



# THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

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

## A Busy Spring

It looks like everyone was trying to get EVERYTHING done before the really hot weather set in- well they missed it.

The VikingFest this year was a really "HOT" festival. This event is sponsored by the Nordics in Texas meeting in Georgetown every even year. Lots of education and fun for the family in spite of the heat, See page 7 for more.

One of the privileges of being the editor that I won't forget for some time was the opportunity to meet and photograph the Swedish Ambassador to the USA , H.E. Jan Eliasson while he was in Houston leading a Nordic Trade Conference. See Page 2 and the next side column



Personally the Ambassador encouraged our Club to keep the culture going.

Our own Texas version of the Swedish Crayfish Party < **Kräftskiva** > was held early in April. Besides the Crayfish seasoned in sea salt and dill, there was lots of catfish, chicken, and fellowship. See page 3.

Remember you can see the newsletter and the pictures in full color on the Club website [www.swedishclub.org](http://www.swedishclub.org)

### **WANTED – YOUR RECIPE (s)**

We want your favorite Scandinavian recipes to form a Club Recipe Collection. PLEASE...

Send Word, Text, or simple email versions of the info above to [MaryLynnKoenig@bigfoot.com](mailto:MaryLynnKoenig@bigfoot.com) . . .

Please send paper copies of recipes to:  
Mary Lynn Koenig, 26951 Crown Haven Ct.  
Kingwood TX 77339

## Sweden's Contributions in the Fight against Terrorism

Sweden is an active partner in the world-wide coalition against terrorism and is contributing both nationally and in the context of international fora, primarily the EU and UN. The following is a brief account of some of the measures taken.

### Contributions in Afghanistan

An intelligence unit, tied to the UK Headquarters of ISAF (45 people)

Two C-130 transport aircraft in support of the ISAF

Liaison personnel in US CENTCOM, Tampa

Logistics support for humanitarian aid distribution provided by the Swedish Rescue Services Agency (some 20 professionals)

Bilateral humanitarian and reconstruction assistance amounting to 100 million dollars for the period 2002-2004, with an emphasis on health care and primary education

Sweden, together with its partners, has contributed to making the EU the largest international donor to Afghanistan, with a pledge at the Tokyo conference of over 500 million dollars for 200e (30% of total)

### Measures Implemented Nationally

UN Security Council Resolution 1373 of September 28, 2001 is incorporated into Swedish law through EU Regulation 2580 and EU Common Poitions of December 27, 2001

Legislation to implement the UN Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism will enter into force on July 1, 2002

Sweden has frozen funds and assets belonging to entities and individuals named on lists pursuant to UN Resolutions 1267 and 1333.

### Activities in International Fora <Forum>

Sweden is hosting and chairing the Stockholm Process, aiming at making the UN Security Council's sanctions more effective, including ensuring a more efficient compliance and enforcement.

Sweden is an active participant in the multilateral Financial Action Task Force, FATF, to strengthen the instruments to combat terrorism financing.

*Used by permission of the Swedish Embassy  
See their Website address on page 2*

**Nordic Ambassadors in Houston**  
**Describe Scandinavia as Sleeping Tigers**

All five Nordic countries were represented in a conference on “Opportunities in Bilateral Trade between the Nordic Region and the USA.”

Describing themselves as working together more than they ever had before, they used the “Sleeping Tiger” illustration as sleeping on problems but tigerly aggressive in helping business.

Shown below speaking for Sweden was H.E. Jan Eliasson, Ambassador of Sweden now officed in Washington,DC.



The Nordic Countries were all working together to increase trade “bilaterally”, of course.

A summary follows:

- USA is a big partner but is influenced too much by lawyers and politicians.
- Needed are more exchange training activities and not just with H.S. and College students , but also teachers and business people.
- A company providing one Nordic Representative has a great opportunity to cover not only all of Scandinavia but also the formerly Russian areas around the Baltic Sea.
- Many people think NOKIA is Japanese instead of Nordic (Finland).
- “GLOBALIZATION =FREE TRADE”
- “If trade doesn’t cross borders, guns will.” a quote from the Prime Minister of Denmark.
- Finland was the only country not represented by an ambassador. The Trade

Minister had to fill in because the Finnish President wanted his Ambassador with him as he was meeting with President Bush that very day.

