



# THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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

March/April

2010

Volume XXIII-No. 2



It's time for crayfish!

**Kräftskiva -  
Swedish Crayfish Party**  
Saturday, March 27  
6:00 p.m.

*Kräftskiva*, one of the most popular annual Swedish Club of Houston events, will be held this year on Saturday, March 27, at 6:00 p.m. We will again meet at Monument Inn, 4406 Independence Parkway South (formerly Battleground Rd.), La Porte, near the San Jacinto Monument, for crayfish with the traditional Swedish seasoning of sea salt and dill, fried fish, fried chicken, potatoes and corn.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Seating is limited, so reserve early. Reservations must be received by Wednesday, March 24, and may be made *online* at [www.swedishclub.org](http://www.swedishclub.org) or *by mail*, using the form on page 7.

Make your reservations now! Don't miss this wonderful evening of food, fellowship and fun!

## Scandinavian Folk Dancers have busy schedule

*by Kathy Bjork*

The Scandinavian Folk Dancers are busy preparing for their trip to Denmark in June! We are all very excited, and we are looking forward to making new friends and learning new dances.

Our next performances are at the German Heritage Festival in Tomball on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 and 4:00. This is the 10th anniversary of this festival, so there are special plans. If you have never been to this festival, you don't know what you are missing. The Germans really know how to party!

On April 24<sup>th</sup> we will be in Danevang for their annual Queen's birthday celebration. We love being with our Danish friends!



Welcome spring with . . .

**Valborgsmässoafton -  
Bonfire and Barbecue**  
Saturday, April 24  
3:00 p.m.

At times this winter, it has seemed as if spring would never come. But it is definitely on its way, and there is no better way to celebrate its return than by participating in the *Valborgsmässoafton* bonfire and barbecue on Saturday, April 24, at Dr. Margit Winstrom's ranch, 3383 Peters Lane, Brenham. (See page 6 for directions.)

Activities will begin around 3:00 p.m. with Frisbee, volleyball, badminton, croquet and other customary Swedish games. Also on the agenda is a hayride across the large ranch, followed by the long-awaited bonfire and singing of traditional spring songs.

**NOTE:** Bring hot dogs, hamburgers or something else to grill for yourself and your family, *plus* one side dish (Swedish, if possible) for everyone to share.

This event is free, but please RSVP to let us know you are coming by contacting Pelle Fisk at [PelleFisk@yahoo.com](mailto:PelleFisk@yahoo.com) or 281-348-2584 (home). Also, Pelle says his cell phone number is 713-398-8212, in case you find yourself driving around lost that day!

## Have you renewed your membership?

If not, now is the time! A new dues year began January 1<sup>st</sup>. Annual dues are \$35 for a family membership, \$25 for an individual or \$10 for students.

Renew your membership now either *online* at [www.swedishclub.org](http://www.swedishclub.org) or *by mail* by sending your check payable to "Swedish Club of Houston" to John Stavinoha, 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, TX 77401.



## President's Column by Cathy Wahren

Spring has sprung! As is the case typically in Houston, we feel it in the air well before daylight savings time begins (March 14) or the official first day of spring (March 20). My maple tree (always first), peach tree, yellow jasmine and fringe flower bush are all blooming, and I've begun to clean up the mess from this winter's two hard freezes. This winter seemed a bit colder than usual, so a fine spring day is particularly appreciated—knowing, nevertheless, that the next cold front is still likely to be just around the corner for another month yet.

The entries I see from my Swedish cousins on Facebook let me know that such is not the case for them just yet. Did you know our Swedish Club has a page on Facebook? I just took a look at it myself, and added a notice regarding our upcoming Crayfish Dinner at the Monument Inn on March 27.

Everyone who is planning to come should reserve in advance online or with Karen Wolz (at 713-283-8044 or via email through our web site). Hope to see you there!

Other spring-time events being organized include a reception honoring astronaut Christer Fuglesang on March 6, a cruise with The Streaplars out of Galveston over Easter, a soccer match at the Norwegian Seaman's Church on April 17 (contact Christopher at 713-499-9903 or [svensk@swedishclub.org](mailto:svensk@swedishclub.org)), and the Bonfire on April 24.

