



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

PEA SOUP AND PANCAKES ANNUAL MEETING January 29th 2005

The **Annual Meeting** this year will be held at Inwood Forest Country Club on Saturday, January 29th. The meeting will be held in conjunction with a pea soup and pancake supper. Please see menu below and reservation form on page 9 to **RSVP** for this event by January 21th.

AGENDA:

- Treasurer's Report
- Membership Report
- Nomination & Election of Officers & Directors
- Tentative Calendar of Events for 2005
- Open Forum on this years Club Activities and Fundraisers.
 - ideas
 - feasibility
 - volunteers
 - action items/deadlines

Special Guest Speaker: Carrin Patman . A Houston native who originated and led the development of The Million Dollar Swedish Studies Excellence Endowment at University of Texas.

< See page 2 for more about the speaker >

PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING. It is only **ONCE** a year that we have a business meeting and bring up issues directly related to the operation of the club. And this is the TIME.. **We need your input.**

MENU :

Swedish Pea Soup.
Bread, Butter, and Cheeses
Swedish Pancakes with berry sauces plus powdered sugar and syrup.
Coffee, Juice, & Swedish Punch (other drinks available at the cash bar)

When : Saturday, January 29th 2005, Cash bar will be open at 6:30 P.M. Dinner at 7:00 P.M.

Please send in your RESERVATION form on page 9 to arrive by January 21th.

NEW DUES YEAR BEGAN JANUARY 1st: Please send in your dues and data by 31 January. See included Membership Form on Page 9.

OUR ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER



Carrin Mauritz Patman was born in Houston in 1932, the granddaughter of Swedish immigrants from Skåne who came to America in 1879. She was raised by her father's Swedish family, growing up in Ganado and Austin.

She graduated with honors from The University of Texas at Austin in 1954 and became a member of UT's Advisory Council to the College of Liberal Arts in 1990. It was during her 12-year service on that body that she learned that the Czechs of Texas had successfully established a \$1 million Endowment in Czech Studies.

With typical Swedish determination, she said, "If the Czechs can do it, so can the Swedes!" And ten years later, under her leadership, indeed they had. On January 29th, she is going to tell the Swedish Club of Houston just how it happened (she says Swedish Houstonians played a major part), and she will describe some of the exciting things the Endowment has accomplished since its creation.

In recognition of her efforts, in 2002 Carrin was inducted into the [Swedish Royal Order of the Polar Star](#), an honor bestowed by the King and The Government of Sweden on foreign nationals who have helped to promote the interests of Sweden in their own countries.

She was subsequently given the Pro Bene Meritis award, the top honor presented for educational enrichment by the College of Liberal Arts at The University of Texas.

Carrin is a member of numerous Swedish organizations, including the Carl Widen Vasa of Austin, SACC- Texas, and the Swedish Club of Houston.

Internet Link to the Endowment

The endowment web pages list their purposes. Some purposes are the formal and informal studies in Swedish, Financial Aid to study in Sweden, and sponsoring research and events.

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/swedish/>

One of the sponsored events was "**Six OTHER Flags over Texas**" –Look for it under Syposiums on the link above,

ELGIN SWEDISH AMERICAN EXHIBIT

There has been a Swedish American exhibit at the Elgin Union Depot Museum since October.

I did not know about the exhibit until last week when we were driving home from Austin. Outside the historical train depot we saw the Swedish flag hanging, so we stopped to see what was going on at the depot. It turns out, the museum has a very nice exhibit of the Swedish community of Elgin. Going back to the 1850's, and for many years, Elgin was a town mainly populated by Swedes.

This exhibit has lots of pictures and information of the Swedish community of Elgin. There also are many old Swedish items brought to Elgin by the Swedish immigrants.

The exhibit will end January 31st. Elgin is on hwy 290 about half an hour east of Austin. The train depot is in the historical district of Elgin just north of hwy 290. If you want to see the exhibit, I would call the depot first to be sure the exhibit is still there. Tel 512 285-2000. Open Tues-Sun 2-5 pm.

< by *Diana Rodionov* >

Houston-Galveston had 4 Lucia's in 2004

Although we could personally attend only two, our area had four totally different Lucia celebrations in December 2004. Besides the fabulous celebration our club had on Dec 11th <See Pages4&5>, SWEA, Swedish Church Heritage Society, and Linneas each had one.

LINNEAS

The Linneas Luciadagen Program was given at Clarewood House Retirement House on Sunday afternoon 12th December to a room full of elders who really appreciated the thoughtfulness, the event, and the refreshments. An unusual setting for service to elders.



Miss Hannah Brown was Linneas' Lucia and Matthew Johanson was the Jul Tomte.