- Problem (unfair tariffs) with USA trade were of Norwegian Fresh Salmon, Swedish Steel, Finnish Oats, & Icelandic Lamb,
- There are 44 Nordic owned business in Houston.
- The US Department of Commerce has been and can be very helpful in establishing business contacts.
- Ms. Erin Cole, DOC Coordinator for the Nordic Countries suggested starting out looking at the websites: [www.export.gov](http://www.export.gov) and [www.buyusa.com](http://www.buyusa.com)

The conference was sponsored by the Greater Houston Partnership (CoC) and the Houston Nordic Consular offices. Shown below is our own member - Consul Jan Dryselius with Ambassador Jan Eliasson.



Both “Jans” have new websites, although under development the sites are even now informative:  
<http://www.swedishconsulate.org/>  
<http://www.swedish-embassy.org/index.html>

**COMING EVENTS OF INTEREST**

- June 6<sup>th</sup> - Celebrate Swedish National/Flag Day**
- June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> - See the Gulf Coast Scandinavian Dancers at the Texas Folklife Festival- San Antonio.**
- June 14<sup>th</sup> - USA Flag Day- Show It!**
- Oct 12<sup>th</sup> – Swedish Club Smörgasbord**
- Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – Lucia and Jul Traditions**

## Follow-up on Kräftskivan - <Crayfish Party >

The annual crayfish party this year was a finely tuned, FUN & FOOD operation thanks to John Stavinoha and The Monument Inn.



VP Ingrid Melrose presided sharing a greeting and introducing Lucia 2002 and the Calissendorfs who will meet again in Sweden this summer.



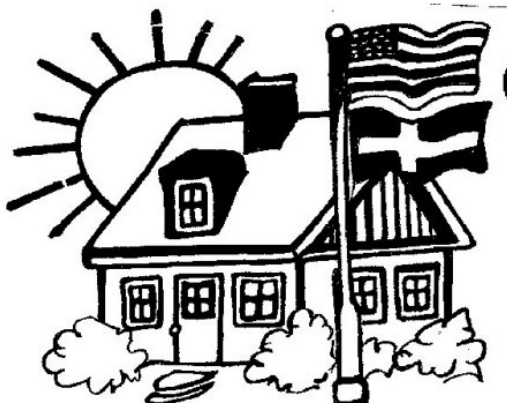
Gusten and Ingalisa Calissendorf with Lucia2002 AlanaClarke and her parents Allan & Carol took timeout for a picture while planning for the summer trip to Sweden.

89 adults and 12 kids attended devouring 100 pounds of crayfish plus lots of chicken and fish.

Who ever know that seasalt and dill could replace Rex or Zataran's Crab Boil? Everyone seemed to enjoy the Swedish flavorings.



And the Fellowship.



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## MEMBER'S TRIPS TO SWEDEN

### A RETURN TO THE PAST

It had been almost 40 years since I first crossed by ferry from Helsingør on the Denmark side of Öresund to Helsingborg, on the Sweden side of the sound. I had traveled from my hometown in Pampa, Texas by train to New Orleans, where I embarked as one of 12 passengers on a Dutch cargo freighter to Amsterdam via Savannah and LeHavre. The final legs of my 3-week journey, which was exciting for an 18 year old escaping a small Texas town, was via train to Copenhagen then onward to Helsingør for the ferry crossing to my ultimate destination – Helsingborg – where I would live with the Jonsson family for a year while attending school.

That first ferry crossing was in the summer of 1963. Now it was 2002, and although not the first time that I had returned to visit, it was the first time I had returned via the same ferry routing. As the ferry approached the Swedish side I had a return of my initial excitement when I saw Kärnan, the dominating fortress at the top of the terraced bluff overlooking the city of Helsingborg, then the beautiful Rådhus.



The bluff is also home to my former school, now Nikolaiskolan but formerly Högre Allmänna Läroverket för Gossar, and the sight of it brought back a flood of wonderful memories.

