



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986



Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen December 10th 2005

Sankta Lucia Day and the procession and ceremony accompanying it, has long been an important pre-Christmas tradition to Swedes around the world. Here in Houston, The Swedish Club tries its best to bring a little of that special day to the citizens of our community. Every year we select a young lady from our club membership to wear the Lucia crown during our pageant and represent the club at a heritage festival in Barkeryd, Sweden the following summer. SAS co-sponsors our Lucia's trip by providing the club with a reduced airfare ticket. This years Lucia is Maren Britt Stavinoha. Maren is a senior at St. Agnes Academy in Houston and is the daughter of John and Edie Stavinoha.

Our Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen, will be held Saturday, December 10, 2005, from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 1353 Witte Road, Houston, TX 77055. The event includes a short church service, during which the Lucia leads her procession of *female attendants and starboys* down the aisle while singing "Sankta Lucia". As always, the service will include the singing of traditional Swedish Christmas songs, readings from the Old and New Testaments and a homily.

After the service, we will gather in the gymnasium to socialize and enjoy some traditional Luciadag refreshments. These will include, but are not limited to: lussekatter (saffron

flavored buns), pepparkakor (ginger cookies), lingonsaft (lingonberry flavored drink), kaffe and glögg.

Also during the reception, the Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston will perform traditional Scandinavian folkdances and everyone will have the opportunity to sing and dance around the Christmas tree. In addition, The Swedish Club's Annual Bazaar will be open both before and after the church service, where everyone can purchase their Scandinavian gift items. What a great way to finish (or begin) one's Christmas shopping! There will also be a bake sale and games and godis (candy) for the children. Perhaps even the Jultomte will make an appearance!

All that is described above is free and open to the public. Come----enjoy the Christmas season---- Swedish style!

* For the Lucia procession, the Club is looking for girls (ages 5 to 20) and boys (ages 5 to 15) to participate as attendants and starboys. Attendants wear all white clothing with silver trim and accessories which the Club provides. However, anyone having their own outfit is encouraged to wear it. The attendants will be singing (in Swedish) "Sankta Lucia" and "Stilla natt" during the service in the sanctuary, just as they did last year. Contact Margaret St.Clair at 281-493-4978 or by e-mail margestclair@hotmail.com if your child (children) will be participating. Please do so ASAP, in order that your child will receive her/his own CD of the music to practice! Story

Editors Note: See the map on Page 9 and plan to be there at 3:00 for the ceremony. Some people missed it last year. If you have *Attendant or Starboys*, start earlier to allow dressing/preparation time. If you have a digital camera please take some good shot and share with the editor. There will be too much going on to cover it properly

Lucia 2005



Maren Stavinocha was chosen as our Lucia for 2005. *Here is her story in her own words.*

I was born in Linköping Sweden during the year (1988) my parents stayed there and my father finished his medical studies at the University Hospital. I am named after my maternal great grandmother who emigrated from Denmark in the late 1800's. Ever since our return to Texas in 1990, my family has been involved with The Swedish Club of Houston.

I am currently a senior at St. Agnes Academy, and plan to attend either the University of Texas or perhaps UCLA or UC-Santa Barbara. I volunteer at

Dress for Success, a non-profit organization that helps underprivileged women get back into the work force. For the last 3 years I have worked as a model, here in Houston, and more recently, in New York and Milan.

When I was younger, I participated in the annual Lucia procession and felt somewhat grown-up when I got to carry the real candle rather than the safety light.

I'd be honored to represent The Swedish Club of Houston as the 2005 Lucia.

Sincerely,

Maren

Margaret's Note: Maren is on the cover and has a photo spread inside of the fall/winter issue of "For the Bride" magazine I brought to the smorgasbord.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!