SWEA

The SWEA had their Lucia on December 4th at Westminster United Methodist Church where Emma Rogers was their Lucia. A very interesting evening was made more exciting by an inadvertent alarm from the new fire system. So exciting, I haven't been able to get a real good picture. The following picture was captured from a video made by the proud father Keith Rogers

Parts of their event that were different from our own celebration were the collection of Christmas gifts for the children at Ben Taub Hospital, serving of Hot Dogs and Glögg with other refreshments, providing an arts and crafts work area for children, and collecting an admission charge that was shared with charity.



Miss Emma Rogers

THE SWEDISH CHURCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

New this year was the resurrection of the Lucia celebration in Old Zion Lutheran Swedish Church on 18th St. in Galveston. The currently organizing Society took advantage of an East End Historic District Homes Tour to show off the church building and Swedish Traditions. Sheila Lee (of Linneas & VikingFest fame) and Brite-Marie Bodorff have been leading the effort to save the church were also the leaders of this event. Our own Florence (Mrs Rudy) Halvorsen and her three granddaughters were participants. < See Page 6 >

SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON

This was one of the largest and best Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen that I have attended. Some of the credit goes to the previous event directors who documented well their previous methods and contacts. A large measure goes to Margaret St.Clair for direction of so many volunteers. See page 4 & 5 for photos and more "thank you's".

Outstanding Christmas Traditions Celebration



We hope you didn't miss the Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen held on Dec 11th at St. Andrews Lutheran Church in western Houston near Memorial Mall. All the work that went into the event led by Event Director Margaret St.Clair was made worthwhile by the enthusiastic participation of at least 275. (The registration was 275 but we couldn't keep up with the crowd at times.)



5 Starboys did their part



*Margaret St.Clair lighting up this year's Lucia
Frida Sellman*



Recessional drew the crowds attention

Outstanding Christmas Traditions Celebration-Continued



Did your Christmas tree look this Swedish?



Children's Dances

tack så mycket---

Scandinavian Airlines for the discounted ticket.

Diana Rodionov for producing the new attendants' gowns.

St. Andrew Church: Pastor Paul Ferguson, Secretary Glenda, Building Coordinator Ken, Security Guard Darryl and the parishioners who made us welcome.

Kitchen workers: Carol and Allan Clarke, Melinda Tarbox, & Sjerrie Colburn



Two Jultomtar

Cookies and buns for refreshments: Lynn Mauritzson, Melinda Tarbox, Margaret St.Clair, Eleanor J, Veta J, and others.

Gunhild Jansson (& SWEA) for decorations.

Lucia Frida Sellman, Attendants (14), Starboys (5), plus the mothers and other helpers. Liz Cadwallader, helper-at-large.

The Chronicle for their announcement and follow-up picture on Sunday.

The Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston for dancing AND for showing their native folk dress.

Musicians: Sally Hoffecker, Patricia Tibbits, Ann Chadwick, and Joyce Calderon.

Jay Flusche for the Swedish Christmas tree.

Jan Dryselius, & Eva Sellman for songs and children's dances.

Greeters: Ken and Bertha Nilsson

Rodney Anderson Family for the bazaar plus those who brought food and crafts.

Dina & Sjerrie Colburn for general help all over.

Everyone who helped set up and ALSO clean up including the parishioners.

Karl Alm and Matthew Johanson for pleasing the children with their version of Jultomte.

IKEA, Roland's Swiss Bakery and Erich & Karen Wolz for the raffle gifts.

Pelle Fisk for presiding Plus Pelle and Patric Stafshede for the Fiskdamm.

David, Veta, & Eleanor Johanson for the photos your editor missed.

LUCIA in Galveston – The Swedish Church Heritage Society

The Swedish Church Heritage Society held their 2nd official function at the Old Zion Lutheran Swedish Church on 18th St. in Galveston, on Dec. 3, 2004, in conjunction with the East End Historic District's Christmas Parade of Homes.



Shelia Lee and Brite-Marie Bodorff of The Swedish Church Heritage Society welcomed their guests, informally visited with each and gave a history of the building and plans for the the Society's involvement with the restoration efforts already begun by John Stokley, who was also in attendance. Another that was instrumental in the information dispensing about the church was Florence Halvorsen of La Marque, TX, the grandmother of the triplets girls who played the Lucia maidens. She dressed in her Swedish Costume, visited with the guests, and even brought a large photo of herself as the Lucia - standing on the Swedish Church's very alter. (Approx. 1954)

About every 20 minutes, a St. Lucia program was presented with Meghan Horan as the official Lucia. She wore a beautiful gown of white, with a red sash and garland covered Lucia crown of candles. She did one more honor - she sang the English translation of the Swedish version of the St. Lucia song. Her voice was so vibrant and beautiful, the people touring the house behind just had to come over to see who was doing such fantastic singing. And she is only 13 years old.

