



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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

September/October

2008

Volume XXI-No. 5



President's Column by Margaret St. Clair

The year is flying by and before you know it, the holidays will be here! It's time to start thinking about Christmas shopping, family get-togethers and all the other details that the holidays entail. It is much the same for The Swedish Club. Planning is well underway for two events, our biggest of the year: *Smörgåsbord* and Christmas Traditions/Lucia Celebration.

Speaking of Lucia, our 2007 Lucia, Jenny Panahi, just returned from several weeks in Sweden. The highlight of her trip, I'm sure, was her traveling to Barkeryd, in Småland, where she represented the Club at Barkeryd's Texas-Swedish Festival on August 3rd. This was a special year for Barkeryd because Jenny was the 20th Lucia sent by our Club to the festival. In fact, all 20 Lucias were invited to attend, but only one other besides Jenny could come—Betsy Philen Hardy, Lucia 1994. Please read Jenny's story on page 4. Hopefully it will inspire other daughters (and granddaughters!) of our members to apply to be our next Lucia.

All interested girls, ages 16-24, must complete the application form on page 9. Note that it is to be postmarked no later than October 1st.

Our next event is *Smörgåsbord* on Saturday, October 25th. Once again it will take place at the beautiful BraeBurn Country Club. You don't want to miss it! I promise that it will be a fun evening of great Swedish food, music, dancing and *skåling*. Another highlight for the evening will be the introduction of our new Lucia 2008.

Not only is The Swedish Club busy with the above preparations, but also we have other activities to offer our members. Swedish Language School is scheduled to begin the end of September, two evenings a week at IKEA,

provided we can find teachers for the first and second year classes. John Stavinoha is coordinating this effort.

For those who like to travel, you should make your way to Marfa in west Texas anytime from October 11 through at least May 2009. That is when the Chinati Foundation will host a special exhibition by Swedish painter Olle Bærtling (1911-1981). Bærtling is widely considered to be Scandinavia's foremost abstract artist. To learn more about him and his art, go to page 6.

As you can see, The Swedish Club board is working hard for you! Please know that we always welcome volunteers to help with events or to serve on the board. To sign up, contact me or any board member using the information on the last page of this newsletter. Make plans now to be part of the action!

See you all at *Smörgåsbord* October 25th !

Margaret

Smörgåsbord 2008

Saturday, October 25

6:30 p.m. - Cash bar; 7:30 p.m. - Dinner
BraeBurn Country Club

Fall will soon be here, and that means it's time for *Smörgåsbord*, which will be held on Saturday, October 25, at BraeBurn Country Club, 8101 Bissonnet St., Houston. The cash bar will open at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m.

The price for Club members is \$25 (preregistered) or \$30 at the door; \$30 for nonmembers, and \$10 for children (12 and under).

Make reservations *online* on the SCH website (www.swedishclub.org); *by mail* using the form on page 8 (must be received by Wednesday, October 22nd for advance price), or *by phone* to Karen Wolz (713-283-8044). **Please note:** Reservations are not confirmed until the check is received.



Teachers Needed ASAP for Swedish Language Classes

Svenska lärare behövs för första och andra klasser. Svara till John Stavinoha, 713-823-5960 eller John.Stavinoha@memorialhermann.org.

Swedish teachers are needed for the first and second level classes. Reply to John Stavinoha, 713-823-5960 or John.Stavinoha@memorialhermann.org.

 The exhibit "From Småland, Sweden, to Big Land Texas" continues through the end of 2008 at the Williamson Museum in Georgetown, Texas. For information on museum hours and location, see http://www.williamsonmuseum.org/The_willamson_museum_exhibitbits.htm or call 512-943-1670.

 It's not too early to think about Christmas! The Norwegian Seamen's Church will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar Friday, November 7 (11 a.m.-5 p.m.); Saturday, November 8 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.); and Sunday, November 9 (12 noon-4 p.m.). The Norwegian Seamen's Church is located at 4309 Young St., Pasadena (281-998-8366).

