



# THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

## The Swedish Club of Houston

*Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986*

### President's Column

*By Margaret St. Clair*

It's hard to believe that it is time for another newsletter. The last two months have flown by. During that period, our hard-working board members were busy planning the Club's spring events---Kräftskivan (Crawfish Party) and Valborgsmässafton (Bonfire). Both were highly successful and were enjoyed by all who attended. If you weren't there for either one, you missed a great Svensk good time!

Kräftskivan was held at The Monument Inn on April 1. We had a wonderful turnout. Seventy-three folks enjoyed an evening of fine food, drink and song---Swedish style! Many thanks go to John Stavino and Mark Swanson for planning such a fun event.

On April 22 we celebrated the coming of spring, as Swedes do, with a bonfire, games, singing and excellent food. Swedish Club members, Dr. Margit Winstrom and her husband, Dr. Bill Riley, once again opened up their ranch near Brenham for us to use. It was a fantastic, relaxing day in the country. Tack så mycket to Pelle Fisk and Eric Condon for all their hard work in coordinating the event. And a tusen tack (thousand thanks) to Margit and Bill for having us!

Now summer is quickly approaching and many of you are making travel preparations. Since the board has not planned any Club events for Swedish National Day (June 6<sup>th</sup>) and for Midsommar, I hope that all of you, wherever you are, celebrate these special Swedish holidays in your own way. For those of you who will be in Sweden this summer, I hope you take the opportunity to visit Barkeryd in Småland on August 6<sup>th</sup> when The Swedish Club's 2005 Lucia, Maren Stavino, will be representing the Club at Barkeryd's Texas festival. Barkeryd holds such a special place in Texas history that you won't want to miss this event. In closing, I hope you all have a wonderful summer. See you at Smörgåsbord on October 28<sup>th</sup>!

Må så gott! (Keep well!)

*Margaret*

### This Side of the Page

Our editor, Laura Millikan, is safely back from being the Mother of the Bride but I had agreed to do this edition so she could enjoy the wedding. Since we don't have anything planned locally as a club during the summer, I wasn't sure there would be an edition this time. *Thanks* to some faithful contributors (*check the bylines*) and a little real news, I hope this will be an interesting read about thing Swedish on both sides of the Atlantic.

*by Arvid*

### Jan Eliasson new Minister for Foreign Affairs

Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson has appointed Jan Eliasson, currently Ambassador and President of the UN General Assembly, as Minister for Foreign Affairs. He will complete his term as UN President while Ms Carin Jämtin will serve as will be Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs. She will then serve as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and continue to be responsible for development assistance issues



Jan is a good friend of Houston having been here several times while he was Ambassador in Washington to meet with Swedes and other Scandinavians.

Follow the action at

<http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/2059>

*by Arvid*

## Swedes in Texas

### Kent Lundberg, EP Band & EP Quartet



Their performance have been said to be one of the best gospel shows in Europe. Now for the first time in USA we can see them here in Houston. Their music is described as southern gospel music with inserts of rock, jazz and country witch makes it even more fun. Kent Lundberg, the lead singer, grew up in Karlskoga listening to Elvis already as a little boy. In the 80's Kent started singing in a local church choir but was soon asked to sing solo. This led his way to join the Music Theater in Värmland where he participated in a lot of productions both singing solo and in the choir. In 1995 he got in touch with Nicolai Gedda, the world famous tenor opera singer and became his student. This resulted in him getting in to Operahögskolan in Stockholm, the biggest music university in Sweden. Following his studies he was singing at small church choir concerts all the way up to singing solo in big opera productions. The dream of Elvis and the gospel music was always there though. It was fall 2000 and only a coincidence that Kent walked in to a church night where the group One Way Brothers performed southern gospel. They had been singing together since they were in school and they sang just the way The Jordanares sang it with Elvis. Kent loved it. Contact was made and EP Quartet was started. Four other musicians, who had been playing together for a long time also from the mid region of Sweden was added as EP Band. The premier of Songs of Inspiration was a success in January 2001 and we now have the opportunity to hear and see them perform here in Houston twice.