In order to make our Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen a success, we need YOU!! Last year, we had nearly 300 attendees and we are expecting that many, if not more, this year. We have our chairmen---we just need helpers. Please call Margaret St.Clair to volunteer at 281-493-4978 or e-mail margestclair@hotmail.com. Helpers are needed to:

- serve refreshments
- bake Swedish cookies (recipes can be supplied)
- make baked goods/candies for Bake Sale
- sell raffle tickets
- make craft items for bazaar
- sell bazaar and baked goods
- be a greeter for sanctuary or gym
- set-up (noon-3 pm)
- clean-up (5-6 pm)
- photography (see page 1 and/or contact the editor)

Please know that we NEED craft and baked goods to sell in order to defray costs of the celebration and the trip to Sweden for our Lucia. We also will have a donation jar on the bazaar table for those who want to contribute cash.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Swedish Ambassador Visits Houston by Nancy Webb

The new Swedish Ambassador to the U.S., Gunnar Lund visited Houston on October 12, 2005. This was his first official visit, as Ambassador, to a U.S. city. A dinner, in honor of his visit, was held at the Petroleum Club. The dinner was hosted by SWEA of Houston, the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce, and the Swedish Club of Houston.

The Master of Ceremonies was Jon Dryselius, honorary consul of Sweden for Texas. There were approximately 100 attendees, including Board members of the Swedish Club - Pelle Fisk, Gunild Jansson, Ingrid Phillipson and Nancy Webb.

Other notables in attendance were: Elizabeth Roderburg, Consul General of Norway, Gordon Quan, Houston City Council Member; Douglas Dobson, Regional Director; Office of Foreign Mission; Saba Abashaul, Chief Economic Development Officer, City of Houston; Dr. Johan Lembke, Director, European Union Center of Excellence, Texas A & M; Bertil Fredstrom, President, Swedish American Chamber of Commerce, Texas; Christopher Fuglesang, Swedish Astronaut.



SCH President Pelle Fisk, Ambassador Gunnar Lund, Pelle's Father Kurt Fisk (visiting from Sweden)

The Ambassadors' sister, Vicki Mazur and her husband, Joe Mazur, Houstonians, were also in attendance.

Ambassador Gunnar Lund was trained in Economics, Political Science and Russian at The Universities of Uppsala and Stockholm.

As a Fulbright Scholar he studied at Columbia University in New York, from where he holds a Master's Degree in Economics and International Law.

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, he worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Ambassador and Negotiator on Issues of Defense and Armaments as well as on Russian Affairs.

After the election in 1994, Mr. 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.

Ambassador Lund spoke about the significance of the Swedish-Gulf Coast relationship, and his interest in strengthening this relationship. Last year, Sweden invested \$1 billion dollars in Texas, and 60% of the investments in Texas were European. He also announced that a full-time Swedish Consulate General will be re-established in Houston in 2007. At this time, there are only two such U.S. consulates, in New York and Los Angeles.

Gordon Quan presented the Ambassador a crystal replica of the Space Shuttle, and proclamation from Mayor Bill White, naming him an honorary Houstonian.

It was a pleasant evening, in a beautiful setting!



Embassy Sec'y Lisa Svensson, Ambassador Lund, Elizabeth and Christer Fuglesang

Smörgåsbord - Good Food – Good Fellowship



News from the Consulate on Passports, Elections, and Citizenship

Från 1 oktober 2005 gäller ändrade regler för passfoton, ny giltighetstid på fem år och nya ansökningsavgifter för svenska pass.



Utförligare information finns på hemsidan för svenska Generalkonsulatet i New York; www.swedenabroad.com/newyork och på svenska polismyndighetens hemsida; www.polisen.se

Passfoton måste från 1 oktober 2005 vara tagna med ansiktet avbildat rakt framifrån och blicken riktad mot kamerans lens. Det nya passet har en giltighetstid på fem år.

Nya avgifter från och med 1 oktober 2005:

Vanligt pass: **\$65**

Provisoriskt pass: **\$150**

New Passport Requirements and Fees

As of October 1, Sweden is now issuing passports with new photo requirements, a new period of validity, and new application fees.

For more information, go to the website for The Swedish Consulate General in New York www.swedenabroad.com/newyork or to the website of the Swedish Police; www.polisen.se

Passport photos must be taken from the front, with the face depicted at a straight angle.

The new passports are valid for a period of five years.