The guests were invited to join in a Christmas sing-along and enjoy pepperkakkar cookies. The guests were pleased to see the gorgeous pipe organ still intact

(though needing repair) and all the beautiful stained glass windows with a founding member's name engraved in each. There was a donation jar that received almost \$130 which covered the evening's expenses and the balance was given to John Stokley for expenses for opening the building.



The Swedish Church Heritage Society is brand new. They has been founded with the sole purpose to restore, revitalize, and renovate the building and grounds known as The Swedish Church located on the corner of 18th and Market St. in Galveston, TX - The first goal is to stabilize a few of the stained glass windows that are collapsing and to repair the Phizer Pipe Organ.

The Swedish Church Heritage Society is starting their formal membership drive now and will hold their first board meeting in March of 2005 with the intent to elect a board of directors from the membership.. They are soliciting members, contributors, sweat-equity, and enthusiasm. Donations can be made to: The Swedish Church Heritage Society, PO Box 688, Galveston, TX 77553.

For more information concerning joining the mailing list or becoming a member - please contact Shelia Lee 409-621-5561 or Brite-Marie Bodorff 713-529-0143, at the PO Box above, or email address: shalee@utmb.edu. You can also see the proposed new website that will be active by 1-15-2005 -

www.anet4u.com/theswedishchurch

Pelle's President's Article

God fortsättning

(Good continuation of the holidays).

Let's do a review of our activities for the past year 2004.

We started with our annual meeting which we combine with a Pea soup and Pancake supper. A very important and good tasting event, many people turned up to elect the year's board members and discuss club issues. The terrific food, made by you, the club members, was set up at the Westador community center. If I can only mention one name I have to say that Gunhild Jansson did a superb job with cooking and coordinating the food as well as decorating our dining area.

Our next event was the Kräftskiva (crawfish party) at the Monument Inn. This event has been fine tuned by John Stavinotha for several years and he has trained the crew well to boil crawfish the Swedish way, with salt and dill. This year we had no shortage of food or drinks and everyone there had a great time with Swinglish singing.

Lots of rain changed the date for our Picnic at the Nanes pool and recreational area. Jay Fluche, no longer on the board but still highly active in the club, was in charge for this event. The plan was to have it early in the summer in combination with Midsommar afton (midsummer eve) but the weather made us delay it to the end of the summer. Everyone there had a fun time with swimming, games and grilled food. This fairly new event is growing in size every year.

One of our new sites we had for an event this year was the Smörgåsbord. We selected the newly opened and bigger IKEA, as our location. Their restaurant upstairs under Chef Lawrence command cooked excellent food to a high attendance. It was actually a little tight in between people, tables and chairs but every one there seemed to really get along and we had plenty of delicious "blue and yellow" food.

The last organized club event for the year was the Lucia dagen with Christmas traditions and what a way of closing 2004. We had over 250 people signed in and it is by far the highest number of attending people for any event going back several years. Margaret St. Clair was the outstanding coordinator this year. The location of St Andrew Lutheran Church was also new for the club. This year's Lucia, Frida Sellman, led a singing train of girls and a few boys to a delightful ceremony. Refreshments and other traditional celebrations followed in the Gymnasium.

I have only named one person for every event and I hope you know that there are a lot more people behind each one of them. I simply cannot mention them all but I can tell you that they are doing a great job and are having a ball at the same time. If you would like to take the step to become a helping and organizing member, or having an interest of sitting on the board, please contact me at 281-348-2584, or anyone else on the board. At our next event, our Annual meeting, we are going to elect the next year's board members and we do have a couple of open positions. Remember this club is for and with you to preserve Swedish heritage on the Texas Gulf coast.

I hope to see you all at the Annual meeting and at as many as possible of our other gatherings in 2005.

Vi ses,

Pelle Fisk

INTERNET LINKS

SWEDISH CONSULATE IN HOUSTON

<http://www.swedishconsulate.org/>

**SWEDISH AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

<http://www.sacctx.com/>

SWEDISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON

http://www.swedenabroad.se/pages/start_6989.asp

Folkdancers Have a Busy Fall

The Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston had a full schedule of autumn performances.

We began practicing again in September. We had a nice surprise because we had a half dozen new dancers who were interested in joining the group. Our new dancers are: Kathy Bjork, Chris Broad, Bridget Jensen, Jim Jordan, Bob Olsen, and Beverly Verner. Alexander Webb is also dancing full timer with us now that he has graduated from Trinity University and moved back to Houston. We now have a total of 26 dancers and musicians!