*Cathy*

## New Swedish Club Board members and officers elected at Annual Meeting

As part of our Swedish Club's Annual Meeting each January, club members have the responsibility and the privilege of electing new Board members. Retiring from the Board this year were Diana Rodionov and Ingrid Philipson, both of whom have served on the Board for several years. Diana has served the last four years as Secretary, and Ingrid, as Publicity Chair, has done a great job of getting the word out and increasing

attendance at our events. *Tusen tack* ("thousand thanks") to Ingrid and Diana!

New Board members elected at this year's Annual Meeting are Linda Andersson and Devon Westerlund, who was also elected to serve as Secretary. Watch for more information about Linda and Devon in a future issue of the newsletter.

The Board is responsible for providing leadership, oversight and organization for the Swedish Club's events throughout the year. If you would like to serve the Swedish Club in this capacity in the future, please contact one of the Board members for additional information. (See the last page of the newsletter for contact information.)



Board members and officers for 2010 include: (back row) Elisse Karlsson, Cathy Wahren, Erich Wolz, Christopher Westerlund, Fredrik Rehnmark, John Stavinoha, Margaret St.Clair; (front row) David Bash, Linda Andersson, Karen Wolz, Devon Westerlund and Dina Colburn. (Not pictured: Laura Millikan)

## Are you ready for some soccer?

The Danish Club of Houston is hoping to put together a soccer tournament between the Swedish Club, the Norwegian Society, and the Danish Club on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, to be held at the Norwegian Seaman's Church, 4309 Young St., Pasadena.

This could be a fun event where we get to hang out and enjoy a beer or two while we cheer on our teams. If you would like to participate, contact Christopher Westerlund, at 713-499-9903 or [christopher.westerlund@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.westerlund@gmail.com).

## 2010 Lucia committee chairs needed

The 2010 SCH Lucia Celebration will be held on Saturday, December 11, but planning begins long before the actual event—as early as July for some committees. For that reason, Margaret St.Clair, Lucia Celebration chair, would like to fill all committee chair positions before summer.



New Board member, Linda Andersson, has agreed to serve as Lucia co-chair, and one more co-chair is needed, so that Margaret can cycle out of the position in 2011.

In the past, the Lucia chairs have been responsible for both the service in the sanctuary and the reception, but the Lucia Celebration has grown so much that a Reception Chair is needed to oversee the activities following the worship service.

Look over the list below, decide where/how you would like to help, and let Margaret know at [margestclair@hotmail.com](mailto:margestclair@hotmail.com) or 281-493-4978.

**Lucia Chairs** - secure Lucia and attendants; secure airfare, church, pastor and organist; print programs

Chair: Margaret St.Clair

Chair: Linda Andersson

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reception Chair** - in charge of everything in the Parish Hall: secures entertainment (dancers and music); secures committees, oversees setup

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

**Refreshments** - secures homemade cookies, orders Lucia buns, buys lingondrink, *pepparkakor*, paper plates and cups

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Kitchen boss: Carol Clarke

Kitchen helper: Dina Jo Colburn

Kitchen helper: \_\_\_\_\_

Kitchen helper: \_\_\_\_\_

Glögg: \_\_\_\_\_

Bakers: \_\_\_\_\_

**Raffle Items** - secures raffle items, runs raffle, helps with Parish Hall setup

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Sales** - sells baked goods, T-shirts, other; helps with Parish Hall setup

