

THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

Smörgåsbord 2006

Celebrating 20 Years of SCH
Saturday, October 28th
6:30 p.m.
BraeBurn Country Club
8101 Bissonnet Street, Houston, TX 77074

Miriam-Webster Online defines *smörgåsbord* as a "buffet offering a variety of foods and dishes (as hors d'oeuvres, hot and cold meats, smoked and pickled fish, cheeses, salads, and relishes)," and that's exactly what you are invited to experience on Saturday evening, October 28th, at BraeBurn Country Club (see map on page 11), as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of The Swedish Club of Houston.

According to Britannica.com, smörgåsbord began in the country districts of Sweden. The foods were set out on long tables from which the diners helped themselves. By the 18th century, festive meals were preceded by appetizers from a brännvinsbord, offering aquavit, herring, and other delicacies. The Operakällaren restaurant in Stockholm is credited with reestablishing and perfecting the smörgåsbord after World War II.

In keeping with tradition, the **menu** for our SCH smörgåsbord will include:

Swedish breads and cheeses

Selection of herring

Smoked salmon

Gravad lax with sauce

Swedish meatballs with cream sauce

Swedish ham

Deviled eggs

Garden salad with Italian dressing

Jansson's Temptation

Boiled new potatoes

Pickled cucumber slices

Swedish mustard

Lingonberry jelly

Blueberry cobbler with vanilla sauce

Ice cream

Lingonberry drink

Iced tea and Coffee

There will also be a **cash bar** (including snaps).

Also at the event, raffle tickets will be sold for a hand-built model Viking ship, with the drawing to be held during the evening. (See picture and story on page 2.)

Price: Club members (pre-registered) = \$25

Non-members and at the door = \$30

Children (12 and under) = \$10

Make **reservations** *online* on the SCH website (<u>www.swedishclub.org</u>); *by mail* using the form on page 11 (must be received by Wednesday, October 25th for advance price); or *by phone* to Laura Millikan (281-412-9377) by Monday, October 23rd. **Please note:** Reservations are not confirmed until the check is received.





President's Column by Margaret St.Clair

Welcome to the fall season of The Swedish Club! I know that technically it is still summer, but the kids are back in school

and that makes it fall! I hope everyone had wonderful holidays—whether you stayed in Texas or traveled to Sweden or went to places in-between.

One of those fortunate individuals who went to Sweden was our 2005 Lucia, Maren Stavinoha. Accompanied by her parents, John and Edie, and brother James, she had a fantastic experience in Barkeryd, Småland, representing the club at Barkeryd's Texas festival. I hope all of you will read her story on page 4.

This brings me to my next point—the club is now accepting applications for Lucia 2006. (See page 7 for information and the application form.) If you know someone who meets the requirements to be a Lucia, please encourage her to apply. Lucia's trip to Sweden is a very special one, and it is something that will be remembered forever.

Kicking off the club's fall activities will be our annual Smörgåsbord on October 28th. It will take place at the same location as last year—the BraeBurn Country Club, 8101 Bissonnet. The folks there did a fine job for us last year, and so we return. I hope you can join us for an evening of fine Swedish food, music, dancing, singing and skål-ing. Also our new Lucia for 2006 will be introduced.

Before I close, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that The Swedish Club of Houston is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. It has been 20 years of friendships, entertainment, education, work, fun, fellowship and much more. At the Smörgåsbord, we plan to recognize those members who were instrumental in starting our club and getting it off the ground. It should be a very special evening. Hope to see all of you at BraeBurn on October 28th!!

Margaret

Viking Ship to be raffled off at Smörgåsbord, October 28th



"The Norsemen"

Be sure to bring plenty of dollar bills with you to the Smörgåsbord on Saturday, October 28th. Kenneth Nilsson, Swedish Club Treasurer, has made available to the club a hand-built Viking ship, "The Norsemen," to be raffled off during the evening.