**Sunday, June 18 at 3:00 PM**

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
306 East 15th Street - 713-864-2651

And **Wednesday, June 21 at 7:00 PM**

Spring Woods United Methodist Church  
1711 FM 1960 West - 281-444-6468

*For more info contact Leif Mauritzson at home  
281-580-5923 or cell 281-797-7437.*

### Texan Elected to Swedish Council of America

Robin Evans of Waco has just been voted onto the Board of the Swedish Council of America. She has been the primary promoter and organizer of Viking Fest. Her e-mail is [revans1857@yahoo.com](mailto:revans1857@yahoo.com).

### Swedes at UT Update

The Steering Committee of the Swedish Excellence Endowment at The University of Texas met jointly with the Faculty Advisory Committee on Tuesday, May 9th. (The administrative structure established by the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts calls for a joint meeting once every semester. While the Dean and the Faculty Committee make the final decisions regarding expenditures, the joint meetings provide an opportunity for mutual discussions of proposals and airing of ideas.) It was the consensus of those present that the Endowment should fund the participation of two UT students in the 10-day event being sponsored by SACC and the Center of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Lidköping, Sweden, in August.

The group also looked favorably on a proposal to support Swedish participation in a Conference on Comparing Social Models in the United States and Europe hosted by the LBJ School of Public Affairs at UT.

The Faculty Committee announced that Endowment scholarships had recently been awarded to four students wishing to study in Sweden. We are proud that, over the past few years, the Endowment has provided such scholarships to approximately 20 students with majors ranging from Biology to Mathematics to Psychology to Music to Communications to Engineering. When these students graduate we will have enthusiastic advocates for Sweden in every walk of life! *Carrin Patman*

## Swedish Club Lucia

*By Nancy Webb*

This years' Luciadagen, our annual Lucia celebration, will be held at Christ the King Lutheran Church in the Rice University Village area, on Saturday, December 9, 2006 at 4 o' clock p.m... This is particularly appropriate, as the church was founded by predominantly Swedish Americans and was the second church in Houston begun by the Swedish Lutheran Church in America.

Applications for the Swedish Club's 2006 Lucia are now being accepted. She will be presented at the Annual Swedish Christmas Traditions and Lucia procession.

Candidates must be young women between the ages of 16 and 24, and members of the Club. They must also be able to attend the Luciadagen celebration, and be able to represent the club at the Texas Day Celebration in Barkeryd, Sweden in early August 2007. Round-trip airfare will be provided for our 2006 Lucia from Chicago to Sweden by SAS.

As the Houston Swedish Club's Ambassador to Barkeryd, she will be in a parade, and send greetings to the people of Barkeryd on behalf of the club. On her return, she must write an article on her Swedish experience for publication in the newsletter.

Applications should include name, address, phone number, email address and date of birth. Please include a photo and a short essay on Swedish heritage and special interest.

We also need helpers for the Lucia celebration, for refreshments, assisting the boys and girls in donning their costumes, decorations, and organizing the bazaar. If you have an interest in participating please contact either one of us!

Nancy Webb 713.661.1011  
& Diana Rodionov 281.636.8153  
Co-chairs, Lucia Program

Send applications to:

The Swedish Club of Houston  
C/o Nancy Webb  
3707 Darcus  
Houston, Texas 77005

## Austin SWEA

An active SWEA group has been founded here in Austin. Elisabeth Kihlberg could tell you all about that. Contact: 512-471-2606 (work) or (home) 512-371-9323, e-mail kihlberg@mail.utexas.edu. Her husband, Bjorn Engquist, was recruited to come to UT from Princeton and now works in the Applied Mathematics Dept at UT. He is apparently quite a star. Elisabeth worked in the Consulate when they were in California for a time. *Carrin Patman*

## Austin American Scandinavian Foundation

Nikolas White, a young businessman who is involved with the American Scandinavian Foundation and has started a branch here in Austin, has proven to be an absolute dynamo at organizing successful events with a Scandinavian flavor -- Scandinavian Film Fests, Happy Hours, picnics and the like) and getting young people to participate. His e-mail nik@triand.com, phone 512-773-9531. *Carrin Patman*



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Our thanks to Doctors Winstrom and Riley for hosting our Valborgsmässoafton at their place.