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tree** - Jay Flusche

Centerpieces -

*Julgranskarameller* - Diana Rodionov

**Greeter/Floater** - greets guests upon arrival; assists in Parish Hall where needed, both before and during reception

Greeter: \_\_\_\_\_

Greeter: \_\_\_\_\_

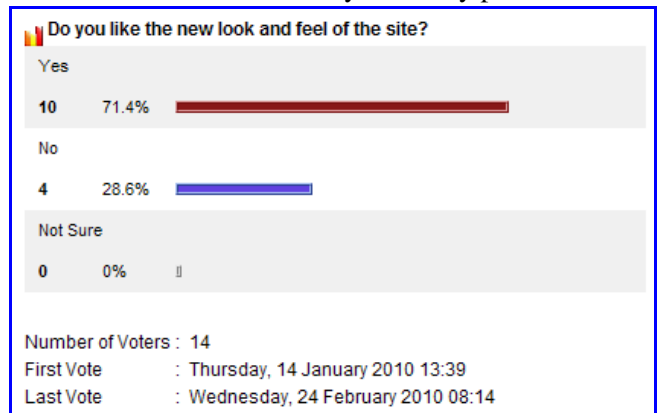


## Have you voted?

Check out the new poll on the SCH web site, [swedishclub.org](http://swedishclub.org), and vote for your favorite Swedish Club event: Pea Soup/Pancake Supper, *Kräftskiva* (Crayfish), *Valborgsmässoafton* (Bonfire), *Smörgåsbord*, Christmas Traditions/Lucia, or all of the above!

If you have a suggestion for future polls, please contact Erich Wolz, webmaster, via the 'Contact Us' link at the top of the SCH home page.

### Results of January/February poll



Semla, a Swedish Easter tradition, is a bun made of wheat flour and filled with almond paste and whipped cream. Photo: [www.imagebank.sweden.se](http://www.imagebank.sweden.se) © Marie-Louise Johansson

## From the Consulate General . . .

2909 Hillcroft Street, Suite 515  
Houston, TX 77057  
Phone: 713-953-1417

Web site: <http://www.swedishconsulate.org/>

Email: [houston@consulateofsweden.org](mailto:houston@consulateofsweden.org)

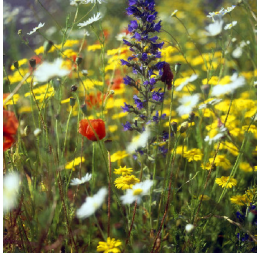


Photo: [www.imagebank.sweden.se](http://www.imagebank.sweden.se) ©  
Anders Johansson/Ölands Turist AB

*Spring greetings  
from the  
Consulate General  
of Sweden  
in Houston!*

### Voting in Swedish Elections

Elections to the riksdag, the municipalities and to the county councils will be held this fall in Sweden.

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 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:

Skatteverkets inläsningscentral  
Enhet 2001  
SE - 839 86 Östersund  
SWEDEN

If the notification has not been received 30 days before the election date, Swedes abroad who are not in the electoral register may still have the opportunity to vote. A vote received from abroad by mail or by a Swedish foreign mission will still be counted, if it has reached the Election Authority by 12:00 p.m. on the day before the election.

More information is available at the Swedish Election Authority web site, [www.val.se](http://www.val.se).

### Church of Sweden Abroad

The first pastor of the Swedish Church of Florida, Olof Olsson, was inaugurated on December 6, 2009, in St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Pompano Beach. The Swedish Church in Florida will not be housed in a

specific location but will use other church sites in order to work with Swedes all over Florida and neighboring states. It is one of 45 Swedish Churches abroad and is the closest to Texas.

The church has its own choir, with soloists and a pianist/organist, and will hold worship services once a month in each of two existing churches—St. Martin's Episcopal in Pompano Beach and St. Immanuel Lutheran in Miami.

Pastor Olsson, whose area of responsibility stretches even to Texas, has visited Texas before and is planning to come again to hold services here. We are waiting to hear from him a little later about where and when.

You are welcome to contact Pastor Olof Olsson or his assistant:

Home phone: 954-374-9303

Olof Olsson (cell): 954-604-0605

Marie Olsson (cell): 954-604-4214

Email: [florida@svenskakyrkan.se](mailto:florida@svenskakyrkan.se)

### SVT World

A letter came recently from SVT (Sveriges Television AB) to the consulate in Houston announcing that SVT World, the international channel of the Swedish public service broadcaster Sveriges Television (SVT) is now available via IPTV (digital TV via Internet) in the USA and Canada.


SVT World broadcasts mainly Swedish-produced programs from all domestic SVT channels. The aim in planning the programming is to give SVT World viewers the chance to see all programs SVT has the right to broadcast outside Sweden. The basic rule is that the programs have to be shown at the same time as they are broadcast in Sweden, which is in Central European Time (CET).

For more information regarding programming, equipment requirements and subscription rates, visit their web site: <http://svt.se/2.42317/english>.