The ship was built by Robert "Bob" Chambers of Bob's Limited Edition, Houston, Texas. (See contact information below.) Chambers is a native Texan who became interested in art at a very young age. Over the years, his work has evolved into crafts, with a specialty in boats. Chambers' boat reproductions include an ancient Hawaiian boat called "The Hokoulea," Arabian dhows, Chinese junks and sampans, shrimp boats and others.

Chambers enjoys researching his subjects and painstakingly building them without kits or models. All of his boats have a custom-fitted stand, and no two are ever alike.

Thank you, Ken, for your generosity in sharing this piece of art with us and for making it available as a fund-raiser for the club!

Bob's Limited Edition

Collectible Boats, Trophies, Yard & Miniature BBQ Pits, etc. Unique Originals – Portfolio Available

713.734.3556 or 281.684.2092

Are You a Founding Member Of the Swedish Club???

Or, to put it another way—does your membership with the club "go way back"??? If so, we have a favor to ask. As noted in the President's Column, plans are underway to commemorate the club's 20th anniversary at the Smörgåsbord on October 28th.

We would like to have a display of photographs, newsletters, anecdotes and/or artifacts relating to the early times of The Swedish Club of Houston. In addition, it would be great if YOU could be there, too, so that we can acknowledge you and your involvement in the club. So bring yourself and any commemoratives you wish to display to the BraeBurn Country Club on Saturday evening, October 28th.

Please contact Gunhild Jansson at 713-334-5767 or Margaret St.Clair at 281-493-4978, or email us: gunhildj@sbcglobal.net and margestclair@hotmail.com and indicate what you will be bringing. We would like to have some idea how many items will be displayed.



SWEDISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL SET TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 25

Have you ever wanted to learn Swedish? If so, now is your chance. For many years, the Swedish Club of Houston has been sponsoring a language school with native Swedish-speaking teachers.

Classes meet weekly, 7-9 p.m., at IKEA with three different skill levels (Beginner and Intermediate on Monday evenings, and Advanced on Tuesday evenings).

Registration for **Beginner** and **Intermediate** classes will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 25, in the restaurant upstairs at IKEA. **Advanced** class registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 26.

Tuition for the classes is \$150 for the semester.

For more information, please contact John Stavinoha, Language School Director, at john.stavinoha@memorialhermann.org.

Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston

The Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston will kick off the 2006-07 season with practices beginning on September 11. The group was established in 1972, and we welcome dancers of all ages and abilities!

Our ~25 dancers and musicians participate in cultural events throughout the state of Texas between the months of September and June, performing dances from all five Scandinavian countries. Regular performances include the Texas State Fair (Dallas, September), Norwegian Seamen's Church (Pasadena, November), Dickens on the Strand (Galveston, December), the Houston International Festival (April), Queen's Birthday celebration (Danevang, April) and the Texas Folklife Festival (San Antonio, June).

Any interested dancers can join us at practice every Monday night in the basement of Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2353 Rice Blvd., centrally located near Rice Village.

For further information, please contact Carl and Frances Steffensen at 281-493-4801 or steff@houston.rr.com.

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My Trip to Barkeryd

by Maren Stavinoha

Early Saturday morning, southbound on E4 through the heart of Sweden. I look up to see a trio of Swedish fighter jets on display. An odd show of force in this peaceable kingdom. "This is your



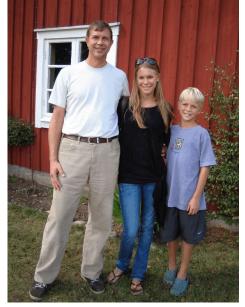
hometown," my father blurts over his shoulder from the front passenger seat. Linköping, also hometown to Saab's Tactical Aircraft division, was not even a memory to me as we moved back to the States when I was 2 months old. We had spent the night in Tyresö just outside of Stockholm. Håkan Svensson, my father's friend from university days in Lund, was driving us down to Barkeryd Parish in Småland for my Texas Lucia program.