BITS & PIECES

 Carrin Patman reports that the Steering Committee of the Swedish Excellence Endowment at UT is sponsoring a Swedish table at the campus-wide Study Abroad Fair on September 10th.

They will then follow up with a "Study in Sweden" recruitment party on September 23rd. At this usually well-attended event, interested students can hear from others who "have been there, done that," meet Swedish students, and talk with UT personnel who can answer their questions.

Carrin says these semi-annual parties have been extremely successful in encouraging students to seek Endowment scholarships, which, so far, have helped more than 40 benefit from exposure to the Swedish cultural and academic experience.

 Dianna Shapiro suggests that we all contact the Houston Public Library and request that they add the Rosetta Stone Swedish language course. The library currently offers online language learning courses for Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Vietnamese and will add others according to demand.

 Speaking of Swedish language courses, Transparent Language has launched a new Swedish Blog, a series of frequently published articles (written in English) about Swedish language and culture. The author, Anna Etmanska, is a current resident of Sweden who attended high school in the United States. Subscription to the blog is free, available by email or RSS. Check it out at: <http://www.transparent.com/swedish>.

Your Help Is Needed!

In order to make our Christmas Traditions and *Luciadagen* the success we all want it to be, we need you! Helpers are needed to

- bake Swedish cookies (recipes can be supplied)
- make baked goods/candies for Bake Sale
- make craft items for bazaar
- serve refreshments
- be a greeter for sanctuary and Parish Hall
- set-up and clean-up

To volunteer, please contact Nancy Webb (713-661-1011 or Nancy.Webb@kelsey-seybold.com) or Diana Rodionov (281-636-8153).



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Christmas Traditions and
Lucia Celebration 2008*

Saturday, December 13, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
Christ the King Lutheran Church
2353 Rice Blvd., Houston, TX 77005

Please note: If you would like for your children or grandchildren to participate in the Lucia procession as attendants, please see the Lucia application on page 9 or contact Nancy Webb at Nancy.Webb@kelsey-seybold.com or 713-661-1011.



From the Consulate . . .
 2909 Hillcroft St., Ste. 515
 Houston, TX 77057
 713-953-1417

*Fall Greetings from the
 Consulate of Sweden in Houston*

It may be time to update your address to the Swedish National Tax Board—that is, if you are a Swedish citizen living outside Sweden. You just fill out Form SKV 7842 "Ny adress/röstlängd för utvandrad, Anmälan." You can print the form from <http://www.skatteverket.se/blanketterbroschyrer/blankett/info/7842>.

Why, you may ask. With the correct address registered, you can visit the website www.skatteverket.se and order an extract of population registration (*personbevis*) for yourself and your family members.

With the correct address and an update at least every ten years, you can take part in elections: Swedes living abroad remain in the electoral register, and thereby maintain their right to vote for ten years after their emigration is officially recorded in the national register.

After 10 years, a written notification (you can use the form SKV 7842) must be submitted to the Swedish National Tax Board (*Skatteverket*) to retain the right to vote for an additional ten year period.

The completed notification form must be received by the National Tax Board at least 30 days before the election date. The form must be mailed to the National Tax Board at the following address:

Skatteverket
 Folkbokföringsenheten
 SE-881 52 Sollefteå
 SWEDEN

Upcoming elections include the 2009 Election for European Parliament and the 2010 General Election for the Swedish Parliament.

More information is available at the Swedish Election Authority website: www.val.se.

