



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

Kräftskiva - SWEDISH CRAWFISH PARTY - SATURDAY, April 9th, 6 PM

The annual crawfish party will be at the Monument Inn near the San Jacinto Monument. 4406 Battleground Rd (Texas 134), La Porte (.The same place that did so well last 4 years). Menu is crawfish with the Swedish traditional seasoning of sea salt and dill plus fried fish and fried chicken with potatoes, corn, soft drinks and beer. All for the advance price of \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. **At the door, the prices will be \$25 and \$15.**

Bring a friend(s) and join us for the starting time of 6 PM or come out to the park earlier to visit the San Jacinto Monument or the Battleship Texas.

Reservations need to arrive by Wednesday, April 6th so mail your check in now using the form below.

To get to the Monument Inn the easy way, take the West Beltway 8 to TX225. Take TX225 towards Deer Park and La Porte. Turn North on TX 134 and go past the San Jacinto Monument. The Inn is on your right just before you get to the Lynchburg Ferry. (An alternate is to go on IH10 way East of Houston to Exit 787 and take TX134 South across the Lynchburg Ferry, if it is running that day.)

For further details call the Swedish Club Events Line at 713.774.2739



RESERVATION FORM

**Please make check payable to Swedish Club of Houston and
Mail to John Stavino, 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire TX 77401**

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--|
| Name: | | Phone Number | |
| Other Attending | | | |
| Adults Attending Crayfish Party | @ \$20 per attendee | | |
| Children 12 and Under Attending Party | @ \$10 per attendee | | |
| CHECK TOTAL..... | | | |

President's Article

Did you miss it?

Miss what? - Our annual meeting combined with Pea soup and Pancakes.

This year about 75 of our members didn't miss when we met up at Inwood Forest Country Club. We have been there before but this year we were in a delightfully decorated and well fitted round room. The person behind the success of this event was Gunhild Jansson. Thanks also to Chuck Nelson who helped out by "sponsoring" this event by being our link to the Country Club. As usual we are always looking for possible locations for events. If you know of a suitable place, please contact anyone on the board.

I had time to mingle and talk to a lot of people at this event, before and during the dinner and let me tell you just communicating with all of you members, is extremely interesting and rewarding. If you then add a very tasteful and as always at Inwood well presented dinner of just simple Pea soup and Pancakes can it be more Swedish?

Yes, we added a first class speaker, Carrin Patman. She talked to us about how she led the development of "The Million Dollar Swedish Studies Excellence Endowment" at UT in Austin. A very interesting and educating story and we wish Carrin great luck in the future for further funding and events.

In addition we held our only open business meeting for all of our members. This is a required part of being a club and we try to keep it short but informative for everyone. This year you voted me for President again and I am once more honored by your decision.

We did say farewell to our long time treasurer, Rod Anderson, He has indicated that he would like to take some time off from the board but will still help out with his family at some of our events as usually. Thanks again Rod you have served the board well.

New positions but not new on the board are for Margaret St Clair - Vice President, Dina Colburn - Secretary and Diana Rodionov - Treasurer.

Gunhild Jansson - Director, John Stavino - Membership and Language school and Erich Wolz - Webmaster are all helping out by remaining in the same positions for another year.

We added five new directors. Eric Condon, Ken Nilsson, Ingrid Philipson, Patric Stafshede and Nancy Webb. Welcome and thank you for bringing in fresh ideas for the club. Look for articles of and about themselves in this newsletter.

Talking about the newsletter. The Club is looking for our new Newsletter Editor. Arvid Johanson has informed the club that this is his last year and we would like to get some one into the duties while we have plenty of time. Arvid has promised to pass on every thing he has learned so it will be a smooth transition. For anyone interested please contact Arvid direct or myself.

Well that is everything I have for this time but I hope to see all of you at our next event, Kräftskivan/The Crawfish party on April 9.

Pelle Fisk
Your President

Dance Salad (see flier on page 3.)

Norway and Sweden are both being represented this year. Further Norway, through the Consulate General and the Norwegian Community are using this year's event as part of their celebration of the 100 year anniversary of their independence from Sweden.