We arrived at the church and met Inga Lisa and Gusten Calissendorff with our local host family Pelle and Anita Johansson. They were all very kind people who welcomed us warmly. We unloaded our luggage into Pelle's big American van, and stretched our legs. A tour of the church and graveyard followed, with interesting points connecting this little hamlet in Småland with early settlers in Central Texas. The church was beautiful, and we were told a wonderful story

about a young girl whose candlesticks still live in the church today. We got to see a nice organ that was donated by Sven Magnus Svensson.

Sven Magnus Svensson, one of the men whose grave we saw, left Sweden as a young man and immigrated to America in the hope of making a better life for himself. He started making big ranches in Texas, and offered settlers in Sweden a free move to America in exchange for one year of work. About 900 Barkeryd residents and 10,000 people from nearby communities took him up on his offer and came to Texas.

After a light lunch, we went to the "hembygdsföreningen" or homestead museum. The museum and surrounding buildings were enclosed by a traditional Småland wooden fence. It was very interesting to see the traditional farming equipment and textiles that the settlers used back then. We were also able to see a red, white, and blue room dedicated to Texas. It discussed everything relating to immigration to Texas, as well as



information about the Lucia program. I saw letters from Swedish immigrants discussing difficult traveling conditions, and how they were living once they arrived. There were even pictures of all eighteen Lucias, including myself!

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Anita and Pelle had prepared a wonderful dinner for us later that evening. It was delicious, and my family and I were very grateful. Later, I got to practice my speech for Inga Lisa. I recited it, and to



my relief and surprise, she said that I did great; I just needed to make sure that I went a little slower the next day in front of all the fluent speakers. The next morning, we had a really nice and delicious brunch at Alf Carlsson's house. Then it was off to the festival.

The parade was really fun and exciting for me. There were people dressed in traditional Swedish dress, folk costumes, a marvelous band, a choir, and horse-drawn carriages. The band played as the parade made its way down the road into the festival. Inga Lisa and I were led in on a horse-drawn

carriage waving Texas flags. The festival featured several local artists selling their homemade handicrafts. Beautiful quilts and wooden crafts were everywhere. There was coffee, homemade candy, and pastries galore! Many locals were dressed in traditional Swedish dress, while others, including my family, sported Texan dress. It was soon time for my speech, and Inga Lisa

introduced my family and I to the crowd. The speech went well, and afterwards I was grateful to receive a replica of the candlestick from the Barkeryd church. It is beautiful, and sits in my room to this day.

After the speech, my family and I had to rush back to the train station to catch the train back to Copenhagen, where our flight back to Texas left from the next morning. I had a wonderful time representing the Swedish Club of Houston in Barkeryd this summer. I want to thank everyone involved, including Inga Lisa and Gusten Calissendorff, Anita and



Pelle Johansson, Alf Karlsson, the Swedish Club of Houston, Scandinavian Airlines, Margaret St.Clair and the people of Barkeryd. Each of you made my experience a much better one because of all your hard work and appreciation. Thank you again for everything!



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It's not too early to start thinking about Christmas . . .

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AND LUCIA CELEBRATION 2006

Saturday, December 9, 2006 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. Christ the King Lutheran Church 2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston, TX 77005

Celebrate the Christmas season with the Swedish Club, Swedish style! First there will be a short church service, during which the Club's 2006 Lucia will be presented. Then we will continue the celebration with other festivities, such as sampling Swedish cookies, coffee, lingonsaft, lussekatter and glögg, singing and dancing around the Christmas tree, and doing some holiday shopping at our Swedish bazaar. There will also be a raffle, a bake sale and a fiskdamm for the children.

All of this is free of charge and open to the public. See you there!

Please note: Those of you who would like for your children or grandchildren to participate in the Lucia procession as attendants, please see the Lucia application on page 7 or contact Nancy Webb at Nancy.Webb@kelsey-seybold.com or 713-661-1011.

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

Are you looking for just the right Swedish item for someone on your Christmas list? If you have attended our Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebrations in the past, you know that the club offers many fine Swedish imports for sale in our bazaar.