Wishing for more cheerful news, here comes one more serious tip about a website: Harris County Homeland Security & Emergency Management, www.hcoem.org. Here you find updates about tropical

storms, and information about alerts concerning traffic or schools, and about pets, and more

Consulate General of Sweden
 2909 Hillcroft, Suite 515
 Houston, TX 77057
 Phone: (713) 953-1417
 Fax: (713) 953-7776
 Email: houston@consulateofsweden.org

**News from Sweden
 (from Swedish Council of America's
 July and August 2008 eUPDATES)**

→ The new Signal Surveillance Act, known as the FRA law, was passed by the Swedish parliament on June 18, giving the Swedish National Defense Radio Establishment (FRA, *Försvarets radioanstalt*) the right to scan all phone calls, e-mails and faxes crossing Sweden's borders, without a court order. The law will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2009.

→ In Stockholm, on August 8 this year, 08-08-08, there were special events, outdoor performances and parties throughout the city, beginning at 8:08 a.m., for the citizens of Stockholm to celebrate their own day. After dark there were eight minutes and eight seconds of fireworks! "08" or *nollåtta* is a humorous term used for a person from Stockholm, where the telephone area code is 08.

→ Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic (<http://www.virgingalactic.com>) will establish its European base in Kiruna in conjunction with Spaceport Sweden, bringing up to 500 new jobs to the region. Spaceport Sweden (<http://www.spaceportsweden.com>) is a cooperative venture of the Swedish Space Corporation, ICEHOTEL, Kiruna Airport and Kiruna's business development company Progressum.

→ *Riksbanken*, Sweden's central bank, has raised its leading interest rate to 4.5 per cent, its highest in 12 years, and has suggested it could go higher. The one quarter of a percent raise of the one-week "repo" rate is part of measures to combat inflation. Sweden's repo rate was also raised by one quarter of a percentage point in February to 4.25 from 4.

My Trip to Barkeryd

by Jennifer Panahi,

Lucia 2007

It's funny how history repeats itself. About 160 years after Swen Magnus Swenson migrated from Barkeryd parish to Texas, I find myself retracing not only his steps, but also the steps of thousands of other Småland immigrants. This trip has been such an enlightening experience for me, and has strengthened my connection to my Swedish roots more than I ever expected. Swenson's story is rare and inspiring, a story about community and achieving the American Dream.

My story begins with my arrival in Barkeryd, Småland, with my mother and stepfather the day before the annual Heritage Festival. We drove four hours south from Örebro, the city we had been staying in with my uncle Peter two weeks prior. We reached the Austin-sized town of Nässjö around noon where we met our hosts, Anita and Pelle Johansson.

After a homemade lunch, Anita and Pelle gave us a tour of Barkeryd Church. The original church was built over 400 years ago out of wooden logs, but was replaced in 1847 with the current structure. The exterior was meant to be red, but upon drying the paint

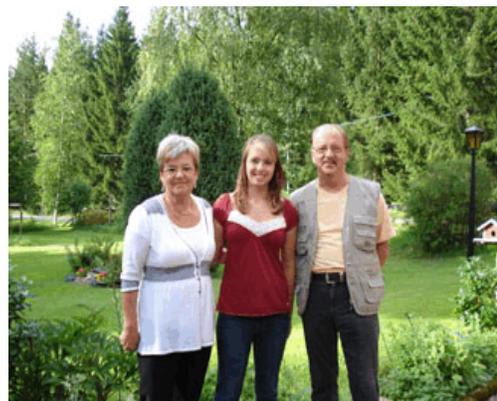


Barkeryd Parish Church

turned baby-pink. Repainting would have been too costly, so the caretakers decided to embrace the girly hue. The interior was light and open, with forest green pews and a white arched ceiling. Except for the ornate golden pulpit in front of the left pew, the room lacked much decoration.

Anita told us how the church was the center of village proceedings for much of Barkeryd's history.

Used as both a meetinghouse and safe haven from Danish invaders, the church became the heart of the parish. It even acted as the local bank, courthouse, and business center before the turn of the 20th century. Since then, the Barkeryd Homestead Association has worked to preserve the village's long past by maintaining the church and expanding their history museum. In fact, the homestead association has managed to keep the building's original iron door entrance still intact, albeit with a few small bullet holes.