As of October 1, the following application fees will apply:

Regular passport: **\$65**

Emergency passport: **\$150**

VAL 17 september 2006

Hösten 2005 kommer riksdagen att besluta om börjar den gälla den 1 januari 2006.

Rösträtt för utlandssvenskar

Den som flyttar ut ur landet behåller sin rösträtt. Valinformation skickas till den adress som up

För att behålla sin rösträtt utöver denna tilldelade adress om man flyttat måste man anmäla den nya adressen till skatteverket.

Mer information finns på www.val.se

The Swedish ELECTION 17 September 2006

During the fall 2005, the Swedish Parliament will make a decision about a new law regarding elections, and if so the new law will be in effect from 1st of January 2006.

To be entitled to vote, a person must be registered on an electoral roll.

Swedish citizens resident abroad are included in the electoral roll if they have emigrated during the past ten years or if they have notified the Tax authorities no later than August 16 that they wish to be included in the electoral roll. A notification of this kind is made through the mailing of address details by the Swedish citizen to the Tax authorities. A special form is available for Swedish citizens resident abroad (please note www.val.se) wishing to notify their address and to be included in the electoral roll.

< More Consul info on Page 6 >

News from the Consulate on Passports, Elections, and Citizenship
< Continued from Page 5 >

Förlora eller bli befriad från svenskt medborgarskap

Du kan förlora ditt svenska medborgarskap genom preskription

Du förlorar ditt svenska medborgarskap **när du fyller 22 år**, så kallad preskription, om du är svensk medborgare och

- är född utanför Sverige
- aldrig har bott här

och

- inte har varit i Sverige under förhållanden som visar samhörighet med Sverige.

För att inte förlora ditt medborgarskap kan du **före tjugotvåårsdagen ansöka** om att få behålla ditt svenska medborgarskap.

Läs mer om detta på Migrationsverkets hemsida www.migrationsverket.se

Swedish Consulate in Houston
<http://www.swedishconsulate.org/>

Swedish Embassy in Washington
http://www.swedenabroad.com/pages/start_6989.asp

Swedish Consulate in NYC
http://www.swedenabroad.com/pages/start_7928.asp

Losing or being exempted from Swedish citizenship

You can lose your Swedish citizenship through statutory limitation

You lose your Swedish citizenship **when you turn 22**, through what is termed statutory limitation, if you are a Swedish citizen and

- were born outside of Sweden
- have never lived in Sweden

and

- have not stayed in Sweden under circumstances indicating an attachment to this country.

To avoid losing your Swedish citizenship, you can **apply to keep it before you reach the age of 22.**

For more information www.migrationverket.se , the website of the Swedish Migration Board.

For further information check with the consulate Mon/Wed/Fri 10 – 2.

Phone# 713 953 1417

Britta Tenghamn
Assistent, Konsulatet i Houston

Smörgåsbord - Good Food – Good Fellowship (Cont'd)



Scandinavian Folk Dancers

by Joyce Calderon

This is a “fun” season for the Scandinavian Folk Dancers!

On Oct. 15/16 we were in Dallas dancing at the Texas State Fair.

We’ve been invited again this year to dance at the Norwegian Seaman’s Church at their Christmas Bazaar in Clear Lake on Sat., Nov. 12. There are always so many beautiful items from Norway, besides the two rooms of Scandinavian food for sale. The Norwegian women grace the Bazaar with their beautiful and colorful bunads (traditional dress). This Bazaar is open to the public.

On Sunday, Nov. 13 we will be performing at Christ the King Lutheran Church, located directly across from Rice University on Greenbriar. They are celebrating their 60th anniversary, and are making it a very special event.

Come see us at Dickens on the Strand Dec. 3 and 4. Every year we have our booth on the corner of 22nd and The Strand. We do a brisk business selling our glögg, the Scandinavian traditional hot spicy wine; with the money we earn from selling glögg, we finance our trips to Scandinavia. The glögg, by the way, is made every year by our two Swedes, Ingrid and Inger, and is tops!

On Dec. 10th we are looking forward to dancing around the Christmas tree at the Swedish Club’s Lucia celebration; we hope to see everybody there.