**TEXAS SWEDISH PIONEER Assn. Annual Meeting**  
**PALM VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**ROUND ROCK, TEXAS**  
**JUNE 25, 2006**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO THE TEXAS SWEDISH PIONEER MEETING AND CONCERT - IT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

The Texas Swedish Pioneer Association Annual meeting will observe the 139th anniversary of the first large group of 100 Swedish immigrant's arrival from Småland, Sweden in 1867, who founded this Association – 89 years ago. The arrival in 1838 of S. M. Swenson - the first Swede who arranged for so many from Sweden to settle here in Texas - will also be honored. By our preserving and perpetuating this rich heritage, we honor the memory of our Swedish Pioneers. The meeting begins at 2:30 pm in the Palm Valley Lutheran Church with an organ concert by Dr. Elsworth Peterson, followed by the annual meeting at 3 pm, afterward, refreshments will be served in the Church Hall.  
**VÄLKOMMEN!!!**

PALM VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH is located East of Round Rock on US Hwy 79, near the Dell Baseball Diamond.  
Address: 2500 E. Palm Valley Blvd. Round Rock, Texas.

This old gathering of Swedes in Texas has been going on since 1917 - it was called Swedish Old Settlers meeting many years ago and mainly held in Round Rock, Texas at Nelson Park...plus, it lasted for several days!!! There was preaching, and, even more preaching..lots of food, those Swedes really enjoyed visiting with their friends and relatives. It was the farmer's summer holiday.

They give out 3 scholarships to high school graduates each year. We try to use a little Swedish language during the meeting: "Fader Vår", sjunga "Du Gamla Du Fria"..and, a Swedish table prayer at "kaffe dags".. I am the Vice President of the Association, Rod Johnson, is the President. We always try to read a shortened version of the poor 1867 immigrant's journey to Texas..written by Johannes Swenson in 1917 - as it is so interesting and to let the people of today see how it was to travel in the "good old days".

Palm Valley Church is such a nice place to meet as the old cemetery is just outside the church and so many of those earliest settlers are buried there.

Tack så mycket, *Jean Sellstrom*

*Jean Sellstrom and daughter Liz Cadwallader at Swedish Log Cabin at Zilker Gardens in Austin*



In 1849 GUSTAV PALM and his family moved to LaGrange, Texas. About 1854 they moved to Govalle (just East of Austin) and there they lived in a the tiny one-room log cabin which was built about 1838. The Palm's had 9 children (4 born in Sweden and 5 born in Texas). In later years when the family moved to Austin on East 16<sup>th</sup> Street they moved the log cabin along with them and used it for a wash house. The cabin was moved later to Nelson Park in Round Rock, Texas . In 1965 when the park was sold, the log cabin was dismantled – the logs numbered, and rebuilt in Zilker Park - where it still stands today and is known as the SWEDISH LOG CABIN. This cabin serves as a lasting and fitting memorial to our pioneer ancestors. Also, it is one of the oldest houses in Austin. *Liz Cadwallader*

# Scandinavian Folk Dancers



always looking for new members, so come check us out.

We have been very busy this year. In June of 2005, we went to Norway, to perform and learn new dances. We stayed in the homes of local dancers in Oslo and Bergen. The trip was exciting, educational, adventurous, and exhausting. Since our return, we have performed in Dallas (State Fair), Danevang (Queen's birthday), and Houston (IFest).

June 10th and 11th we will be performing at the FolkLife Festival in San Antonio. If you have never been, you don't know what you are missing! If you do go – please stop by to say 'hi'.

After our June performance, we will take the summer off, so if you would like to visit a practice first, please call first, to make sure we will be there. Also, please call with any other questions. Kathy Bjork, 281-480-4163. [kebjork@teacher.esc4.com](mailto:kebjork@teacher.esc4.com)

Hello. My name is **Kathy Bjork**, and I am the new President of The Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston. Our other officers are Jim Jordan, Vice President, Diana Rodinov, Secretary, Ingrid Llanos, Treasurer, and Carl and Frances Steffensen, Dance Directors.

We practice most Mondays from 7 – 9pm at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Rice Village. We are



## Wrap up on Crayfish Party

With 3 days to go we only had 30 reservations I gave them a "solid" headcount of 50 thinking we'd make up the difference by Saturday eve. Well, as many of you know, the late joiners and unannounced arrivals pushed us up to 73 in attendance. Unfortunately we didn't have immediate room in which to overflow and most people socialized until we could take over the adjacent dining room. All in all it was a very nice event. We will reserve more space next year and push hard (steeper discount) for early reservations

**John Stavino**



See Page 8 for more pictures.