The club buys the items at 30%-40% off retail, and our markup is small, so it is a wonderful buying opportunity. Nancy Webb, Co-Chair for the 2006 event, welcomes your suggestions and requests for items you would like to purchase this year. Please contact Nancy at 713-661-1011 or Nancy.Webb@kelsey-seybold.com before October 20 with your requests.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

In order to assure that the club has a successful 2006 Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration, we need YOUR help. Last year's event was a huge success, and we think that this year's celebration could be even bigger! But that requires the help of many people, not just a few.

Please read the jobs listed below and contact Nancy Webb to let her know where you can work. Help is needed in all areas.

CHAIRMEN NEEDED:

Kitchen and refreshments

Bake Sale

Raffle

Decorations -

Christmas tree

Tables and walls

Julgranskarameller

Song leader for singing/dancing around the tree

Fish pond

Bazaar

Guest check-in

HELPER JOBS:

Kitchen/refreshment workers (8)

Many, many people to bake Swedish cookies for refreshments (recipes can be supplied if you need them)

Make cakes, cookies, breads, candy for the Bake Sale

6 people to sell raffle tickets

Sales help for bazaar

Make craft items for bazaar

Greeters for the sanctuary and gym

Set up

Cleanup

Please contact Nancy Webb at 713-661-1011 or Nancy. Webb@kelsey-seybold.com and indicate which job—whether large or small—you want, in order to make this year's Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration the best one ever!

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2006 SWEDISH CLUB LUCIA



Applications for the Swedish Club of Houston's 2006 Lucia are now being accepted. Our 2006 Lucia will be presented at the annual Swedish Christmas Traditions and Lucia Procession scheduled for Saturday, December 9, 2006, 4:00-6:30 p.m., at Christ the King Lutheran Church near Rice Village. 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.

Candidates for Lucia must be single young women between the ages of 16 and 24, who are members of the club (either individual or as part of a family membership, including granddaughters). They must be able to attend the Swedish Traditions program on December 9, and also must be able to represent the Club at the Texas Day Celebration and parade in Barkeryd, Sweden, on the first weekend of August 2007. Round-trip airfare for our 2006 Lucia will be provided from Chicago to Sweden, but 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, which 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.

NOTE: Lucia candidates, in addition to completing the application below, must also write a short *essay* about their Swedish heritage, their interests and why they would like to represent the Club in Sweden, and must provide a *current photo* of themselves. 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), cochairs of the 2006 Lucia program.

APPLICATION FOR 2006 LUCIA CANDIDATES, A	
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 September 26, 2006.	with your application, postmarked by

Mail applications and enclosures to:

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

Lucia Candidate Requirements: (1) single, 16-24 years of age; (2) member of The Swedish Club of Houston (either individual or as part of a family membership, including granddaughters); (3) available for the Club's Christmas Traditions program on December 9, 2006; (4) able to represent The Swedish Club of Houston at Barkeryd, Sweden, on the first weekend of August 2007; and (5) write an article for The Swedish Club News on your return from Sweden.

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Dining with the Directors

Swedish Club board meetings are held monthly on Wednesday evenings, August through May, at IKEA. All members are welcome to join us in the upstairs dining room at 6:30 p.m. to enjoy a Swedish meal together. At 7:00, we adjourn to a meeting room. We'd love to hear your comments and ideas!

Our meeting dates for the remainder of 2006 are listed below:

Wednesday, September 20 Wednesday, October 11 Wednesday, December 6

Please call President Margaret St. Clair at 281-493-4978 to confirm the dates and for information.

Christmas Is Just Around the Corner . . .

The Norwegian Seamen's Church of Houston will hold its Annual Christmas Bazaar on November 3-5, 2006. Come and experience the culture and flavor of Scandinavia in Houston! Shop for unique Christmas gifts of Norwegian pewter and crystal, Swedish linens, knitwear, trolls, jewelry, handmade embroidery and holiday crafts.