Friday night is Scandinavian night. For an additional fee, those interested can sign up for the reception in the green room to meet the dancers after the evening's performance. Those interested can contact at the Danish Consulate [Anna Thompsen Holiday-713-622-9018] or at the Norwegian Consulate General at (713) 521-2900 for further details. *by Jan Dryselius*

Swedish Dancers are Back in Dance Salad

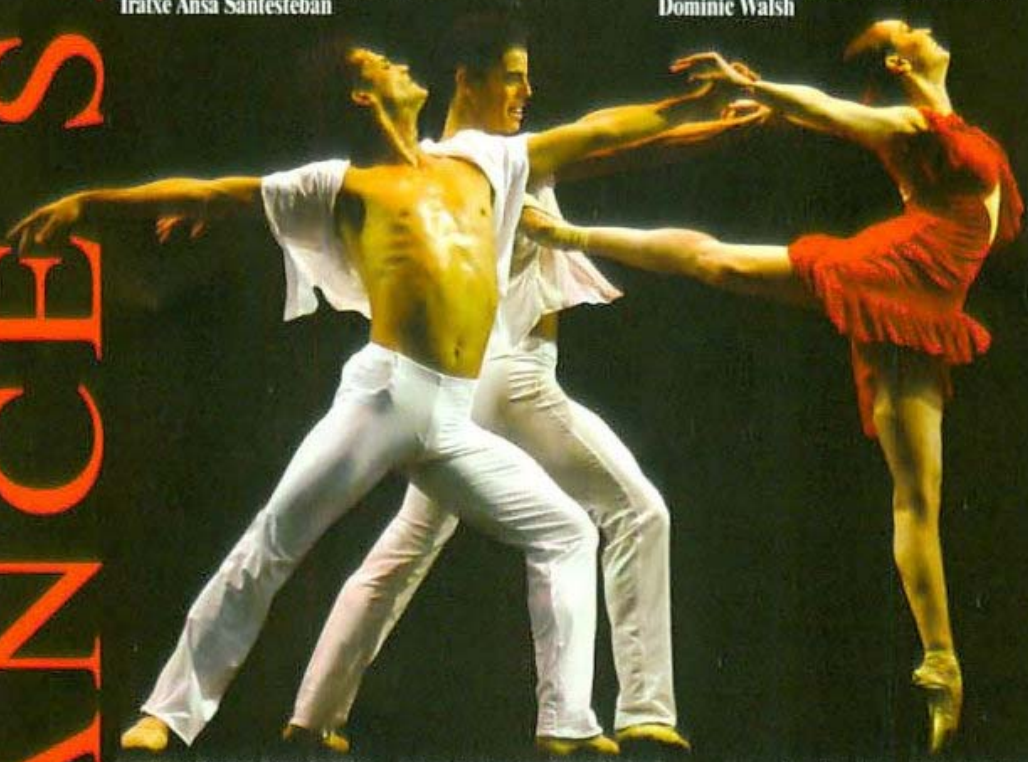
DANCE SALAD

Festival

Dancers from:
Choreography by:
Norwegian National Ballet, Norway
Nacho Duato
Ballet de Monterrey, Mexico
Robert Hill
The Kylián Foundation, The Hague
Jiri Kylian
Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, Switzerland
Nacho Duato, Michel Kelemenis
BJM Danse - Les Ballet Jazz de Montreal, Canada
Crystal Pite
Ballet de L'Opera de Lyon, France
Iratxe Ansa Santesteban




WORTHAM CENTER CULLEN THEATER
MARCH 24, 25, 26, 2005 7:30 P.M.
THUR., FRI., SAT. 3 Programs

Cullberg Ballet, Stockholm, Sweden
Mats Ek
Alonzo King's Lines Ballet, San Francisco
Alonzo King
Armitage Gone! Dance, New York
Karole Armitage
Zdenek Konvalina, Leticia Oliveira,
Houston Ballet
George Balanchine
Dominie Walsh Dance Theater, Houston
Dominie Walsh



Presented by: Houston Dance Coalition Produced and Directed by: Nancy Henderik Photo by: Juan Jose Ceron, Ballet de Monterrey

Sponsored by: **EXXONMOBIL, CONOCOPHILLIPS,**
EXEL, FEDERATED DEPT. STORES FOUNDATION
Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce
Sterling & Associates, Tindall and Foster,
Theater District Association, HYDRO
Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County and
the Texas Commission on the Arts, Excelsior Limousine,
Jet Setters PrintGraphics, Inc.
Supported by: the Consulates General of Norway, Sweden,
Mexico, France, Switzerland, Canada, Denmark.
Official Event of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Norway's Centennial Anniversary
Official Event of Francophonie Festival


