

# SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON



Second Quarter 2022

Volume XXXIV, Issue 2

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Swedish Club of Houston

[www.swedishclub.org](http://www.swedishclub.org)



Newsletter By:

Madelyn Mauritz Bossé

3rd Generation Swede



## Calendar Events For 2022

Date	Event	Location
Saturday Jan 22nd	Semmel Fika / Annual Meeting	First Lutheran Church
Sunday Feb 27th	Conversation Club	Home of Göran Runfeld
Sunday Mar 25th	Conversation Club	Home of Göran Runfeld
Saturday April 2nd	Kräftskiva	Monument Inn LaPort TX
Saturday April 30th	Valborgsmässoafon	Winstrom's Ranch, Brenham, TX
Sunday June 5th	Sweden's National Day	Christ the King Lutheran
Sunday Aug 7th	Texas Day	Barkeryd, Sweden
Sunday Aug 14th	Summer Fika	First Lutheran Church
September	Swedish Movie Night	TBD
Saturday Oct 15th	Sailing	Kemah, TX
Friday Oct 21st	Smörgåsbord	Braeburn Country Club Houston, TX
Sunday Nov 13th	Julgrans Karamell	Teahen Home
Saturday Dec 10th	Christmas Traditions & Lucia Celebration	Bellaire UMC Bellaire, TX

## VALBORGSMÄSSOAFTON 2022

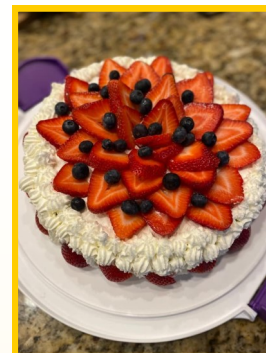
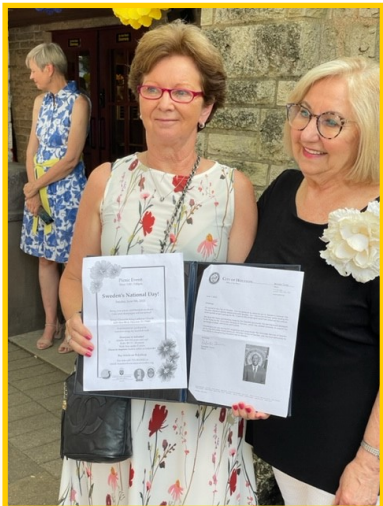


**Thanks to all who attended the Valborgsmässoafton at Winstrom's Ranch near Brenham! Great weather, food, fellowship and wonderful Swedish celebration for spring.**

*"Glad Valborg", Happy Birthday to King Carl XVI Gustav and welcome spring!*



## SWEDEN'S NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION



Hot Houston weather greeted our celebration of Sweden's National Day. Hosted by the Consulate General of Sweden Houston, Swedish Club of Houston, SWEA and the Swedish-American Chambers of Commerce of Texas, the celebration included a jazz band, children's choir and strawberry cakes!

Since 1983, Sweden has celebrated its National Day on June 6th. It is the date on which Gustav Vasa was elected King in 1523. This laid the foundation of Sweden as an independent state, and on the same date a new, important constitution was adopted in 1809.

## SANKTHANSFTEN CELEBRATION IN HOUSTON

Snorre, the Houston chapter of the Norwegian Society of Texas invited the Swedish Club of Houston to its *Sankthansaften* Midsummer Eve celebration at the Norwegian Seamen's Church in Pasadena on Saturday, June 25th. The event started at 6pm. Snorre is trying to help the church raise funds for a standby generator. Hurricane season is here, and the church currently doesn't have a backup system for power.

Snorre provided a firepit, grill, tables and chairs, condiments, utensils and ice cream! Attendees brought their own food for the grill and beverages (alcoholic / non-alcoholic). Live backyard music was provided by Snorre's own musicians!!





## SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY

The Swedish Colonial Society hosted the Rambo Family 375<sup>th</sup> Reunion in conjunction with the Timen Stiddem Society's 15th Stiddem Family Reunion in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Wilmington, Delaware from June 10-13, 2022. Descendants of two of the oldest Swedish American families gathered to celebrate their Swedish heritage with several events over the weekend.

The event included the Swedish Colonial Society's Open House and Dedication of the Swedish Colonial Farmstead at Tinicum, in Printz Park, Essington, Pennsylvania. It also featured the historical re-enactment of the 1647 wedding between Peter Gunnarson Rambo (1612-1698) and Brita Matsdotter (1630-1693). Peter was portrayed by living history actor and descendant, Robert K. Rambo. Robert was a contestant on the 9<sup>th</sup> season of *Allt för Sverige*. Brita was portrayed by Swedish American singer and descendant Emily "IVA" Tepe, who was named 2015 Swedish American of the Year by the Vasa Order of America.

Peter Gunnarson Rambo was the longest living of the original Swedish colonial settlers who lived in New Sweden. Born near Ramberget on Hisingen Island in 1612, Peter arrived in New Sweden on the *Kalmar Nyckel* in 1639. At some point after arriving, he assumed the surname Ramberg, which evolved into Rambo, loosely translated as Raven's Nest. Peter served in several prominent roles during his lifetime in the development of New Sweden and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. His name is inscribed along with others on a plaque commemorating New Sweden on Philadelphia's City Hall. His 1693 letter to his sister in Gothenburg is preserved in the Royal Archives in Sweden (Riksarkivet).



## SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY

Cont. from page 4...

In addition, Peter was a farmer who brought seeds with him from Sweden. He cultivated a variety of apple that became known as the Rambo Apple, which was first noted by naturalist Peter Kalm after his travels in North America from 1748 to 1751. Poet James Whitcomb Riley was inspired by the Rambo Apple to author the poem, *The Rambo-Tree* in his 1902 collection *The Book of Joyous Children*. The Rambo Apple also inspired novelist David Morrell to bestow the Rambo name on the protagonist of his book *First Blood* because he liked the way the name sounded. Sylvester Stallone's portrayal of the Rambo character in a series of action films made Rambo a household name.

Brita Matsdotter was from Vaasa, a city in Finland, which was part of the Swedish Empire at the time. She and Peter had four sons and four daughters. Peter and Brita are buried at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes) Church in Philadelphia.

Thanks to Mark Bankston, board member for submitting this story to our newsletter. Mark is a direct descendent of Peter Gunnarson Rambo.



Shirt logo created for the Rambo family reunion!

## OLDEST SWEDE TAKES FLIGHT



Rut Linnéa Ingegärd Larsson had a dream: to become the world's oldest parachutist.

At the age of 103 years 259 days, Rut broke the record for the oldest tandem parachute jump (female). During the jump, Rut wanted to listen to Lasse Dahlquist's song "Try Your Wings". She completed her jump together with parachute expert Joackim Johansson in Motala, Sweden, on 29 May 2022.

On her 90th birthday, she tried paragliding for the first time. Since then, Rut has tried all kinds of adventures in the sky: ballooning, paragliding and parachuting. Her first experience with parachuting was in 2020, when Rut was 102 years old. Rut set a goal for herself: whilst enjoying the adrenaline of "taking a walk" among the clouds, she also wanted to be the oldest woman in the world to perform a parachute jump and she did just that!

Born right after the end of World War II, Rut grew up in the countryside outside Mjölby, where she still lives today with her family of 5 children, 19 grandchildren and about 30 great-grandchildren.

## TEN SWEDISH FICTION BOOKS A MUST TO READ

### 1. *We Know You Remember*, by Tove Alsterdal

From one of Sweden's most renowned suspense writers comes this thoughtful, intricately plotted police procedural set in the alluring landscapes of Sweden's High Coast region of Ångermanland. A murder in a small town brings the memory of a long-closed murder case rising to the surface, uprooting guilt, collective grief and the town's festering secrets.

### 2. *Anxious People*, by Fredrik Backman

From the multi-million-selling author of *A Man Called Ove* comes this witty, unpredictable story about a bank robbery gone wrong and the havoc that ensues. After trying to hold up a cashless bank, a would-be robber bursts into an open apartment viewing and politely takes everyone hostage. In true Backman form, the novel is packed full of exuberant, entertaining characters, from bitter IKEA addicts to ridiculous estate agents to an actor-slash-rabbit.

### 3. *Rites of Spring*, by Anders de la Motte

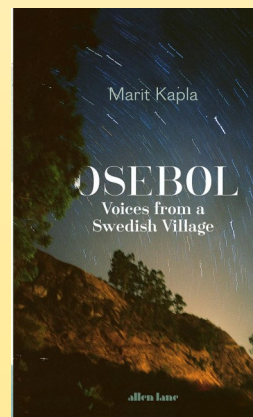
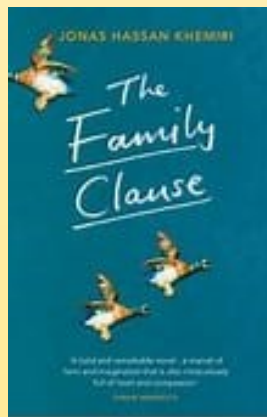
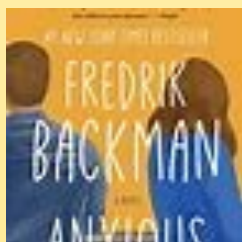
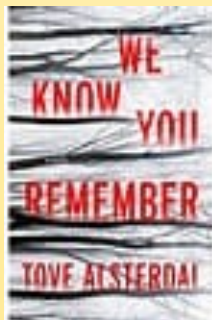
After moving to the small, inward-looking community of Tornaby in Skåne, a doctor becomes embroiled in the investigation of a decades-old murder of a young girl. Feeling an affinity with the young girl's troubled past, she becomes increasingly determined to unearth the truth – and with it the community's painful secrets.

### 4. *The Family Clause*, by Jonas Hassen Khemiri

In the fifth novel by multi-award-winning Jonas Hassen Khemiri, a bad-tempered, arrogant father's ten-day visit to Stockholm to see his adult children brings old tensions to breaking point. Told from the perspectives of multiple characters (including a ghost and a four-year-old child), personal crises, generational conflicts and painful memories build to a heady cocktail of familial resentment and frustration, as the son tries to break free of a pact he made with his father.