## Valborgsmässoafton

After a record winter in Sweden they really welcomed the spring there on April 30 by celebrating Valborg. We decided to do our version of it a week earlier.

It all took place out in Brenham, about one hour NW of Houston. Our club member Dr Margit Winstrom and her husband Bill own a beautiful ranch out there and they were very kind to open it up for the club. Around thirty people gathered in the warm Saturday afternoon. We set up in the gorgeous newly built pavilion with snack and socializing in a very relaxing atmosphere with great scenery and a cool breeze. Thank to Mark Swanson for bringing an amplifier and lots of Swedish music. Bill warmed up the ancient John Deer Tractor and pulled us all over their property, hayride style. When we got back we fired up the grill and every one had dinner together with shared side dishes.

After the food it was time to get serious with some amusing games. We started with a scavenger hunt that was won by the team "Tre trallande jantor" (Three singing girls). After some rubber boot throwing and precision balls in bucket we had split that team down to one winner. The host Margit on team with Eric Condon won our annual water balloon tossing. This years batch of balloons where strong and held up well, something especially I appreciated since everyone decided to toss all the leftover balloons at me. Emmie and Mark Swanson won the potato-in-spoon-in-mouth-and-three-legged-race relay. They were so far ahead of everyone else that I think they must be practicing those events on at least weekly basis. Kubb was played like the old Vikings did it, maybe just a little more socialized.

The sun had now set below the horizon and Margit lit the huge bonfire. We all gathered close together and sung some traditional and some not so traditional Swedish songs.

My family and I had an outstanding time. I would like to thank everyone that was there and hope you all had a great relaxing and fun afternoon/evening as well. A special thank you once again to Margit and Bill for hosting the event. We hope to be back next year.

*Pelle Fisk*



See Page 8 for more pictures.

## Valborgsmässoafton (Cont'd)



## Crayfish(Cont'd)





## ***The Swedish Church Heritage Society***

PO Box 688

Galveston, TX 77553

Brite-Marie Bodorff 713-529-0143

Shelia Lee 409-621-5561 [shalee@utmb.edu](mailto:shalee@utmb.edu)

[www.anet4u.com/theswedishchurch](http://www.anet4u.com/theswedishchurch)

Dear Friends,

For those of you who have not heard - we have formed **The Swedish Church Heritage Society**. The sole purpose is to support the restoration and historical integrity of the property known as "The Swedish Zion Lutheran Church" located in the East End Historical District, on the corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and Market Street in Galveston, TX. All donations are tax deductible.

**A little history:** The Swedes in Galveston held their church meetings in "other" churches from the 1840's until they held their first official service in 1891 in the original chapel – now on the back of the lot. The Zion Lutheran Church's Fiftieth Anniversary pamphlet states, "for more than a quarter of a century the congregation worshipped in the frame chapel erected in 1895...In 1910 additional lots were purchased...and a beautiful new temple was dedicated on Sunday September 5, 1926...complete with beautiful stained-glass windows and an expensive pipe organ."

**Today the church property** has sat unused for over 20 years. You can still see the original pipe organ, large stained glass window over the front doors and 15 more along the sides with several displaying the Swedish Flag. Each has a dedication from a former church family. The repair of the large front stained glass window will be our first supporting project. Please see more details at our website.

The property is now in private ownership – Jon & Kerry Charon. Jon is a master carpenter and has already started major stabilization projects. The bell tower is now "non-toxic", the roof has been repaired, and there are quotes in for the repair of the front stained glass window. His plans are to restore the property – elevate the original chapel building to accommodate a reception and kitchen area on the first floor with more modern bathroom facilities, refinish the floors and pews in the new 1926 sanctuary – and still keep the building open for Swedish Weddings & Christenings, as well as historical tours.

We have already scheduled several events to include a St. Lucia Pageant on the first Friday night in December, a SpringFest, and possible MidSummers Festival. We plan another Swedish Day event this Fall as well.

Please let us know of your interest and we will be glad to include you on our mailing list.

Thank you for your support of the restoration and preservation of our Swedish Heritage and Swedish Landmarks in Galveston. Please join us with your enthusiasm, ideas, and sweat equity.