Jenny with her hosts,
Anita and Pelle Johansson

After seeing the church, we went to the Homestead Museum and learned of Swen Swenson's legendary story. Born to a poor farmer in February 1816, Swen Magnus Swenson grew up doing manual labor for neighboring well-to-do farmers until he got a job at a local foundry. After jumping between jobs, Swenson decided to look for opportunities in America. He arrived two months later in New York in June 1836. Like so many other immigrants, Swenson's first step to achieving the American Dream was conquering the English language. While working in New York, he attended night school and was soon hired as a bookkeeper. It was this employer that first sent Swenson to Texas via boat to oversee his shipping engagements. In Galveston Bay, however, that fateful ship sank and supplied Swenson with enough salvaged capital to launch a trading business.

In Columbus, Swenson found a partner in a Mr. Adrian, who hired him as a traveling salesman. This led Swenson to befriend a wealthy, yet terminally ill landowner named Dr. Long. The two became such intimate friends that Long offered to leave Swenson his material wealth. Swenson refused, and instead obtained it by marrying Long's widowed wife, Jeanette. With new wealth, Swenson quickly rose as

an influential businessman, even befriendng Sam Houston.

It was Swenson's personal values that catalyzed Swedish immigration to Texas. As he was morally opposed to slavery, Swenson sold Long's slaves, leaving no one to complete the manual work his huge ranch demanded. To fill the labor void, Swenson returned to Barkeryd in 1847 seeking contract workers, but did not acquire any until the following year, when over 40 of his relatives journeyed to the Lone Star State. These first migrants found prosperity by acquiring land from Swenson after serving their



Inga Lisa Calissendorff and Betsy Philen Hardy (Lucia 1994) with Jenny. Inga Lisa is a charter member of The Swedish Club of Houston and helped start the tradition of sending our Lucia to Barkeryd.

two-year commitment on his property. Word of new economic opportunities spread back home, but the flow from Barkeryd to Texas remained slow until after the Civil War, when there was a surge of migration. By the 1880s, one third of Småland's residents had moved to Texas. These Swedes helped develop the Govalle, Lund, and Manor counties around Austin into what they are today.

The fact that a poor, uneducated man from a small village managed to come to America, amass a great fortune, and offer incredible opportunities to his hometown neighbors is a momentous feat. It is a prime example of what it takes to live the American Dream. Swenson's story is truly exceptional, and I am so glad that I was able to travel to his hometown to learn about his contribution to the making of America.

Swenson's story parallels that of many other American immigrants, but because he is a part of my

culture and heritage, it makes it that much more singular. I apologize for not including more of my experience at the Heritage Festival, but I thought that communicating Swenson's story was more important—especially as this is the 20th anniversary since the SCH began sending Lucias to Sweden for this educational experience.

On one last note, I would like to thank everyone who made this trip possible, including the SCH, Margaret St.Clair, Nancy Webb, SAS, Pelle and Anita, my wonderful family, and Inga Lisa, who started this great tradition.

Report from the Texas Swedish Pioneer Association Meeting

by Jean Sellstrom

The 91st annual Texas Swedish Pioneer Association Meeting was held on June 22, 2008, at Palm Valley Lutheran Church in Round Rock, Texas. President Rod Johnson welcomed the group and recalled the trip to Texas in 1867 which brought the first group of 100 Swedes to settle here. Also, he remarked on the first Swede to Texas, S. M. Swenson, who came in 1838, and then gave a special greeting to our guest of honor—Steve Swenson, the great-great-grandson of S. M. Swenson!



Jean with Steve Swenson, great-great-grandson of S. M. Swenson

The program was given by Mickie Ross, Educational Program Coordinator for the Williamson Museum in Georgetown, Texas, who spoke about and displayed the Swedish immigrant trunk she uses at the museum for students and in-school presentations.

The Association also presented Scholarships to three deserving young men who are entering college this fall.

