



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston
Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

PEA SOUP AND PANCAKES AND ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, January 28, 2007

It's that time of year again—time for The Swedish Club of Houston's Annual Meeting, which means it is also time for pea soup and pancakes.

Although, according to a couple of sources, Swedish pancakes are traditionally eaten as a dessert with pea soup on Thursdays, our pea soup and pancake supper will be on Sunday this year—**Sunday, January 28th**, at **Buffalo Grille**, 3116 Bissonnet, Houston 77005. The cost for adults is \$15, and \$5 for children (3-12).



The menu will include:

- Pea Soup (homemade by our Board!) with sides of marjoram, mustard and thyme
- Knäckebröd and cheese
- Swedish Pancakes with berry sauces and whipped cream
- Coffee, soft drinks, Swedish punsch

Cash bar will open at 6:15 p.m.; **meal** will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Please **RSVP**, no later than Monday, January 22nd, by completing and mailing the form on page 7.

PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING! It is only once a year that we have a business meeting and bring up issues directly related to the viability of the club. **WE NEED YOUR INPUT!**

The agenda for the meeting will include:

- Treasurer's Report
- Membership Report
- State of the Club Report
- Nominations and Election of Officers and Directors
- Tentative Calendar of Events
- Open Forum on Club Activities

PLEASE NOTE: A **new dues year** began January 1st. You may send in your dues and the enclosed membership form either with your reservation for the pea soup and pancake supper or separately by January 31st.



President's Column by Margaret St.Clair

Happy New Year! I hope that your holidays were wonderful! I love this time of year. The pace of life is a bit slower. It gives me time to

evaluate the old year and make plans for the new. The same is true for The Swedish Club. In contemplating 2006, I realize that our club has hosted some exceptionally fine events which were made possible by some exceptionally hard-working members. I look forward to an even better year in 2007.

We began in January with our Annual Meeting/Pea Soup and Pancake Supper at the beautiful Inwood Country Club. Pelle Fisk, Gunhild Jansson and Chuck Nelson did an excellent job planning the event. Fine food and fellowship were enjoyed by the 55 guests who were in attendance.

April brought two events. The first was the Kräftskiva (Crawfish Party) held at the Monument Inn. We had a higher turnout than expected (73 guests) so an adjacent dining room had to be opened for us. Swedish-style food, drink, music and song were enjoyed by all! As usual, John Stavinotha did an outstanding job organizing the party.

Later in April, the club celebrated the coming of spring (Valborgsmässoafton) at Drs. Margit Winstrom's and Bill Riley's ranch outside of Brenham. Just as in Sweden, we had a bonfire, games, singing and excellent food. Pelle Fisk and Eric Condon were the hard-working co-chairs.

The annual Smörgåsbord was served the last Saturday in October at the BraeBurn Country Club. The event was a very special one because it commemorated the 20th anniversary of the founding of The Swedish Club. With 113 guests in attendance, everyone was in a celebratory mood as we reminisced and sang to the future of the club. The Stavinothas worked with the chef who prepared an excellent table.

Our last organized club event for the year was the Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration held at Christ the King Lutheran Church. Nancy Webb and

Diana Rodionov did an outstanding job coordinating the big event. Our Lucia, Morgan Halvorsen, led her attendants in a beautiful ceremony. Afterwards everyone enjoyed refreshments and traditional celebrations in the gym.

This is just a short summary of events for 2006. I cannot, in the space here, thank all who have volunteered their time and talents during the year. And, as with most clubs, we are always in need of more folks who are willing to serve in any capacity whether large or small. We have something for everyone! If you would like to serve on the board, we have a couple of vacancies to fill. If you have a talent in organizing, there are committee chairmanships available. If you like to bake, then we can use your talents at our Lucia Celebration. The list of opportunities goes on and on!! So I hope to hear from you! Just call me at 281-493-4978.

So let's start the New Year off the right way. Come to the Annual Meeting/Pea Soup and Pancake Supper on Sunday, January 28th, at the Buffalo Grille. Come with your ideas and a willingness to volunteer—and be prepared to have a good time in the process!