American Airlines
Official Airline of DSF



For Tickets:
713.315.2525
www.dancesalad.org

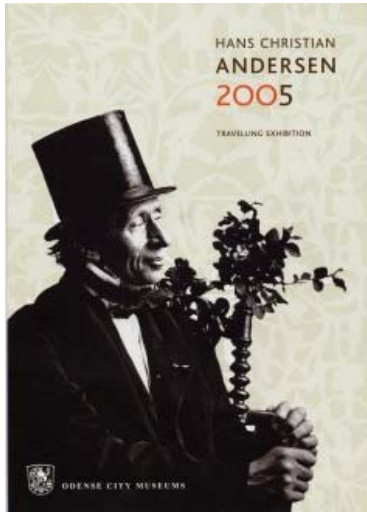
Box Office:
The Hobby Center, 800 Bagby

See Box on Page 2 for more information.

Other Cultural Events

Danes Celebrate

Hans Christian Andersen's 200th Birthday Celebration



As the stories of Danish bard Hans Christian Andersen incorporate and are relevant to many different cultures, festivities are planned on every continent throughout 2005 to commemorate Andersen's 200th birthday (see the website www.hca2005.com). Here in Texas, a festival celebration will be held in Danevang, the Danish Capital of Texas, on April 9th. A little over an hour from Houston, Danevang is located on Texas Highway 71, 11 miles south from the exit in El Campo off U.S. Highway 59.



The entertainment will begin at 11 a.m. with a parade of bands, costumed story characters, and specialty vehicles and will continue throughout the afternoon with dramatic interpretations of Andersen's stories, films, the Scandinavian Folkdancers, strolling musicians, and finally, for an American touch, a bluegrass band. Food options for festival goers will be from a variety of Danish dishes from Dansk Deli, Danish style hotdogs, dressed with remoulade, baked

onions, and cucumbers, as well as American style hotdogs. Throughout the day, the museum will be open for visitors to view a special exhibit from Denmark about Hans Christian Andersen which reveals a man who did much more than write stories. **So, mark your calendar for this special April 9th event! GO early so you can make it back for the SCH Kräftskivia**



Fr. Dejan Tiosavljevic cordially invite you to attend a Houston first: Serbian folk dance concert "Serbia in song and dance!"

Thurs. Mar. 10, 2005, 7:30 pm at
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral
3511 Yoakum Boulevard, Houston, TX 77006
\$15 adults, \$10 senior, students & children 12 & up,
children 11 & under free
For further information please call 281-256-1335
Dancers, singers and musicians will perform authentic Serbian folk songs and dances rarely seen in North America.

Serbian Folk Ensemble "Bata Marcetic" without a reservation is the best ethnic cultural organization in North America. Based out of Toronto, S.F.E. "Bata Marcetic" boasts of over 300 dancers, singers and musicians. It is the only Serbian group that has a professional choreographer, music director, and vocal and ballet coach.

Enjoy authentic Serbian songs and dances as performed by an energetic ensemble of Serbian youth dedicated to promotion and propagation of their folk culture. "Bata Marcetic" is known as an ambassador of Canadian Multiculturalism with all expenses paid standing invitations for 2005 to represent Canada at international folk festivals in Barcelona, Spain; Mexico City, Mexico and Lima, Peru.

Swedish Events/Culture in the Area

Swedish Music at Austin SXSW*

Together with the Swedish general consulates in New York and Los Angeles, Export Music Sweden gives four Swedish bands the opportunity to perform at legendary CBGB's in New York, SXSW in Austin, Texas and The Troubadour in Los Angeles.

"We're incredibly proud to present four of the most interesting, best and most popular bands in Sweden to the American audience, music business and media. This is the fourth time we're doing a similar showcase tour in USA, and during these years many exciting Swedish band have been presented. Quality during these years have been so good, that the interest for Swedish artists and bands in America has increased enormously", says Christer Lundblad, managing director, ExMS.

The tour:

03/16, Los Angeles - All bands at The Troubadour
03/18, SXSW, Austin, Texas - The Ark at The Drink
03/19, SXSW, Texas - Deportees, Melody Club, Moneybrother at The Drink
03/21, New York - All bands at CBGB's

The four bands are:

The Ark, one of the most successful bands in Sweden. New album just out, including their latest hit single: "One Of Us Is Gonna Die Young

Deportees, by many considered one of the best live acts in Sweden at the moment. Their sensational debut album "All Prayed Up" was released late 2004 and the band won a Swedish Grammy nomination for "Best Newcomer 2004".