Following the meeting, Mr. Swenson was warmly greeted by the group in a receiving line in the Church Hall, where refreshments were served, compliments of the IKEA in Round Rock.

“Olle Bærtling---A Modern Classic” Exhibition of Paintings and Sculpture

presented by
The Chinati Foundation, Marfa, Texas

October 11, 2008 through May 2009

All members and friends of The Swedish Club of Houston are invited to attend a special exhibition by Swedish artist, Olle Bærtling, which opens on Saturday, October 11, 2008, in Marfa, Texas. It is a collaboration between the Chinati Foundation in Marfa and the Moderna Museet in Stockholm, and their goal is to bring the work of one of Sweden’s most important artists to the attention of an American audience. The exhibition will be the first showing of Bærtling’s work in the U.S. in nearly forty years, and will present a representative survey of his mature work with a selection of thirty paintings and one sculpture dating from 1952-1980. The exhibition will remain on view at the museum in Marfa through at least May 2009.

Olle Bærtling was born in Halmstad, Sweden, in 1911. In 1928 he moved with his family to Stockholm. Bærtling was trained as a banker and later became a currency trader, an occupation he continued throughout his early artistic career.



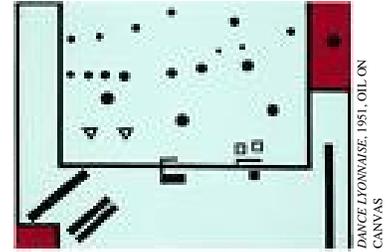
Bærtling was largely self-taught as an artist. His earliest works from the late 1930s are expressionistic land- and cityscapes. In the 1940s he developed an interest in the Cubists and Matisse. By 1950 he had moved away from figural and landscape painting to a more geometric, abstract style. His paintings featured straightforward flatly painted groupings of squares, rectangles, and circles. Wanting to create more mobility in his canvases,

he later introduced more diagonal lines and triangles into his work. This led to the “Open Forms” where the vertices of the wedge shapes were never located in the painting but rather seemed to extend outside of it, thereby referring to a larger space or universe beyond. Bærtling, like so many artists of his generation, was compelled by the achievements of science, especially in the area of space exploration. He endeavored to

express infinity, which he understood as a force of spirituality, in his art.

During the 60s and 70s, the forms in Bærtling’s paintings became simplified—fewer in number, with larger expanses of astringent color.

At the same time the artist expanded his



artistic activities to include sculpture. Also he made architectural plans for Stockholm University, designed street flags, women’s clothes and theater curtains. He hoped to introduce his “Open Forms” into as many contexts as possible, believing, until his death in 1981, that these were the forms of the future.

For further information about the Olle Bærtling exhibition or the Chinati Foundation in general, please contact: Sandra Hinojos, Administrative Assistant, The Chinati Foundation, 1 Cavalry Row, Marfa, TX 79843. Telephone: 432-729-4362. Email: information@chinati.org.

Source: excerpts from The Chinati Foundation website, <http://www.chinati.org>

Getting to Marfa *by Margaret St. Clair*

For those of you who are interested in seeing the Olle Bærtling exhibition in Marfa in far west Texas but are somewhat intimidated at the prospect of getting there, I’d like to relate the experiences Dave and I had on a recent vacation to that part of the state.

Our goal for the trip was to visit Big Bend National Park and to see other interesting sights in the “general” vicinity. Texas is a big state so some of these sights were about 100 miles apart! It was a nine-day vacation, and we drove. It took about two days to get to areas in which we were interested. We went in mid-March which we think is an ideal time. The weather was sunny but not too hot. Most of the area is a high desert, so the nights were cool. Another bonus was that the cacti were in bloom!

