



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

A Private Party with Swedish Sculptor Kent Ullberg

Our Director Kenneth Nilsson, who is a volunteer at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, has arranged for a private reception with the renown Swedish born sculptor Kent Ullberg.

The reception will be at the Houston Museum of Natural Science – One Hermann Circle Drive Houston TX 77030.

Wednesday August 31, 2 PM in the Lower Level Conference Room.

Celebrating thirty years of sculpting the world's finest wildlife creations, Kent Ullberg: A Retrospective, will be on display at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Ullberg, a native of Sweden, has combined his profound interest in animals, with his enduring sense of art history and craftsmanship to create an astounding and incredible diverse collection.

Members of the Swedish Club of Houston are invited to a special presentation by Kent Ullberg about his work and his inspirations. All in attendance are invited to view the exhibition after the program.

The cost for attending the 2 p.m. lecture is free for museum members, non-member adults \$6, children and seniors \$3.50. This is the general admission fee to the museum. So come early and see more. More museum info is at <http://www.hmns.org/> .

Please RSVP to Pelle Fisk 281.348.2584 or at pellefisk@yahoo.com by Sunday 28 August.

Kent Ullberg: A Retrospective exhibition and tour has been generously underwritten by First National Bank, and organized by Dr. David J. Wagner, Curator and Tour Director.

Kent Ullberg Retrospective Sculpture Exhibition



An exhibit by Kent Ullberg, widely recognized as one of the world's leading wildlife sculptors, will be on display at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, Houston, Texas from August 15-October 30, 2005. Exhibition sculptures were selected from the more than 50 monuments and 250 smaller castings Ullberg has produced in his career and represents creatures from land, sea and air. Models give insight into Ullberg's sense of design and mechanics. Others are smaller sculptures of unique and delicate beauty.

A native of Sweden, Kent Ullberg studied at the Swedish Konstfack School of Art in Stockholm, and at museums in Germany, the Netherlands, and France. He lived for seven years in Botswana, Africa, studying its wildlife and people, and served the last four years there as curator at the Botswana National Museum and Art Gallery. He has permanently made his home in the U.S. where he now lives in South Texas.

Ullberg's work can be found in major museums and corporate headquarters around the globe, including the National Museum of Natural History in Stockholm, Sweden; the National Gallery in Botswana, Africa; National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.; Exhibition Hall, Beijing, China; the Guildhall in London, and many more.

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Kent Ullberg Continued :

His pieces can also be found in the private collections of world leaders and celebrities, including H.R.H. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, Jack Nicholson and Robert Wagner.



While he has done hundreds of works on a small scale, he is perhaps best known for the monumental works he has executed for museums and municipalities from Omaha, Nebraska to Cape Town, South Africa. His Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Omaha, Nebraska installations are the largest wildlife bronze compositions ever done, spanning several city blocks. Regardless of scale, he imbues all his subjects with unparalleled vitality.

Ullberg is a member of numerous prestigious art organizations from which he has received many outstanding awards, i.e. the National Academy, N.Y.C. (which elected Kent to the status of full Academician-NA-Spring of 1990, the highest professional recognition bestowed on visual artists in America); the National Sculpture Society, N.Y.C.; National Academy of Western Art, Oklahoma City, OK; Society of Animal Artists, CT; the National Arts Club, N.Y.C.; the Society for Wildlife Art of the Nations, Sandhurst, England. He is a major supporter of many wildlife conservation efforts.

Source: excerpts from Kent Ullberg web sites by Kenneth Nilsson. For more info see <http://www.collectorscovey.com/collectorscovey/kentullberg.html>

Needed More Personal Interest Actions:

We need to thank Kenneth Nilsson for thinking ahead and getting a reception with Kent Ullberg.

We need more of this type thinking and ACTION! What do you want to do or get done for Swedish Culture in Houston? You don't have to do it all by yourself, but we can use your help in thinking ahead and doing some of the planning and work. Any idea or volunteering can be sent to Pelle or Margaret listed on the last page.

Needed Personal and Researched Articles:

For Your Personal Article—Be Bold !

Good Examples are on the website at

<http://www.swedishclub.org/scnews.htm>.

The topics below are to stimulate your thinking; it is not a requirement to answer all in a single article.

- Name:
- Spouse/Family/etc:
- Interest/Hobbies:
- Personal Work/Volunteer Work
- Connection with Sweden: family/ interest/arrival/survival in USA
- Trip(s) to Sweden:
- Swedish Language/Language School:
- Connection with Swedish Club:
- Desire/Plans/Thoughts for future of SCH:

Send to arvid@johanson.us or mail to my address on last page.