Melody Club. The Swedes have got used to be served one success after the other from this band during several years. Latest album "Face The Music" is no exception. The single track "Baby" has been on the most prestigious radio single chart ("Tracks") for three months.

Moneybrother. Sweden took Moneybrother to their heart s a couple of years ago. Starting to build a reputation abroad, and with a new album out, this band is ready for the big step: USA, here we

come! Listen to some sample music on the Internet at

http://www.swedenabroad.com/pages/general_13380.asp

*South by SouthWest Festival Info is at

<http://2005.sxsw.com/>

Mama Mia is back in Houston on March 22-27.

The Broadway musical based on the story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship. More info is available at:

<http://www.broadwayacrossamerica.com>

Editors Note: Buy your tickets early since I missed out last time because they sold out earlier than I ever expected.

Swedish Studies Excellence Endowment

If you missed the presentation by Carrin Mauritz Patman, you may want to look into this endowment both from a user and a donor standpoint. Several of our SCH members are also members of the Steering Committee. Check out the Steering Committee List on their website linked below.

The endowment enhances the status of the United States as an international mecca for the best scholars and students in the field, and also, as a fertile market for Swedish companies selling to a population which will be increasingly educated as to the charms and strengths of Swedish culture, the excellence of Swedish technology and the high quality of Swedish design.

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/>

Based at UT-Austin's College of Liberal Arts, gifts qualify for charitable tax deduction under Section 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.

New Board Members for 2005 in their own words



Ken Nilsson, Patric Stafshede, Nancy Webb, Ingrid Philipson, & Eric Condon

KEN: My name is Kenneth Nilsson and I am a new member of the Board of Directors of The Swedish Club of Houston. Shortly after being transferred here in 1974, I joined the Gulf Coast Scandinavian Club and met other members of Swedish descent.

I was born in Chicago and moved to Sweden with my parents as a baby in 1931 because of the Great Depression. We lived in Malmö where I had my early schooling. In 1950 I returned to America with my mother and younger brother, leaving Sweden before mandatory military service, but in time to be drafted by the U.S. Army in 1952. Thanks to the G.I. Bill I was able to get a college education after military service.

Both my parents were Swedish. On my father's side my grandparents lived in Göteborg, and my mother's grandparents were immigrants who settled in Ontonagon, Michigan in the 1870's.

I'm a retired geophysicist who had the good fortune to travel and work in Alaska for several years, and also in many Rocky Mountains states and the Midwest before coming to Texas. My latest trip to Sweden was in 2002 when my wife and I took a Scandinavian vacation that included Denmark and Norway.

Now I enjoy my hobbies of gardening and playing tennis and doing volunteer work at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. I am very honored and appreciative of being chosen to serve on the board of directors.

PATRIC: Karlstad is a city in Varmland, on the Northern edge of Lake Vanern, from which a young man ventured out in the world in his quest for adventures. After finishing high school, his first step was a stint in the army, where he learned to speak Russian, in order to interrogate enemies in situations of "non-peace". When the military service was finished, his interest for technology brought him to Chalmers Institute of Technology in Gothenburg. But, alas, the major gain of the time at the university was not the degree in Chemical Engineering, but a beautiful and adventurous sambo ("cohab") named Pernilla.

After Patric spent a couple of years in Russia selling milking machines to drunken farmers, while Pernilla finished her PhD, the couple decided to tie the knot and make the trip over the pond to try out the glorified lifestyle of California. Two years went by with a lot of hiking and exploration of the Southwest, before the next destination turned out to be New Orleans. Since the couple had lived in California for a couple of years, they were mighty surprised to find out that New Orleans probably is not on the same planet as the rest of the US. The language, body size, eating habits (are they correlated?), work pace was not like anything else previously encountered.

However, after five years in New Orleans the wanderlust again made it impossible to stay, and Houston lured the couple, and their 2-year old daughter, away. So, Houston is the place where they currently reside. With a daughter who is more and more American for each passing day it is more important to keep all the Swedish traditions alive, so what better way is there than to engage in the Swedish Club?

New Board Members For 2005 In Their Own Words-Continued.

NANCY:Introducing Nancy Rundquist Webb. Married for 33 years to David Webb, an attorney. We have 2 children, Elizabeth, 27, married to Ehren Roehl, and Alexander, 23. We are also the proud owners of 2 miniature schnauzers.