We divided our week between two locations: three days in Ft. Davis in the heart of the Davis Mountains and three days in Big Bend. The highlights in Ft. Davis were visiting the old fort and driving the 74-mile scenic highway through the mountains, which

included a long stop at the McDonald Observatory where we took advantage of their educational programs and evening star-gazing. In town, we stayed at a bed & breakfast which had once been an old stagecoach inn. In nearby Davis Mountains State park one can also camp or stay in the historic and recently restored Indian Lodge.

From Ft .Davis we drove south to Presidio. En route, we stopped in Marfa but did not stay long enough to visit the Chinati Foundation (where Bärtling’s art will be exhibited). Marfa has been the on-site location for several movies, such as *Giant* with Elizabeth Taylor and Rock Hudson and more recently *No Country for Old Men*. Then it was on to Presidio where we drove along the Rio Grande to get to the west entrance of Big Bend National Park. We stayed three nights in the Chisos Mountains Lodge, which is the only place one can stay inside the park. They also have cabins to rent, plus there is a campground for those who prefer roughing it. We used the Lodge as our home base while we spent our days exploring the approximately 800,000 acre park.

The most popular time of year to visit Big Bend National Park is February, March or April, so securing overnight reservations are a must. And they must be made early. We reserved in November for our mid-March trip. If you have questions, feel free to contact me.

Roger Tory Peterson

by Sammye Munson

Roger Tory Peterson, the renowned naturalist-artist who made living birds recognizable for biologists and amateurs, as well, would have been 100 years old in August, 2008. Before Peterson's *Field Guide to the Birds* was published in 1934, ornithologists shot and retrieved unfamiliar birds for identification. Peterson's System opened up a world of nature study for people everywhere.

Roger Tory Peterson was born in Jamestown, New York, to an immigrant father from Värmland, Sweden. His interest in birds was sparked by his seventh grade teacher, Mrs. Blanche Hornbeck. (Never belittle your influence on students.) She encouraged him to join the Junior Audubon Club and gave him a color plate of a blue jay to copy.

With her encouragement, he started sketching birds in the field and decided to pursue art professionally. After studying in New York at the Art

Student League and National Academy of Design, he taught science and art at the Rivers School in Brookline, Massachusetts. To make bird identification simple, he made drawings, highlighting and pointing out with tiny arrows critical "field marks" that distinguished each species from all others. So began his renowned "field guides," books with illustrations that showed different characteristics of birds.

In the Depression era, publishers were hesitant to invest money in a book about birds. But the original 2000 copies sold out in two weeks, and the eastern edition of the book has been one of the best-selling non-fiction books of all time. (Seven million copies have been sold to date.) Peterson also illustrated guides of western birds, as well as birds from Texas, Mexico, Britain and Europe. He co-authored *A Field Guide to Wildflowers*.

He became education director and art editor for the National Audubon Society, working constantly for public education of the natural world. In 1986 he founded the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History in Jamestown. Because of the legacy of Roger Tory Peterson, educators still teach young people about nature there.

Ironically, Peterson's favorite bird was flightless: the penguin. Some people call them little clowns dressed in feathers, but Peterson saw in them highly specialized birds that live in a harsh climate and crowded colonies. He made 20 trips to Antarctica and wrote perhaps his most loving book, *Penguins*.

As ornithologist, artist, photographer and educator, Peterson became one of our most recognized naturalists. His many honors included the Jimmy Carter Presidential Medal of Freedom.

On another note—perhaps you've noticed the golden flowers that bloom in the summer in Houston. The common name is Black-Eyed Susan, but another Swedish scientist, Carolaus Linnaeus, gave it the name *Rudbeckia* in honor of Olof Rudbeck, founder of the Uppsala Botanic Garden and his son Olof, the younger, a professor at Uppsala who befriended Linnaeus when he was a poor student in the 18th century.

(Editor’s note: Sammye Munson is the author of *Hej Texas, Goodbye Sweden*, a book for young people about Swedish immigration, and is a member of SCH.)