Vi ses,

Margaret

Swedish Club to Host Reception Following Organ Vespers January 14

The Swedish Club will host a reception following the organ vespers at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2353 Rice Blvd., on Sunday, January 14, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. Vespers will be played by Magnus Kjellson of Göteborg, Sweden. Kjellson is founder and artistic director of Göteborg Baroque Soloists, and was featured on the CDs *Gertrudenmusik: Hamburg 1607* and *Dietrich Buxtehude: Abendmusik*. Everyone is invited to this event, sponsored by the Bach Society of Houston.

NOTE: Members are needed to help with the reception. Please call Dina Colburn at 281-495-4658, for more information and to volunteer.

Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen 2006

by Nancy Webb

The Swedish Club hosted our annual Luciadagen and Swedish Christmas traditions celebration at Christ the King Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 9. The candle-lit sanctuary was a beautiful setting for our Lucia service led by Pastor Robert Moore. Approximately 200 were in attendance.



Lucia 2006, Morgan Halvorsen, with her attendants

Jonathan Wohlers, the church organist, accompanied our soloists, Veronica Butler and Howard Phillips. Morgan Halvorsen was a radiant Lucia, accompanied by her entourage of attendants and starboys. Morgan's grandmother, Florence Halvorsen, was a Lucia at the Zion Lutheran Church in Galveston in 1956—50 years ago!



Morgan with SCH President, Margaret St.Clair, and Liz Cadwallader

Special thanks to Liz Cadwallader, who came from Austin to help prepare Lucia and her attendants. She and her mother also created beautiful Swedish folk dresses, worn by Margaret St.Clair and Nancy Webb.

Our Lucia reception was delightful! Carol Clarke and Margaret St.Clair, assisted by Emmie Swanson, Bertha Nilsson, Athena Flusche and Linda Wooten, provided and served delicious refreshments of Lucia buns, cookies, coffee, punch and glögg! Many thanks go to all who contributed cookies and other baked goods for the reception and bake sale.

Diana Rodionov mesmerized the children with her storytelling, and Howard Phillips enthusiastically led the group in folk-dancing. The dancing and celebrating were accompanied by the music of our accomplished musicians, Joyce Calderon and Vas and Diana Rodionov. And the Jul Tomte (a.k.a. Allan Clarke) made a surprise appearance.



Diana Rodionov tells the story of the jul tomte

Many thanks to Jay Flusche for the beautifully decorated Christmas tree and to Sjerrie Colburn for selling raffle tickets. We are also thankful for the generous donation by SAS of Morgan's airline ticket to Sweden next summer to represent the Club at the annual Swedish-Texas Barkeryd festival.

We appreciate the use of SWEA Houston's table decorations, and the support of IKEA, Roland's Swiss Bakery, Skandisk, and Anderson Butik for the raffle and bazaar. Thanks also to Rod Anderson's family for once again organizing and hosting the bazaar. The entire event was a glorious celebration.

Luciadagen . . .



Children wait patiently before processional



Star boys are ready to go



Lucia's candles are lit by Liz Cadwallader



and Christmas Traditions, 2006



Florence Halvorsen, Morgan's grandmother, and event co-chairs, Diana Rodionov and Nancy Webb



Everyone listens intently to the story of the jul tomte



Joyce Calderon sells her handcrafted rosemaling projects



Howard Phillips leads everyone in folk dancing

. . . and a great time was had by all!!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SWEDISH PASSPORT CHANGES

Swedish passport application procedures will change in 2007 to increase the security of travel documents. One major change is that honorary consulates, such as the one in Houston, will no longer act as passport offices. This means that after March 1, 2007, Swedes in need of a new Swedish passport will have to go to New York and the Swedish Consulate General to apply for a passport, or they can plan to renew the passport while in Sweden during 2007.

The new procedure also means that a person who is applying for a new, regular passport must make two personal visits. The first visit will be to submit the application and the second to pick up the passport or identity card when it is ready.

For more information about the new procedures, please contact the Consulate of Sweden in Houston at 713.953.1417 or houston@consulateofsweden.org, or check the website of the Swedish Police, www.polisen.se.

Sweden's First Astronaut Returns from Space

Christer Fuglesang, Sweden's first astronaut, has just returned from his first trip into space. Fuglesang was born in Stockholm in 1957. He graduated in 1987 in experimental particle physics from Stockholm University, where he became a lecturer in 1991. In 1992, he was accepted into astronaut training by the European Space Agency and trained in Russia in preparation for a mission to the (now defunct) space station MIR in 1993-96. He served as back-up crew for the 1995 Euro-Mir mission and played an important role at mission control as crew interface coordinator during the 6-month-long mission.