Should you like to inquire more about our group, please call Joyce at 281-360-9670.

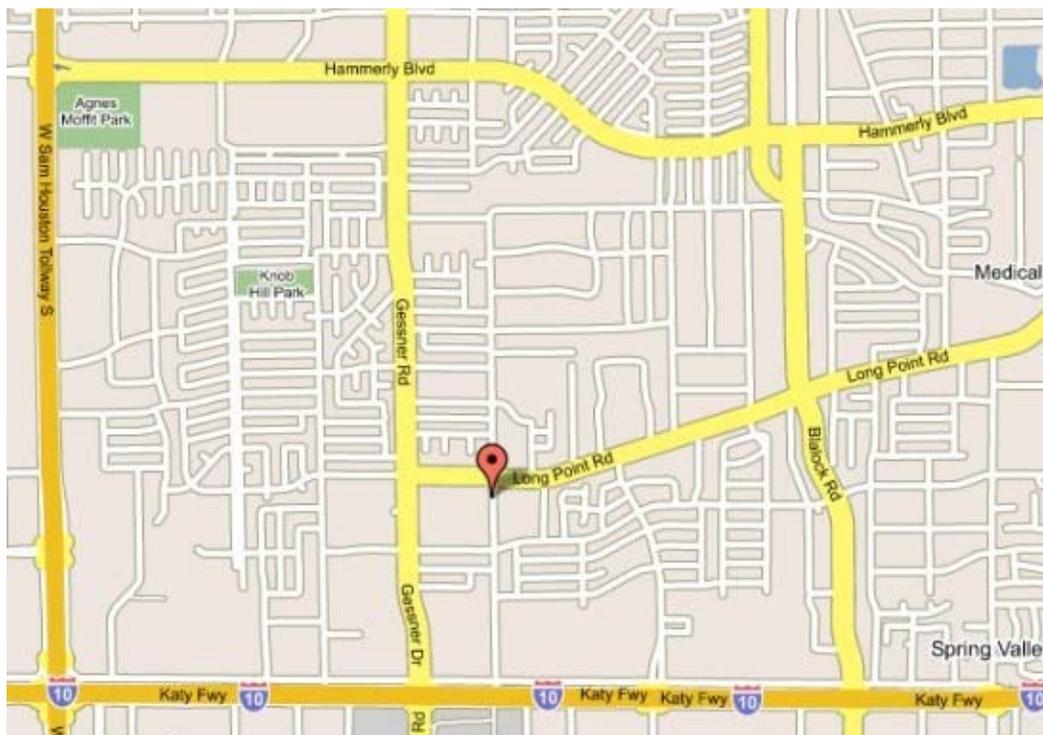


Joyce playing for the Smörgåsbord

The Dancer Members Making Smörgåsbord more Swedish and more fun for all ages- - Thanks



Map to Swedish Club of Houston's Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 1353 Witte Road, Houston, TX 77055



Map courtesy of <http://maps.google.com/>

Coming in January 2006

What Are WE Missing ?

If You Received a Paper Copy of this newsletter WITHOUT an email offering you an electronic copy, we both are missing something.

- The Club doesn't have the ability to notify you on short notice of new opportunity or other changes to our plans between Newsletters. Please send your email us address to arvid@johanson.us. We will not FORCE you to take the newsletter electronically.
- If you are not getting the newsletter electronically you are missing the full color pictures and maps plus the live links to the internet sites mentioned.

RENEWAL time for our Club starts each January with the election of officers and board members for the New Year. There are no staggered terms or succession plan so each election is very important. Watch for more info in the next Newsletter.

Thank You

A big thank you to John Stavinoha for the coordination, Gunhild Jansson for the décor, Pelle for leading, Joyce Calderon for the music, and Don Turbyfil and Howard & Sally Phillips for coming in ethnic ware and leading the dancing.

From a non-member email: *"the food. wow! I tried a little of everything, and EVERYTHING was absolutely delicious! So, excellent food, very friendly people, and well organized .it was a memorable evening"*.



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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.

PhotoCredits: Pelle Fisk & Ken Nilsson

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

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

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