Looking for Your Swedish Ancestors?

by *Sonia Holz*

Do you know of your great-great-grandfather in Sweden, but can't find him? Researchers in Sweden often get mail asking for the whereabouts of ancestors. Sometimes it is only a grandparent's name and that they lived somewhere in Sweden. The changing of the Swedish names in the States can create a problem in finding the ancestors in Sweden.

My goal is to help resolve many of those problems. The first step is done in the States. One has to find and look at the church books of the first Swedish, Norwegian and Danish parishes. Most of the immigrants belonged to a congregation. The families—and especially the women—needed the contact with these communities to be able to survive mentally in this new country. These records will tell you the correct spelling of their names, birth dates and birth places in Sweden.

The next step would be making contact with a family researcher in Sweden, although some of you might think that getting a subscription to Genline would be cheaper. It might be, if you have knowledge of the Swedish surname system up to the end of the 1800s. Also, knowledge of the information in these church records is of importance for finding the family.

Often the searcher in the States starts with checking material on Ancestry.com, which doesn't guarantee that the

date is correct. Some go immediately to Genline and discover that the writing is totally different than the American handwriting. With some training one might be able to read the church records at the end of the 1800s, but only if the pastor had a good handwriting.

We Swedish researchers are used to deciphering the writings and pulling together the information we need for finding your ancestors. Two years ago I got an email asking for a farmer Isak Westling somewhere in Sweden. Westling is a name that blacksmiths had, but where those families lived I couldn't find an Isak. I went to the migration center in Växjö, and there I found him in a Swedish parish in Minnesota. There was his birth date, the Swedish region where he was born and the wife's and daughter's names.

This Isak Westling was a blacksmith and a farmer. He was the son of a blacksmith, and all this family data we have in a special blacksmith database.

This year the American family wanted me to find living relatives on the side of Isak's daughter. It took me 30 hours, and I found 10 living relatives. Most of them didn't know that they had family in the States. Now a family reunion is planned for 2009.

You see—nothing is impossible—nearly nothing. I love solving problems and finding the missing great-great-grandparent. I have been doing research for over 20 years. You can reach me at s.holz@telia.com or by snail-mail: Mrs. Sonia Holz, Bruksparken 3, S-155 33 Nykvarn, Sweden.

RESERVATION FORM FOR

Smörgåsbord - Saturday, October 25, 2008

(Must be received by Wednesday, October 22, for advance price)

Please make checks payable to "Swedish Club of Houston" and mail to:

Swedish Club of Houston, c/o Karen Wolz, 4526 Waynesboro Dr., Houston, TX 77035-3644

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	\$ _____



2008 SWEDISH CLUB LUCIA

Applications for The Swedish Club of Houston's 2008 Lucia are now being accepted. Our 2008 Lucia will be presented at the annual Swedish Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration scheduled for Saturday, December 13, 2008, 4:00 p.m., at Christ the King Lutheran Church, near Rice Village.

Candidates for Lucia must meet the following requirements:

- ▶ Single young woman, 16-24 years of age;
- ▶ Member of the club (either **individual** or as **part of a family membership, including granddaughters**);
- ▶ Able to attend the Swedish Traditions program on December 13;
- ▶ Able to represent the club at the Texas Day Celebration and Parade in Barkeryd, Sweden, on the first weekend of August, 2009;
- ▶ Responsible for own ground or air transportation to and from Chicago (round-trip airfare provided from Chicago to Sweden);
- ▶ On her return to Houston, 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 twenty 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 take 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 **October 1, 2008**.

For questions or further information, contact Nancy Webb (713-661-1011 or Nancy.Webb@kelsey-seybold.com) or Diana Rodionov (281-636-8153), co-chairs of the 2008 Lucia program.

THE SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON APPLICATION FOR 2008 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, postmarked by **October 1, 2008**.

Mail applications and enclosures to:

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



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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, and your favorite Swedish shops, products or resources.

Please send news to ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net or by post to the return address below.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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