It was a year that defined me for who I am today. In the first place, I was determined to learn Swedish in the six weeks prior to the start of school. My Swedish “father,” Sven, was a customs officer who worked hard and tended the huge garden at our home, where just about every fruit

and vegetable popped forth in its appropriate growing season. Each evening, he had me read the newspaper, and he patiently corrected my pronunciation and was probably responsible for the fact that I got the regional Skaene dialect as perfectly as possible. Inez, my “mother,” was a great housekeeper and preparer of wonderful food, but did not speak English. I was always happy to dry dishes, or go shopping or walking with her, because she rapidly increased my vocabulary and had the ability to make me understand what a word meant without resorting to translating it to English. Christer, my Swedish “brother,” was and still is an amazing linguist. He was able to provide me with constant instruction in syntax and grammar.

When school started, I was ready. I could follow along with most subjects, but they quickly took me out of chemistry before I hurt someone with mixing the wrong chemicals. It was a “gymnasium” which, in those days, was segregated as an all boys school. My classmates soon discovered I was not an ordinary American – I was a Texan! They liked that, and I quickly had about 24 new acquaintances who gradually became good friends. The school week went from Monday through Saturday noon, and at the end of the week we all rushed from the school and down the steps from the terrace at Kärnan, to catch the ferry to Helsingør and have a beer and hot dog on the way over, buy an ice cream waffle cone in a little shop near the ferry station, then take the ferry back to Helsingborg. I looked forward to each Saturday. Öresund became a part of my being.



## MEMBER'S TRIPS TO SWEDEN

The Helsingør-Helsingborg gateway from Denmark to Sweden, for visitors to the southern parts of Sweden who first arrive in Copenhagen, is not in so much use now, since the new Öresund bridge for trains and cars now provides easy access between Copenhagen and Malmö. But this is a wonderful gateway to use, because it affords visits to many wonderful sites on both sides of the sound, which I recommend to people. The gateway was perfect for me on this trip, because my Danish friend and I had rented a wonderful cottage on the north shore of Sjaeland, the large Danish island which also hosts Copenhagen, for the last two weeks of March. The Gilleleje location of the cottage afforded me the opportunity to make day trips to explore the castle of Frederiksborg in Hillerød, to see the crown jewels at Rosenborg castle as well as view Christianborg and Amalienborg castles in central Copenhagen (and shop, of course, along the pedestrian street of Stroegtet), and to spend a long and beautiful afternoon at the world-class Louisiana gallery along the sea (where there was a special exhibit of the works of Georgia O'Keefe).

Of special importance was the ability to take a small private train to Helsingør, which itself is home to the famous Kronborg castle, also known as Hamlet's castle, affording me access on several occasions to visit my Swedish family. On the first Sunday, I met Inez (now 85), an aunt named Bettan (now 92), and Christer and his wife Evy for a wonderful lunch at a restaurant on the harbor. Later in the week I took the ferry back to Helsingborg and caught a train to Lund for a quiet lunch at the magnificent Grand Hotel with Christer, who is now a senior member in the Political Science department at the University of Lund. Lunch there is a "tradition" each time I visit, and we had lots to discuss concerning the upcoming marriage of his daughter, whose wedding will be on the southeast coast of Sweden this summer, and I, of course, already have my ticket. My final trip across the sound was for a lunch Inez prepared for me at home – a delicious poached salmon steak with hollandaise sauce and boiled potatoes – and the opportunity to visit with her alone and brush up on my Swedish. She still lets me dry the dishes.

I wish every young person in the world could live for a year with a family in a different culture, study in their school system, and have to learn their language to do so. It would be a different world than we know it. And it would give them a special place to which they would hopefully also wish to return from time to time.

Gordon Bayless

### Margit Winstrom, M.D., F.A.A.F.P



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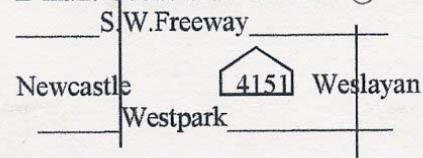
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## Folkdancers Have A Busy Spring

After a nice Christmas break, we began practicing again in mid-January. The focus in January and February was just to dance for the fun of it. We did not have any performances scheduled, so we just focused on bringing our new members up to speed on the different steps used for Scandinavian folkdancing.