The bakery will sell homemade breads and Christmas cookies. Also available in the Norwegian store will be a wide selection of Scandinavian foods, cheeses, chocolate and more! The cafeteria will offer open-faced sandwiches, cakes, waffles and Norwegian cream cakes for sale.

Other activities include a Silent Auction, which will be open all three days, closing at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. Instant Raffles will be held each day, with a highlight being the raffle of a 7-day Caribbean cruise! Demonstrations will include woodcarving, Hardanger embroidery and other Norwegian handicrafts. And the Scandinavian Dancers of Houston will entertain guests!

OPENING HOURS:

Friday, November 3: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, November 4: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, November 5: Noon-4 p.m.

The Norwegian Seamen's Church of Houston is located at 4309 Young Street, Pasadena, Texas 77504 (281-998-8366).

Swede's Restaurant and Catering

A Restaurant Review by Diana Rodionov
While I was in San Antonio for six weeks this
summer, I would go to the best restaurant in town at
least once a week for lunch: Swede's Restaurant and
Catering, 6989 Blanco Road, just south of Loop 410,
(210) 340-1980. The owner and chef's grandparents
were immigrants from Sweden. Carl Stolhandske
graduated from the Culinary School in Boxholm,
Sweden.

The excellent food is mostly not Swedish, but the restaurant has 100% Swedish decor. Besides the regular menu, there is a selection of daily specials.

The restaurant is open Monday-Friday for lunch (11:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.), and on Thursday evening (6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.), supper is served, with more elegant meals. During December, each Tuesday and Thursday Swedish food is offered on the menu.

Next time you are in San Antonio at lunchtime, try Swede's for a great meal in a Swedish atmosphere.



Please take note of the upcoming dates and events for The Swedish Club:

Monday, September 25, 6:30 p.m. - Registration for Beginner and Intermediate Swedish Language School classes at IKEA; classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and then meet weekly on Mondays, 7-9 p.m.

Tuesday, September 26 - Postmark deadline for Lucia applications.

Tuesday, September 26 - Registration for Advanced Swedish Language School class at IKEA; class begins at 7:00 p.m. and then meets weekly on Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.

Saturday, October 28, 6:30 p.m. - Smörgåsbord, at BraeBurn Country Club.

Saturday, December 9, 4:00 p.m. - Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration, at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

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A Blast from the Past: The Swedish Club 1986

Can you match the names with the faces??



These pictures were taken at the first meeting of The Swedish Club of Houston, held at the home of Consul and Mrs. Roger Westrup. Thank you, Inga Lisa Calissendorff, for sending these and the pictures below, also from 1986!

Consul Roger Westrup
Jan Dryselius
Nancy Westrup
Birger and Gunhild Jansson
Gusten and Inga Lisa
Calissendorff
Per and Marjorie Reich
Carina Leavens
Mary Dryselius
Runa Joslyn





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Revels 2006: A Nordic Celebration

Revels Houston will journey to the Scandinavian countries in December, through the music of Karelian Folk Music Ensemble; the Norwegian dance troupe, Småjondølane; Hardanger fiddler Toby Weinberg; nyckleharpist Ginny Lee; and other entertainers. SCH's own Webmaster, Erich Wolz, is a member of the adult chorus for this year's Revels production.

Performances of the 2006 Christmas Revels will take place on December 9, 2:30 and 8 p.m.; December 10, 2:30 p.m.; December 16, 2:30 and 8 p.m.; and December 17, 2:30 p.m., at Moore's Opera House on the University of Houston campus.

Ticket prices are \$18-\$30 for adults; children (15 and under) ½ adult price; students (on day of show only with ID) ½ adult price. Group discounts are available. Tickets are available to the general public October 24-December 15, and may be ordered by mail (1415 California Street, Houston, TX 77006), phone (713-669-9528) or online (www.revelshouston.org).

Contact Diana Rodionov (281-636-8153 or drodionov@houston.rr.com) by October 14 if you are interested in a group discount.

Exciting Things are Happening in Old "New Sweden" . . .