Born in Chicago, I moved to Houston at age 7. I graduated from Bellaire High School and UT-Austin in 1970 with a degree in Plan II, and am a member of Delta Gamma. I received my medical education and residency training in ophthalmology from Baylor College of Medicine. I joined the group practice of Kelsey-Seybold Clinic, where I have practiced for the last 25 years. I am Chief of Ophthalmology at the Clinic. I have served on the Board of the Lighthouse of Houston for many years and have also served on the Board of the Kelsey Research Foundation. I have been actively involved in my church, Palmer Episcopal, for many years, and have served on the vestry. Another important interest is involvement with medical mission work. I have been on many trips to Central and South America, providing medical and surgical eye care to the third world, through Benevolent Missions International.

As the saying goes, I'm "made in the USA, with 100% Swedish parts."! My maternal grandparents emigrated to Chicago in the early 1900's from Norbotten, a small village, Kalix, near Lulea. My paternal grandparents emigrated from Smaland to northern Michigan. I have been a member of the Houston Swedish Club since the late '80s. My sister, Sally Phillips, is involved in the language school, and my brother-in-law, Howard Phillips, is the leader of the Gulf Coast Scandinavian Folk Dancers. My son, Alexander, is also a member of the folk-dancing group, and was a participant in their trip to Sweden in 1998. At that time, he also was hosted for 3 weeks at the home of a Swedish family, and 2 of the children in that family have visited us in Houston. My daughter, Elizabeth, was the Club's 1995 Lucia, and our family accompanied her when she represented the club in Barkryd in August 1996. At that time, we also visited relatives in Stockholm and Kalix-a very special experience! Honoring our Swedish culture has always been a part of my family life. We have

always had a Smorgasbord on Christmas Eve, with meatballs, lingonberry sauce, rice pudding and wasa, spritz, and pepparkakor. I have always enjoyed playing Swedish hymns on the piano at family gatherings, singing some of the verses in Swedish, with words from the Swedish Covenant hymnal, such as O Store Gud, and Tak o Gud. We always sing Ja, Må Du Leva at family birthdays. However, we had never seriously considered planning a trip to Sweden until Elizabeth was chosen as the Lucia. I'm so thankful that we got more in touch with our Swedish roots, because of that opportunity.

I am hopeful that, as a board member, I can be instrumental in continuing to foster Swedish-American ties for other club members.

ERIC: Growing up in Conroe, Texas my brother, Carl, and I were always trying to explain to people that there was a difference between Sweden and Switzerland. After many attempts at convincing our friends of the geographic, cultural, and idiomatic differences, it became clear that they just wanted to know why they could not understand my mom and were all Swedish women blond? I would only respond, "Really, I don't hear any accent", and "No, but they are beautiful".

Despite the continued anguish of not having my friends understand my cultural roots, the numerous visits to Sweden, along with the Swedish traditions brought to the family by my mother have given me many impressionable experiences. I will never forget every December 13th my mother would dress up in her Lucia gown with candles and come into my room to sing me Lucia songs and "Happy Birthday". Every holiday she would start cooking weeks in advance in preparation for a smörgåsbord that became famous around the country and unequaled by none. (I may be a little biased here, but it was unbelievable) Numerous trips to Sweden were a blessing in the friendships that were made and social activities that were always planned. "The Great Coffee Safari", as they were appropriately termed by my cousin in Stockholm, gave me glimpses into a culture that varied greatly from the always fun BBQ's of Conroe.

<Continued- Please see **ERIC** Page 8 >

***Reflections on Sweden-
a new members view
Jim Halpert***

As I was leaving the Annual Pea Soup and Pancake Dinner Meeting, I got to experience the gentle voice and firm grip of our hard-working Editor, Arvid Johanson. I thank him for the special opportunity to introduce myself to other members of the Swedish Club of Houston. Aside from the excellent food and company at the meeting, I was intrigued to learn that the University of Texas has a Scandinavian Languages major and Study Abroad Program. They appear very similar to the programs at UCLA that first brought me to Sweden as an exchange student in Lund. Students in the UT program commented that the time in Sweden changed their lives. My initial year, which grew into eleven years spent in Lund, Uppsala, and Stockholm, certainly changed mine.

I arrived in Sweden at the age of 19, baby-faced, blue-eyed, and rather naive. When I eventually returned to the United States it was with a Ph.D. from Uppsala University, an M.S. from the Karolinska Institute, but most important a deep and genuine appreciation for a wonderful country, culture, and language. Sweden has remained very close to my heart, and many of my closest friends live there. In fact, one of the highlights of my life was celebrating a 50th birthday in Stockholm with Swedish food, speeches, and dancing.