Folkdancing is always a learning experience, so it was nice to kick back and not concentrate on a performance routine. I was able to see that over the years, some of my technique had slipped quite a lot!

By March, we had an idea of where our upcoming performances were going to be. We planned on dancing in Danevang TX on the afternoon of Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> and in the evening we were scheduled to dance at the International Festival in Houston. This was going to allow us to dance at the Viking Fest in Georgetown the weekend of April 27 & 28. However, a troupe from France requested our time slot on Saturday evening, so we had to relinquish it. The folks at the International Festival have always been kind to us, and they allowed us to have the folkdance group from Gotland perform last year, so we figured that we should accommodate the French troupe.

We had to re-schedule to Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. This prevented us from going to Georgetown to dance.

Our trip to Danevang was a whole lot of fun.

Danevang promotes itself as “The Danish Capital of Texas”. I do not dispute that one bit! It is a small farming community a few miles east of El Campo. They have a Danish heritage museum that is very well done. They had a celebration of Queen Margaretha’s birthday on April 20<sup>th</sup>. It was an afternoon of games, travel shows, folk dancing and eating.

The people of the town are proud of their heritage. They are a wonderful audience, and one would be hard pressed to find a more generous group of people. When the dance group was planning events to dance at this year, it was unanimous that we wanted to go back to Danevang.

The International Festival is another fun venue.

We closed down the festival by dancing from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Sunday. If I had to use one word to describe the experience, it would be HOT. It was unseasonably warm, so we all ended up sweating rather profusely. But, our dances went smoothly and we had some nice audience participation. It was a shame that the festival ended right as we finished, but we did get to wander around the grounds a bit beforehand.

Our next performance will be at the Danish club’s annual meeting on June 1. After that, it is on to the Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. We will have 2 (and possibly 3) new musicians in our group. They are Swedish Club members Vassily & Diana Rodianov and their son Andrew. Vassily and Diana play the fiddle and Andrew plays the guitar. They will join Keith Rogers (fiddle) and his daughter Emma (fiddle), along with Joyce Calderon (accordion). We are beginning to have quite a good group of musicians!

As you can see, we keep busy with practices and performances. It is a lot of fun, and it is a good way to completely escape your normal life for a couple of hours a week. If you have any questions or are interested in seeing what Scandinavian Folkdancing is all about, you can give me (Jay Flusche) a call at 713.777.2824, or you can call our director, Howard Phillips, at 713.661.5619.

If you are out and about, and you see us perform, make sure that you stop by and say hello. It is always nice to see our friends from the Swedish Club.

By Jay Flusche



## FOLLOW-UP ON VIKING FEST 2002

The biennial Scandinavian festival on April 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> in Georgetown was both HOT and educational.

The Heritage Hall demonstration area included Nordic craft demos of cooking, spinning, weaving, sewing, and chain mailing.



In Heritage Hall lecture area, one of the lecturers was Vera-Elisabeth Littlejohn. She provided an increased appreciation of the involvement of women in the Viking culture beyond domestic engineering and child rearing..



The Society for Creative Anachronism included typical tents, crafts, cooking, and a Viking longboat.



With two areas this year, music was abundant. One of our favorites was the two piece band named "Scandia" from St. Augustine, FL who put forth Nordic music from a fiddle and a squeezebox. Since the fiddler was "Nordic by Marriage", they could put forth great Cajun music as well when requested.

This years Fest was under the direction of Shelia Lee of the Houston Linneas. She is shown below checking out the remote areas and giving some BarnBarns a ride in the shade.



See the VF website for more information on the possibilities of our Clubs participation with the other Nordic Clubs of Texas. Also see Scholarship Papers on Nordic subjects and info for future scholarships that are available there:

<http://www.vikingfest.com/org.html>

### WANTED TWO DELEGATES to VF2004

The Board is looking for two persons willing to help with the VF and be our club's representatives.

They meet 4 times a year in Waco TX on Saturdays.



# THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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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.

Please send the news by email to [arvid@johanson.net](mailto:arvid@johanson.net) or when necessary by post to Arvid Johanson, 2010 Dowling Drive, Richmond TX 77469-5114.

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YOUR Recipes  
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X

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May 2002  
EventsLine = 713.774.2739



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