Svensk Hyllningsfest

The first one was held in October 1941, to honor the Swedish pioneers who settled in the Smoky Valley of Kansas in 1868-69.

Lindsborg's Svensk Hyllningsfest is a biennial tribute to the Swedish pioneers. The festival features art, crafts, special foods, ethnic music, folk dancing, parade, smörgåsbord, and special entertainment. Many of Lindsborg's residents don traditional Swedish folk costumes for the event. Swedish folk dance groups and musicians add to the Swedish flavor of the festival.

The next Svensk Hyllningsfest will occur October 7 - 9, 2005. Lindsborg is located just seventy miles north of Wichita on Interstate 135.

EditorsNote: Eleanor and I attended the last one in 2003. It was a great fun & learning time and feed! Reserve early: <http://www.svenskhyllningsfest.org/>

Stockholm, May 26, 2005

The Swedish Government today appointed former minister Gunnar Lund as Sweden's ambassador in Washington.

Mr. Lund has previously been Ambassador and head of the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU in Brussels, State Secretary at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance, and head of the Inspectorate of Military Equipment.

He has also served at the OECD delegation in Paris and the Embassy of Sweden in Copenhagen.

Mr. Lund will take up his post on September 1, 2005.

Contact: Arja Aschan, Director
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

GunnarLund
Sweden's New Ambassador to the U.S.



Gunnar Lund was trained in economics, political science and Russian at the universities of Uppsala and Stockholm.

He holds a Master's degree in Economics and International Law from Columbia University in New York. In the seventies and eighties, he pursued a career as a civil servant in the Swedish Ministries of Finance and Foreign Affairs, and served for several years as the Finance ministry's representative to the OECD in Paris.

In 1988, Gunnar Lund was given his first political assignment when he was appointed Deputy Finance Minister (State Secretary) with responsibility for budget, economic policy and international affairs.

After the election in 1991, Gunnar Lund served in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs as Ambassador

and negotiator on issues of defense and armaments as well as on Russian affairs.

After the election in 1994, Gunnar Lund was appointed Deputy Foreign Minister (State Secretary) for European Affairs. In that capacity, he helped design Sweden's policy during its first years in the European Union and served as his country's chief negotiator for the Amsterdam and Nice treaties.

In 1999, Gunnar Lund was named Sweden's Ambassador to the European Union. He returned to Sweden in 2002 when he was appointed Minister and Member of the Swedish Cabinet with responsibility for international economic and financial affairs as well as for public administration.

Gunnar Lund is fifty-seven years old and is married to Kari Lotsberg, a financial consultant and former Deputy Minister. They have three children. < <http://www.swedenabroad.com> >

UN General Assembly Elects Jan Eliasson Of Sweden As President Of Sixtieth Session

The UN General Assembly elected, by acclamation, Jan Eliasson of Sweden as the President of its sixtieth session, which is scheduled to open in September 2005.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Eliasson said the delegates' support for his presidency had taken on a special significance for his country since the "legendary" Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld had been born in Jönköping, Sweden, 100 years ago.

He said that during his presidency, he would be guided by values and principles which were pillars of Sweden's foreign policy: belief in multilateral cooperation; the imperative of prevention; respect for the rule of law and human rights; solidarity with the poor and persecuted; and concern for the rights of women, for the children and for the health of planet Earth.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/ga10355.doc.htm>

Editors Note: The soon to be former Ambassador Eliasson is well known to Houston Swedes from his many trips here. We'll miss him and wish him well in the new job.

Vasa Going On by John Eastlund

So what's the best thing about being an Aggie part-time grad student? Having opportunities like I did recently to do research in Stockholm at the Vasa Museum for a month while spring was breaking out. I knew I was going to do something like that two years ago so naturally I joined the Houston Swedish Club and took their beginner's language class. I've always been interested in the Vasa since my farmor brought back a book about it in 1962. It was her only trip back to the old country in 60 years and she knew her 12 year old grandson had a passion for ships.

A former Texas A&M nautical archaeology professor, Dr. Fred Hocker, is now Director of Research and Publications at the Vasa Museum and he was hired to edit an 8-volume archaeological report that's being published to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the salvage of the warship that sank in Stockholm harbor in 1628. Since Fred was an old friend of mine from his early grad student days I asked him if he had anything I could use for my thesis research. He said "we need somebody to write about the anchors". So my data will end up being a chapter in volume two. I lived aboard the Sankt Erik, an icebreaker built in 1915 now used as a hostel for visiting researchers.