In 1996, Fuglesang relocated to NASA in Houston and became the first person to train in both the Russian cosmonaut and American astronaut programs. He completed his training in 1998 as a space shuttle mission specialist.

You can read about Fuglesang's space adventures on his personal space-blog at <http://www.fuglesang.blogspot.com/>.

Language Classes Resume

After a break for the holidays, Swedish language classes will resume for the spring semester. Former students or persons with some knowledge of Swedish are welcome to join the classes. For more information, please contact John Stavinoha at 713-661-0159 or by e-mail at John.Stavinoha@memorialhermann.org.

FOR SALE—

Mary Beth Nolan wishes to sell a handmade girl's (size 10-12) Swedish national costume, (pictured at right) complete with shoes. Although she has not made the purse, she has all the fabric and appliques necessary to make it. For more information, you may contact Ms. Nolan at tambnolan@houston.rr.com.



Consulate of Sweden
SWEA of Houston, Swedish Club of Houston and
Swedish American Chamber of Commerce, Texas
cordially invite you to a dinner honoring

Christer Fuglesang

who will speak in Swedish about his work and mission

Thursday, January 18, 2007, at IKEA Houston, 7810 Katy Freeway at Antoine

Reception: 7:00 p.m.; Dinner: 7:30 p.m.

To register: Please complete and return the form by Wednesday, January 17, 2007,
with your check payable to:
Consulate of Sweden, 2909 Hillcroft, Suite 515, Houston, TX 77057-5852

Price per person: \$15

Please reserve for _____ person(s)

Amount enclosed: _____

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

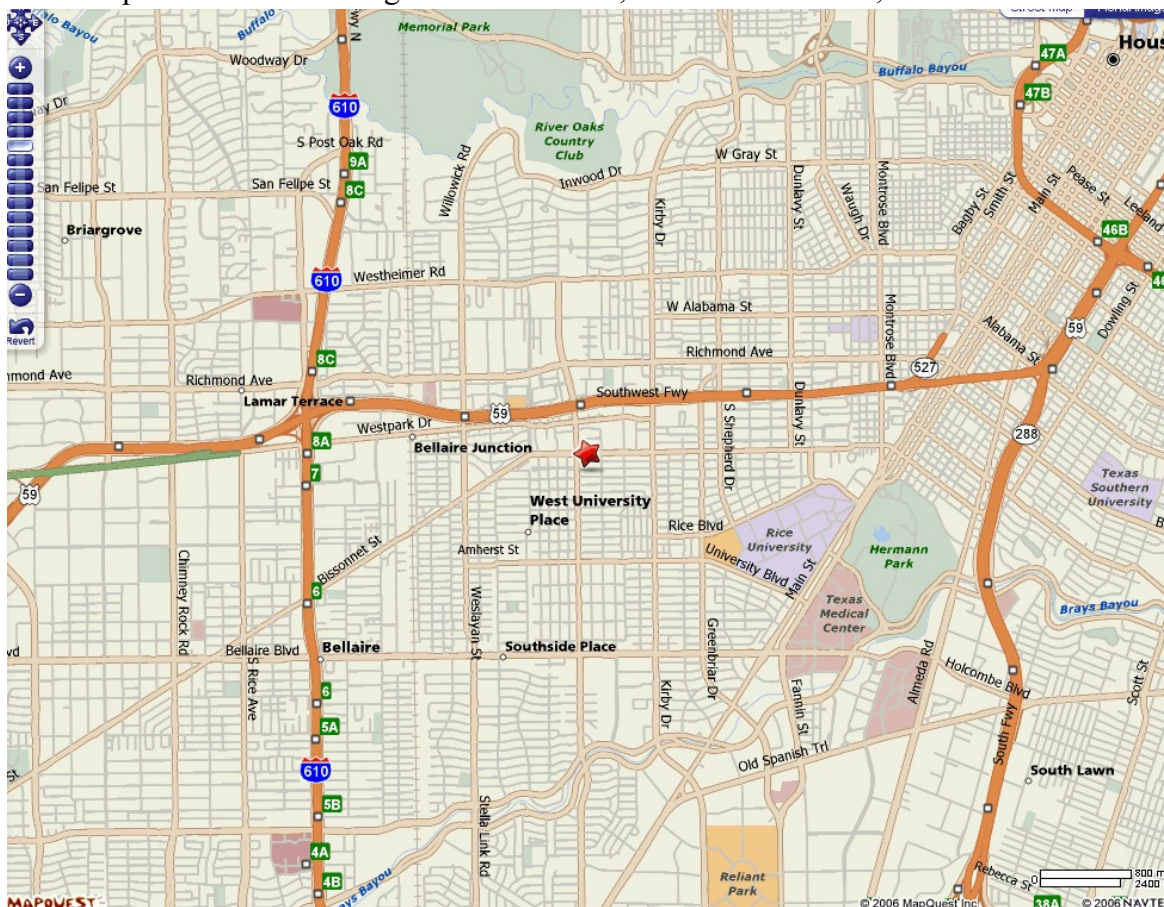
Please indicate your choice for dinner: () Lövbiff () Pannbiff () Kåldolmar
() Plommonspäckad Fläskkarre () Fiskgratäng med Duchessepotatis och Vitvinssås

