a few different accents.

<http://www.kreativpedagogik.se/> - The webmaster for this page has collected dozens of Swedish language related websites and placed them all in one spot for easy access.

<http://www.hcpl.net> - The Harris County Public Library website includes access to many databases. One database is called Mango Languages. It contains two learning units and more than 55 lessons. Access is free with a library card. The same database is also available on <http://www.houstonlibrary.org/>, the Houston Public Library website.

<http://www.goethe-verlag.com/tests/index1.htm> - Expand your vocabulary by filling in the blank words. This site has 200 different tests to improve your vocabulary.

### **Board Member Biography: Helena Karlberg Hippard**

I was born in Bräkne-Hoby in Blekinge in the south of Sweden and moved as a young child to Arvidsjaur Norrland, a province of Lappland where I lived for 5 years with my father Nils Gunnar Karlberg and mother Gunvor Ingrid Eugenie Armfelt and two older siblings Torkel and Tove. Hereafter we moved to Västergötland, I went to high school in Skara and received my M.D. degree from the University of Gothenburg. My father was a veterinarian and I found it at an early stage very interesting to join and watch him at work which strongly contributed to my lifelong interest for animals and medical science.

I came to Houston in 1983 as an anesthesiologist and have since been practicing at Texas Children's Hospital as a Pediatric Anesthesiologist after completing an anesthesia residency at Baylor College of Medicine and a pediatric and a cardiac anesthesia fellowship in Boston, Ma. I am now also an American citizen in addition to my Swedish citizenship. In addition to my professional work I have strong interest in outdoor activities and sports, dance, animals, reading and social/cultural activities and interactions with others.

I have been a member of the SCH for many years and have become very impressed by the importance of the leadership of the organization, the depth of knowledge and the enthusiasm for the Swedish culture that I continue to experience within the SCH. The club provides me with so much personal and cultural value and I hope that I, as a board member and a native Swede can contribute to the success and diversity of the SCH.

### **A Cappella Smörgåsbord Extravaganza**



The event will take place on June 22, 2014 at the Cullen Theater – Wortham Center. Two concerts will be held that day at 2.30pm & 7.30pm. The Swedish Barbershop singers The Ringmasters and the Houston Barbershop Society will perform during the shows. More information about the Ringmaster can be found on their website: <http://www.ringmastersproject.com>. Tickets for the event are available at <http://bit.ly/BHSHouston14>.



## + SCH's Valborgsmässoafton – Walpurgis Eve 2014



As with the origin of most Swedish traditions, you will find there are many stories, myths, and passed on practices that are combined into the tradition that we celebrate today. *Valborgsmässoafton* is celebrated on the last day of April in Sweden. According to one ancient tradition, the bonfires were lit to scare off wild animals from the pastures where the cattle would graze. During the pagan years, it was a celebration of fertility and the coming of Spring. After Christianity was introduced, this eve was combined with the legend of Saint Walburga, an English-born nun in Germany, who was canonized on May 1<sup>st</sup>. It was also mixed with the 17<sup>th</sup> century German stories of a meeting of sorcerers and witches. According to the Swedish folklore, the witches rode on brooms or goats to meet with the devil at *Blåkulla*. In order to keep the evil spirits away, people made a lot of noise by shouting, firing shots, and lighting bonfires. For over two centuries on this day, the two major university cities (Lund & Uppsala) started the custom of students gathering outside the university to cheer and waive or throw their student cap in the air simultaneously on the clock stroke of three.

On April 26, 2014, SCH celebrated our annual Valborg at Dr. Margit Winstrom's farm in Brenham. There were over 40 adults and kids welcoming spring (TX summer ☺) with BBQ, Swedish games, hayrides, bonfire & singing.

By Marie Teahen



## 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](mailto:newsletter@swedishclub.org) or by post to the return address below.

## THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

#### SCH Events:

Movie Night

**May 30**

A cappella  
Extravaganza

**June 22**