It could get interesting. The Vasa probably had five anchors of its own but about forty were found at the wreck site, many were probably lost during early salvage attempts. It will be my job to sort them out. The ones they think belonged to the Vasa are in the museum but the rest are scattered in storage depots or loaned out to other museums and

parks such as the Djurö Kyrka Cemetery..



Since not too much is known about anchors from that period I had to track them down to take measurements.

I had visited the Vasa several times in the past but only as a tourist. The tourist bureau estimates it's worth millions to the annual economy because most tourists spend an extra day in Sweden just to see it. They had their 12 millionth visitor last month. There's no doubt it's a cultural treasure because it's a "time-capsule" from the 17th century. Having found a ship 95% intact is a boon to researchers because very little is known about ships from that period and the belongings of the seamen give us clues as to everyday life back then, items not usually saved for posterity.

Recently there's been news of a serious sulphuric acid problem that is destroying the ship. Chemists and conservators are working diligently to find a way to slow down the reaction caused by materials absorbed into the waterlogged wood so we need to be hopeful. Make sure you eat Wasa crisp bread when in Sweden, part of their profits are being used for "Wasa helping the Vasa".

If you haven't seen Vasa yet, make sure you get there on your next trip to Sweden. It's awe inspiring when you get your first look at it. You could spend a week in the museum and not see it all. The tour guides are multi-lingual and very knowledgeable about the history.

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> *Vasa Cont'd from Page 5* <



Author John Eastland on the top deck of Vasa

You won't be able to go onboard and clamber inside, like I was able to, but you can get close enough. And make sure you try out the cafeteria. They have all sorts of Swedish specialties for lunch. The people at the museum were great to work with. I think I'll need to get more data.

If you want to read more about it, try out the web sites below

Midsummer Picnic ??

Unfortunately, the midsummer picnic had to be postponed to a yet undetermined date in the fall, due to very low response. We apologize for the inconvenience this caused the few that wanted to go, but we hope to see you in the fall when we reschedule this event.

Patric Stafshede

VASA RELATED WEBSITES (These links are active in the electronic newsletter)

The Vasa Museum <http://www.vasamuseet.se>

Vasa s sulphur problems

<http://www.vasamuseet.se/Vasamuseet/Verksamhet%20och%20Projekt/Skeppsunderhall.aspx?lang=en>

<http://www.vasamuseet.se/Vasamuseet/Verksamhet%20och%20Projekt/Bred%20forskning.aspx?lang=en>

"Wasa hjälper Vasa" <http://www.vasamuseet.se/Vasamuseet/Om/Insamlingen/Wasa.aspx?lang=sv>

Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M <http://nautarch.tamu.edu>

SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HANDBOOK AND INFORMATION IN ENGLISH

Swedish Government explained in English is now on <http://www.sweden.gov.se/>

This site has the Swedish Government Handbook for FREE Download or to order a paper copy This handbook version is an English summary of the full Swedish edition. Further English-language information about the Swedish Government Offices is available at www.sweden.gov.se . The various ministries have contributed facts and figures and have also been responsible for the choice of material in each case.

ENGLISH/SWEDISH LANGUAGES

Most Swedes born after World War II do speak or understand English - many of them very well, actually - and you will probably be able to have a memorable and enjoyable stay in Sweden without any deeper knowledge of Swedish. But you will find that just a few words of Swedish will work as a wonderful door-key to the Swedes. Addressing someone in his or her native language is a matter of respect, a way of showing that you play by their rules, so to speak.

.....The first place to learn in Houston is to work with the SCH Language School – contact the director: John_Stavinoha@mhhs.org

The Internet has several websites designed to help you learn Swedish but I haven't found the perfect one that provides the audio with the text. If you find one, please let me know. Meanwhile a few useful sites are as follow:

<http://web.hhs.se/isa/swedish/>

<http://stp.lingfil.uu.se/call/swedish/>

2005 SWEDISH CLUB LUCIA INFORMATION & APPLICATION

By Margaret St.Clair

Applications for the Swedish Club of Houston's 2005 Lucia are now being accepted. Our 2005 Lucia will be presented at the Swedish Christmas Traditions and Lucia Procession scheduled for Saturday, December 10, 2005 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church.

Candidates must be single women between the ages of 16 and 24, who are members of the Club. Club membership can be either individual or as part of a family membership. They must be able to attend the Swedish Traditions program on December 10, and must be able to represent the Club at a celebration and parade in Barkeryd, Sweden on August 6, 2006. Round-trip airfare for our 2005 Lucia will be provided from Chicago to Sweden. The Lucia is responsible for her own ground or air transportation to and from Chicago. On her return to Houston, the Lucia must write an article for publication in The Swedish Club News about her experience in Sweden.