We had our first performance at the State Fair of Texas in Dallas the weekend of October 1st. The weekend of October 1st was International Heritage weekend, so we joined lots of other ethnic dance groups in performing that weekend. It was a lot of work over 2 days, but it was a lot of fun. But, by the time our last performance on Sunday was over, everyone was ready to head home.

We got home in time to get ready for our next performance on October 23rd in Danevang. Danevang celebrated the 140th anniversary of the founding of their church. The anniversary celebration featured speakers, traditional Danish food for lunch, and folk dancing. The folks in Danevang are so nice to us... it is always one of our favorite venues at which to perform.

As the weather turned cooler, we began to prepare for the holidays. The Norwegian Seamen's Church in Pasadena invited us to dance at their annual Christmas Bazaar. If you have not ever made it out to the Christmas Bazaar, I would highly recommend that you do so. The sell Christmas crafts from Norway and they sell and serve lots of traditional Scandinavian food.

Galveston was our next stop. Dickens on the Strand is an event where we raise funds for our trips to Scandinavia. Each year, the folkdancers sell glögg during the weekend of Dickens on the Strand. It is a blast. We come down on Friday night and set up our booth. Actually, booth doesn't

really describe what we set up. It is more of a stuga than a booth. From our little stuga, we sell a hot, spiced wine made from an old Swedish recipe.

On Saturday and Sunday, we were busy from 8:00 a.m. until closing time. We had a constant stream of customers, and the time definitely seemed to fly. When you work inside the booth, you get to meet folks from all over. We had customers this year from the Ukraine, Poland, Iceland, Sweden, and Norway (and several hundred from Texas).

After Dickens was over, many of us attended the Christmas Traditions program at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church on December 11th. We did a couple of dances, and then just settled down and had fun for the rest of the afternoon.

So, as you can tell, it was a busy Autumn season. This Spring, we are going to focus less on performing, and more on perfecting our program for our trip to Norway this summer. We will be heading out in June for a trip to dance (and to learn new dances) in Norway.

We are always looking for new dancers to join us. So, if you think that Scandinavian folk dancing sounds fun, call Joyce Calderon (our president) at 281.360.9670, or email her at joycelalo@yahoo.com. We would love to have you join, because in folk dancing, it is definitely a case of "the more the merrier".

< By Jay Flusche >

Note: All the pictures are in full color and the links are active on the electronic edition on the Swedish Club Website:

<http://www.swedishclub.org/> on the page
<http://www.swedishclub.org/scnews.htm>

RESERVATION AND MEMBERSHIP FORMS

ANNUAL MEETING

Pancake and Pea Soup Dinner

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY January 21st for Dinner

WHAT ::: Peas Soup and Pancake Dinner with Bread, Butter, Cheeses, Coffee, Juice, & Punch
Drinks available at Cash Bar

WHEN ::: Saturday, January 29th, 2004 Open at 6:30PM - Dinner starting at 7:00 P.M.

WHERE ::: Inwood Forest Country Club, 7603 Antoine, Houston, TX

(Corner of Long Point & Antoine)

Map available on the SCH website <http://www.swedishclub.org/>

Make checks payable to the "Swedish Club of Houston" and mail this order form, plus payment to
The Swedish Club of Houston-Annual Meeting ,
C/O Gunhild Jansson, 9616 Briar Forest Drive, Houston TX 77063

Name(s) _____

Telephone # _____

of Members & guest tickets _____ x \$14 = \$ _____

of Children (3-12 years) tickets _____ x \$ 7 = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

Information and Questions to Gunhild Jansson 713.334.5767 or to the Event Line at 713.774.2739

Membership Application / Renewal Form - Bring or send it in soon.

(Please PRINT carefully - quality of the information is very important)

Annual dues are \$35 for family membership, \$25 for individual memberships, and \$10 for Student Memberships on a calendar year basis. Please pay now and save the club another mailing.

Please make check payable to "Swedish Club of Houston" bring to the dinner or mail to:

The Swedish Club of Houston,

c/o John Stavino, 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire TX 77401

PLEASE pay special attention to the email addresses. They are hard to check.

Name(s): _____

Street: _____ Home Phone: (_____) _____

City: _____ Work Phone: (_____) _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home E-mail(s): _____

Work E-mail(s): _____

Which E-Mail Address do you want the Newsletter Sent to: Home ____ or Work ____



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

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 **YOUR NEWS** by email to arvid@johanson.us or when necessary by post to the return address below

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card	\$ 20.00
1/4 Page	\$ 40.00
1/2 Page	\$ 80.00
Full Page	\$120.00

2004 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Pelle	Fisk	President	PelleFisk@bigfoot.com
Dina	Colburn	VP	djcolburn@yahoo.com
Diana	Rodionov	Sec'y	drodionov@houston.rr.com
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www.swedishclub.org

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Events Line = 713.774.2739



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