No cancellations

For additional information please contact:

Britta Tenganhamm, The Consulate in Houston, at (713) 953-1417, or e-mail houston@consulateofsweden.org

Map for Annual Meeting at Buffalo Grille, 3116 Bissonnet St., Houston 77005



RESERVATION FORM

WHAT: Pancake and Pea Soup Dinner

WHEN: Sunday, January 28, 2007

WHERE: Buffalo Grille, 3116 Bissonnet, Houston 77005
(Reservation must be received by Monday, January 22nd, for dinner)

**Please make check payable to "Swedish Club of Houston" and
 mail to John Stavino, 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire TX 77401**

Name(s) _____

Telephone _____

Number of Member and Guest tickets _____ x \$15 = \$ _____

Number of Children (3-12 years) _____ x \$ 5 = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

Rediscover YOUR Swedish Roots

by becoming a MEMBER of the Swedish Club of Houston

The Swedish Club of Houston, founded in 1986, is dedicated to developing a sense of community and fellowship among people interested in Swedish heritage and is open to anyone with an interest in Sweden or things Swedish. The Club sponsors Swedish cultural and social events and provides educational opportunities in the Swedish language, folk dress, folk dance and folk music.

TYPICAL ANNUAL SOCIAL/CULTURAL EVENTS ARE:

Pea Soup and Pancake Supper - January 28, 2007

Crawfish Party - March or April, 2007

Valborgsmässoafton (Bonfire) - ~April 28, 2007

Smörgåsbord - ~October 20, 2007

Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration - December 8, 2007

TYPICAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Learn Swedish by taking a weekly class offered in the Fall and Spring semesters. The Club sponsors a Swedish Language School, with three levels of class offered, ranging from Beginners to Advanced. The classes have both written and conversational focus.

Learn how to folk dance. The Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston is an independent organization associated with the Swedish and other Scandinavian Clubs. Several of our members participate. You can learn dances from Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden. The folk dancers perform at a variety of cultural events throughout the state and at the Club's annual Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration.

Learn about other Swedish or Scandinavian events or opportunities happening nearby.

There is always something going on with The Swedish Club!

Check it out at www.swedishclub.org or

the Club Event Line at 713.774.2739

THE SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON
Membership Application/Renewal Form

Annual dues are \$35 for family membership and \$25 for individuals.
Mail this form, with your check, payable to "Swedish Club" to:

The Swedish Club of Houston
c/o John Stavinoha
807 Mulberry Lane
Bellaire, TX 77401

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address:

Contact Information:

Street: _____ Home: (____) _____

City: _____ Work: (____) _____

State: _____ Fax: (____) _____

ZIP: _____ E-mail: _____

The following optional information would help us plan club activities:

Single [] Married [] Spouse's Name: _____

Name(s) and year(s) of birth of children living at home:

Occupation: _____ Spouse's Occupation: _____

Hobbies: _____ Spouse's Hobbies: _____

How would YOU like to be involved in preserving and sharing Swedish heritage?

*More information is available on the Web at www.swedishclub.org
or on the events telephone line (713.774.2739).*

For Club Use Only:

Member # _____ Dues Paid (\$) _____ Date _____ Initial _____



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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 **YOUR NEWS** to ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net or 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

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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www.swedishclub.org

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Events Line = 713.774.2739



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