Participants are also needed for the Lucia procession. The procession is made up of female attendants, ages 5 – 20 and starboys, ages 5 – 15. Attendants and star boys wear all white clothing and accessories. The Club can provide some articles of clothing, but individuals are encouraged to use their own.

For eighteen years the Lucia program has provided a wonderful way to travel and learn about our Swedish ancestry and our Texas connection with Barkeryd, Sweden. As an ambassador of the Club, our Lucia will be in a parade and send greetings to the people of Barkeryd from The Swedish Club of Houston.

Applicants for Lucia, in addition to completing the application below, must also write a short essay about her Swedish heritage, her interests and why she would like to represent the Club in Sweden. In addition, she must provide a current photo of herself. The application must be postmarked by September 26, 2005. For questions or further information, call Margaret St.Clair at 281-493-4978.

THE SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON
APPLICATION FOR 2005 LUCIA CANDIDATES, ATTENDANTS AND STARBOYS

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Address: _____ Phone No: _____
E-mail address: _____
I would like to be: (check one) Lucia _____ Attendant _____ Starboy _____

Lucia candidates only: Please include your essay and current photo with your application.

Mail applications and enclosures to Margaret St.Clair, 13831 Queensbury, Houston, TX 77079.

Lucia Candidate Requirements: *single, 16 -24 years of age * **member of The Swedish Club of Houston** * available for the Club's Christmas Traditions program on December 10, 2005; able to represent The Swedish Club of Houston at Barkeryd, Sweden on August 6, 2006, and write an article for The Swedish Club News on your return from Sweden.

The President's Corner.

It is summer again in Houston and it is a hot one for those still here. Our picnic and national day celebration was unfortunately canceled due to very low participation. Some of you were probably over in Sweden already or elsewhere taking a well earned vacation with friends and/or family. My family and I have not been over yet this year but we just had visitors in my mother with her boyfriend here in Texas. Being over pretty often, one night after dinner we sat down over a bottle of red wine and I asked them, two pure Swedes, some questions of what they like, dislike about their stay. Top of the list of dislike is the heat. They of course have to sit in the sun every day for some time to work on their color and had to be warned several times not to burn. Next on the list is the traffic and the long distances everywhere. One comment mentioning is that Sweden rarely have any more stop signs and are converting stoplights to roundabouts instead. The traffic seems to flow better that way they say, but I do not know if we are ready for all that circling around. Third on the list is the lack of that easy metric system with meters and kilograms. Would it not be nice to have 10 inches to a foot and 10 feet to a yard? How about 1000 ounces to one pound and so on. Maybe not exactly like that. Now over to the like list: Prices, the selection of different products and the friendliness of all sales assistants tops out the list. Personally I do not know how you can spend 3 hours at Wal-Mart and then 2 hours at the Academy and then do it all over next day. Let's just combine these two and call them shopping, and we Americans are good at shopping. Number two would be the tourist attractions with all the sites to see. Let's face it, America is big. Number three is the good weather all the time! Hey, are we not back at the top of the other list? The most important thing for me is that they keep coming back visiting and I know that I am going to continue to go back to visit Sweden. How about you? We would like to hear if you made some lists from your vacation or if you did something interesting that you like to share with the club. Please send the article to Arvid, preferable in electronic format. By the way,

this is the last year that Arvid is putting together the newsletter for the club. We are in need of someone to take his position. The club would not be the same without a news letter. If interested please contact me or anyone else on the board.

With that I am closing the corner for this time. Hope to see you all when we pick up with our events in the fall again.

Your President, Pelle Fisk

IF YOU RECEIVE THE ELECTRONIC COPY: Please be sure to give us any changes to your email address. Just email the Membership Director:

John_Stavinoha@mhhs.org

and Editor

arvid@johanson.us

IF YOU RECEIVE A PAPER COPY:

Please consider whether you need a mailed copy of the Swedish Club newsletter? It costs the club more than 70 cents a copy plus a delay for you and work for us.

Note that we have had so many copies (or pieces of copies) returned from the PO that we put your initials near our return address so that if it is returned, we will know which one got mangled.

PLEASE email arvid@johanson.us if you are willing to drop the paper copy. We send you an email telling you when the new edition is posted and giving a direct link.

The electronic copy is always available, in color, and has active links for the mentioned Internet sites.

You probably already have the reading program (adobe acrobat reader). If you need the program, it also is available on the SCNews page of the club website:

<http://www.swedishclub.org/scnews.htm>



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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