News from Aleasa Hogate

Plans are underway to relocate The New Sweden Centre, a museum on early colonial history, with an emphasis on Life in New Sweden Colony. It will include a "Please touch" area, and our newly released video production will be available for viewing and purchase.

The museum will be housed in the old carving shop of the Kalmar Nyckel Shipyard in Wilmington, Delaware, near the place where the Swedes landed, the Carl Milles Monument and the home port of the Kalmar Nyckel ship. This is a mutual effort. Kalmar Nyckel Foundation Senior Sawyers, volunteer carpenters, are remodeling the room. As Education Director and VP of New Sweden Centre, my job is to coordinate and set up exhibits in the museum. Work has just begun. Opening date is dependent upon the completion of renovations.

Hopefully some of you Texas Swedes will come visit the Rocks in Wilmington, where our Swedish ancestors landed. You can take a trip on the Kalmar Nyckel, a working replica of the ship that brought our ancestors to the new world. Although the first journey was made in 1638, only soldiers and sailors were aboard. It was not until 1640, after Fort Christina was built on the Christina River, that settlers began arriving.

Relocating the museum in close proximity to Delaware's tall ship, a popular tourist attraction, will serve to encourage more people to visit and learn about our New Sweden history and provide something of interest for guests who miss seeing the ship, if she is off sailing when they visit.

For more information check the following web sites:

http://www.colonialnewsweden.org/ (sorry,
this site needs updating)

www.kalmarnyckel.org (She's a beautiful ship.)

<u>www.SwedishHeritage.us</u> (my personal web site on my church boat research and New Sweden Heritage Monument in New Jersey)

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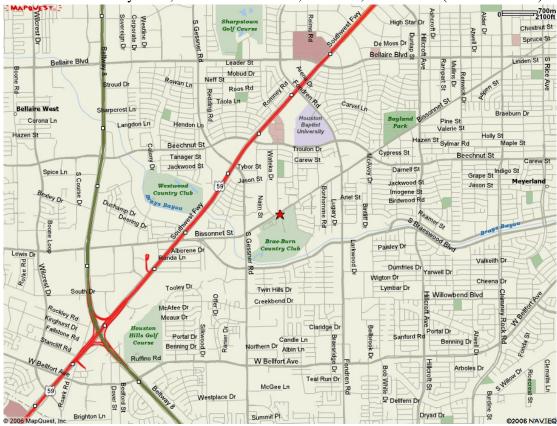
RESERVATION FORM FOR

Smörgåsbord - Saturday, October 28, 2006

(Must be received by Wednesday, October 25, for advance price)
Please make checks payable to "Swedish Club of Houston" and mail to:
Swedish Club of Houston, c/o Laura Millikan, 6102 S. Sumac Dr., Pearland, TX 77584

Name(s):			
Address:		Phone:	
E-mail address:			
Adult members (advance registration)	x \$25.00 =	\$	
Adult Non-members	x \$30.00 =	\$	
Children (12 and under)	x \$10.00 =	\$	
	Total	\$	

BraeBurn Country Club, 8101 Bissonnet St., Houston, TX 77074 (713-778-3824)



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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** to <u>limillikan@sbcglobal.net</u> or by post to the return address below.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

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

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Nancy Webb	Vice President	newebb@kelsey-seybold.com
Ken Nilsson	Treasurer	kennilsson88@msn.com
Diana Rodionov	Secretary	drodionov@houston.rr.com
Dina Colburn	Director	djcolburn@yahoo.com
Eric Condon	Director	econdon@houston.rr.com
Pelle Fisk	Director	PelleFisk@bigfoot.com
Laura Millikan	Newsletter Editor	ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net
Ingrid Philipson	Director	yourdreamhomewithingrid@yahoo.com
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Mark Swanson	Director	Mark.Swanson@lr.org
Erich Wolz	Webmaster	wolz@ev1.net

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c/o Laura Millikan 6102 S. Sumac Drive Pearland, TX 77584-8064