Respectfully,

***Brite-Marie Bodorff and Shelia Lee***



***The Swedish Church Heritage Society, Galveston, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.***

<b>Swedish Club News</b> <a href="http://www.swedishclub.org">www.swedishclub.org</a>	<b>Page 9</b>	<b>May-June 2006</b> <b>EventsLine = 713.774.2739</b>
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## Did you see this Swedish Cooking Show on PBS ?



Tina Norstrom in New Scandinavian Cooking I highly recommend this TV show to Scandinavians. Unfortunately, it is not currently scheduled but it is available on DVD and the recipes in a book available on their website:

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

Also, search New Scandinavian Cooking for other websites. The Consulate General of Sweden has a very good website about the Sweden show [http://www.swedenabroad.com/pages/general\\_39146.asp](http://www.swedenabroad.com/pages/general_39146.asp)

*Diana Rodionov*

Ed Note : "In addition to sharing her secrets for creating delicious Swedish dishes (using only the freshest ingredients!), Tina takes to the road, visiting scenic spots all over Sweden and preparing meal "al fresco" with the beautiful Swedish landscape as her backdrop." <http://www.visitsweden.com/VSTemplates/Article.aspx?id=21588>

## Finer Points of Swedish Finances

Are you interested in the cross-border banking crisis in Europe or the inflation rate in Sweden??

Check out this website: [www.riksbank.se](http://www.riksbank.se) . For those of us who are Scensk challenged, they have an English link under the British Flag <http://www.riksbank.com/templates/Page.aspx?id=21318>

The Riksbank is Sweden's central bank and an authority under the Riksdag, the Swedish parliament. The Riksbank's main tasks are to maintain price stability and to promote a safe and efficient payment system.

The Riksbank's interpretation of price stability is that inflation should be at a low, stable rate. The consumer price index, CPI, should be maintained at around 2 per cent.

## From the Swedish Consulate of Houston

Swedes planning to travel and crossing borders should check that they have valid passports! Make sure the valid passport is not damaged or torn. In that case, it is necessary to apply for a new passport. It takes about four weeks from application to the arrival of the new passport. For people planning to visit Sweden, we can recommend the website of the Swedish Tourism and Travel Council; [www.visitsweden.com](http://www.visitsweden.com)

And finally, we at the Consulate of Sweden wish all the members and your readers a wonderful summer!

Best regards, **Britta** At Houston Consulate  
[houston@consulateofsweden.org](mailto:houston@consulateofsweden.org)  
Website: <http://www.swedishconsulate.org/>

Ed Note : See also <http://sweden.se/> for scenes like this of Gamla Stan in Stockholm



## Congratulations IKEA

The May 23 2006 issue of PCMagazine (P84-87) rates the yellow batteries at IKEA as the best bargain for medium and low drain uses such as portable TV's and Flashlights.

## **2006 SWEDISH CLUB LUCIA INFORMATION & APPLICATION**

Applications for the Swedish Club of Houston's 2006 Lucia are now being accepted. Our 2006 Lucia will be presented at the Swedish Christmas Traditions and Lucia Procession scheduled for Saturday, December 9, 2006 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in the Rice University Village.

Candidates must be single women between the ages of 16 and 24, who are \*members of the Club\*. They must be able to attend the Swedish Traditions program on December 9, and must be able to represent the Club at a celebration and parade in Barkeryd, Sweden on 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of August 2007. Round-trip airfare for our 2006 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 star boys, 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 nineteen 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, 2006. For questions or further information, call Nancy Webb 713.661.1011 or Diana Rodionov 281.636.8153**

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### THE SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON APPLICATION FOR 2006 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.

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Mail applications and enclosures to The Swedish Club of Houston  
C/o Nancy Webb, 3707 Darcus, Houston, Texas 77005

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 9, 2006; able to represent The Swedish Club of Houston at Barkeryd, Sweden 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of August 2007, and write an article for The Swedish Club News on your return from Sweden.

*\*Club membership may be either individual or as part of a family membership including granddaughters.\**

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**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](mailto: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
½ Page	\$ 80.00
Full Page	\$120.00

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

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**c/o Arvid Johanson**  
**2010 Dowling Drive**  
**Richmond TX 77469-5114**