### 5. *Osebol*, by Marit Kapla

Winner of Sweden's prestigious August Prize for literature, this quiet, meditative ode to a small Värmland village on the brink of depopulation is quite unlike anything else. Composed of the interwoven testimonies of almost all of the 40 remaining inhabitants of Osebol, this sparse, poem-like text details their lives and thoughts without commentary or narrative, as though snatched straight from conversations.





## TEN SWEDISH FICTION BOOKS A MUST TO READ

Cont.

### 6. *Nordic Fauna*, by Andrea Lundgren

In this collection of strange, mesmeric short stories, Andrea Lundgren explores the borderlands of the human and natural (and even supernatural) worlds to create a northern magical realism with a dark, earthy undertow. From foxes to whales to angels, the creatures that roam through this collection spark a desire for something more in their human counterparts: a longing for transformation.

### 7. *To Cook a Bear*, by Mikael Niemi

It is the summer of 1852 in a small village in Sweden's far north. Jussi, a young Sami boy fleeing an abusive home, is taken in by kind and charismatic Revivalist preacher Lars Levi Læstadius. Jussi becomes Læstadius' eager disciple. When a spate of murders strike the inward-looking community, Jussi assists the preacher in unmasking the true predator.

### 8. *The Bear Woman*, by Karolina Ramqvist

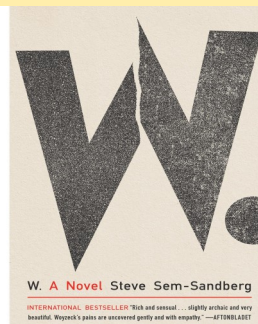
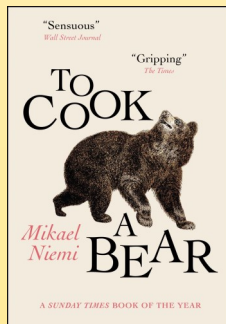
As punishment for a scandal aboard a ship, a sixteenth-century French noblewoman, Marguerite de la Rocque, is abandoned on a small island north of Nova Scotia. Against all the odds she manages to survive. Centuries later, a writer sets out to rescue her story from the margins of history, but her search for 'the Bear Woman' forces her to contemplate much wider questions of fact and fiction, and her own writing process.

### 9. *W.*, by Steve Sem-Sandberg

In this internationally acclaimed novel, Steve Sem-Sandberg masterfully pieces together the life of Johan Christian Woyzeck – a former soldier who killed the woman he claimed to love, and the subject of Georg Büchner's ground-breaking unfinished play from 1836. Making use of archive and documentary material, Sem-Sandberg explores the life and inner turmoil of Woyzeck, and the unjust society that created him.

### 10. *The Antarctica of Love*, by Sara Stridsberg

Opening with the brutal murder of a young woman on the margins of society, Sara Stridsberg's stunning yet haunting fifth novel follows its protagonist, Inni, into the afterlife, as she looks back on her life, her murder, and the ongoing lives of those she left behind.



## CELEBRATING OUR LUCIA

### FRIENDS OF LUCIA

The Swedish Club of Houston is soliciting donors to its Friends of Lucia fund in order to continue the tradition of sending our Lucia to Sweden.

The Swedish Club of Houston has been represented by its Lucia at the Texas Day celebration in Barkeryd, Sweden every year since 1988. The Lucia program has provided a wonderful way for the members involved to travel and learn about our Swedish ancestry and our Texas connection with Barkeryd; a complete list of the Swedish Club of Houston's Lucias is available at <http://swedishclub.org/lucia>.

Why is Barkeryd (a small parish near Nässjö in Småland) important to Texans? This small parish had half of its the population emigrate to Texas between 1836 and 1927! The 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. The immigrants worked off their passage in about 2 years. After the debt was paid off they were free to live and work for themselves. There are many Swedish communities around Central Texas which were settled by the Barkeryd immigrants. In their honor, the people of Barkeryd Sweden were proclaimed honorary citizens of Texas on May 27, 1975 by Gov. Dolph Briscoe.

If you would like to become a member of the Friends of Lucia and help support this long-standing tradition of the Club, you can either mail a check along with this form, or donate online via the link at <http://swedishclub.org>.

Sponsorship Level:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 – Speaker of the Riksdag	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 – Cabinet Minister
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300 – Prime Minister	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 – Governor
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150 – Deputy Prime Minister	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 – County Councilor
		<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 – Municipal Commissioner

☐ Yes, please list my name as a Friend of Lucia

☐ No, I wish to remain anonymous

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **The Swedish Club of Houston**

Mail to: Swedish Club of Houston, c/o Karen Wolz, 4526 Waynesboro Dr., Houston, TX 77035

## Member News & Updates



When you wanna take a nap but also wanna  
pillage

nä = you're wrong

nä = you're right

nää = I can't believe it

näe = no

näae = I don't think so

näae? = I'm not sure

näae? = wtf

nähä? = really?

**NÄHÄ! = YOU'RE WRONG!**

näänää = yeah, right

nänänä = of course

nämen! = fancy seeing you here!