Swedes have a wonderful love of and relationship with nature and the outdoors. Not surprisingly, of all the many memories of Sweden, those involving nature stand out the most. Where else could a kid from the suburbs of Los Angeles have the following experiences and love every minute of them: 1) burying a girl friend's dead pet goose in solid frozen ground in total darkness; 2) almost drowning in a chilly lake trying to swim the breast stroke during a race at a Midsummer Party and then being accused of cheating for doing the crawl to get to shore; 3) running unsuspectingly

through a patch of nettles while wearing only swimming trunks; 4) surprising a moose while paddling a canoe on a pristine stream; 5) skidding a car into a frozen river at sub-zero temperatures and being rescued by a guy with an old vehicle and a rope, wearing a light sweater; 6) sleeping in a barn when caught in the middle of nowhere on a bicycle during a torrential rainstorm and then being invited to breakfast the following morning by the farmer? I think the answer to these questions is obvious- no where else in the world that I can imagine.

In recent years, my relationship with Sweden has grown even more important, and I take every chance I get to visit. Fortunately through my occupation as a university professor there are numerous opportunities for scientific exchange. I keep up with the language by listening to compact disks and tapes of Swedish books and through the Internet. The Swedish Club of Houston looks like a great way to meet others with similar affection for a great country and people.

**ERIC (New Board Member
Introductions - continued from page 7) :**

Through all the experiences I learned to appreciate the simple sophistication of the Swedish culture.

After my mom's passing in 1999, my brother and I felt it important to keep her summer cabin in Sandskogen (the name of the forest on the family farm in Loddekopinge) so that we never lose touch with who she was and who we are. I look forward to my visits now, taking a break from Sandskogen Construction, LLC remodeling and home construction to play golf at Barseback, walking the coast line at Torekov, and introducing my new Salvadorian wife, Bianca, to everything that I love about Sweden.

As a new member of the Swedish Club I look forward to promoting my heritage as well as learning more about it. I look forward to finally having the time to learn the Swedish language. Most importantly, I look forward to discussing Sweden without having to make the distinction between Sweden and Switzerland.

Help Wanted – Club Needs YOU to Participate

Christmas Traditions and Lucia

Believe it or not, it is not too early to begin planning the 2005 Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration. Last year's event was a huge success, with nearly 300 in attendance. With so much work involved in planning and executing the celebration, we'd like to secure our committees now. The committee chairs and the event director will meet in the summer to coordinate plans.

The 2005 Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration will be held on Saturday, December 10, 2005, 3-6 p.m. at St. Andrew Lutheran Church on the west side of Houston. Following is a list of committee chairs needed:

- Kitchen and Refreshments (coordinator plus a minimum of 5 kitchen helpers)
- Bake cookies for refreshments
- Bazaar (Organize the Bazaar, Bake Items, Make Craft Items, Sales Help.)
- Raffle (secure raffle items and sell raffle tickets)
- Fiskdamm (Fish Pond)
- Decorations (tables and walls)
- Swedish Christmas tree

Type and print programs

Greeters

Set up (noon to 3 p.m.)

Clean up (5 to 6 p.m.)

For questions and to volunteer, please contact Margaret St. Clair: phone(281-493-4978) or e-mail (margestclair@hotmail.com) Story

Musicians Needed

The Scandinavian Dancers of Houston needs more musicians. Accordion, fiddle, guitar, string bass, etc. are welcome to play Scandinavian folk dance music for a great bunch of dancers! Contact Diana Rodionov (281) 890-5783 or drodionov@houston.rr.com for more info if interested.

Your Time and Your Money

We are always in need of Chairpersons and Workers for each event. Please volunteer to Pelle or any director. Our dues are low, but we do need you to pay up - constitutionally by April 1 - or you will miss the Directory and future Newsletters.

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 due by April 1. Please pay now and keep your mailings coming.

Please make check payable to "Swedish Club of Houston" bring to the Kräftskiva or better yet mail to: The Swedish Club of Houston, c/o John Stavinoaha, 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

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|---------------|----------|
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| 1/4 Page | \$ 40.00 |
| ½ Page | \$ 80.00 |
| Full Page | \$120.00 |

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www.swedishclub.org

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Events Line = 713.774.2739



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