Photo: Laura Millikan

## BITS & PIECES

 If you (or someone you know) go to the University of Texas and are interested in studying in Sweden, generous scholarships are available from the Swedish Excellence Endowment. The scholarship can be used for study or research in any academic field. Knowledge of Swedish is not required. For more information contact Study Abroad Advisor Laura Bayne, ([laura@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:laura@austin.utexas.edu) or 512-471-8855) or Carrin Patman ([carrinmp@austin.rr.com](mailto:carrinmp@austin.rr.com)).

 Folklore Village, in Dodgeville, WI, a nationally recognized folk arts and culture center, is offering a Swedish Dance and Music Weekend, March 19-21, 2010. You are invited to celebrate spring with the dance and music traditions of various regions throughout Sweden, as well as fellowship, workshops, tasty Scandinavian meals and dances late into the evening. For more information, or to print out a registration form/flyer, see [www.folkloreivillage.org](http://www.folkloreivillage.org).

### NST extends invitation to *Rekefest* (Shrimp Party) on Friday, March 19

The Houston Chapter of the Norwegian Society of Texas (NST) will hold their **Shrimp Party (*Rekefest*)**, with all-you-can-eat North Atlantic shrimp on Friday night, March 19, 7:00-10:00 p.m., at the historic Milford House/Italian Cultural and Community Center, 1101 Milford St., Houston (four blocks north of the Fine Arts Museum). Cost for the event is \$20 members/\$25 non-members with RSVP by March 15<sup>th</sup>, or \$24 members/\$29 non-members at the door.

A flyer, including a reservation form, is available at [nsthouston.org/events/invitations/Rekefest.pdf](http://nsthouston.org/events/invitations/Rekefest.pdf).

Two other events, to be held on Saturday, March 20, at the Norwegian Seaman's Church, 4309 Young St., Pasadena, are also open to guests. First, at 12:00 noon, during a **luncheon** celebrating the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of NST, author Charles H. Russell, Ph.D., will present "The Saga of Elise Wærenskold," the story of one of the early Norwegian pioneers in the Bosque County, TX, area.

Everyone is invited then to stay for a **movie afternoon** at 2:30 p.m., for a showing of "Cool and Crazy" ("*Hefte og Begeistret*"), in Norwegian, with English subtitles.

For more information about any of these events, contact Bob Bjercke ([bjbjercke@comcast.net](mailto:bjbjercke@comcast.net) or 281-778-6486), or Inger and Charles Russell ([vikr25@verizon.net](mailto:vikr25@verizon.net)).

### In the mood for some *lutefisk*?

Joanne Ashland, President of the Houston Chapter of the Norwegian Society of Texas, reports that the Randall's supermarkets at Clear Lake and South Shore Harbor/League City are holding a supply of *lutefisk* until March 20, for anyone who would like to buy some. Each package contains 1.75 lbs. of fish and costs \$7.99 per package. The fish is sold under the Olsen Fish Company brand, which obtains and imports it from Ålesund, Norway.

If you are interested, either check with the meat department at your local Randall's store for availability or contact Joanne Ashland at 281-830-2448, and she will help you get it from the Clear Lake or South Shore Harbour stores.

As a side note for the future, for anyone who really likes *lutefisk*, Joanne says there is a *lutefisk* dinner in Cranfills Gap, TX, near Waco, on the first Saturday of December. Also, *lutefisk* may be purchased at the Norwegian Seaman's Church in Pasadena during their bazaar the second weekend of November each year.

### News from New Sweden Centre

by Aleasa Hogate, VP/Education Director

The New Sweden Centre of Wilmington, Delaware, has recently updated their web page, [www.colonialnewsSweden.org](http://www.colonialnewsSweden.org). If you haven't checked it recently, there are many things that should be of interest to anyone interested in Swedish Heritage in America.

Of special interest to anyone who may be planning to visit the Delaware Valley is our brochure that lists 29 New Sweden sites, museums and landmarks. This brochure is available on the web site by clicking on the words "new brochure" in the text on the home page.

We also have a video page with Swedish Dancers and someone playing a Nyckelharpa, as well as some great links to many of the organizations listed on the brochure.

## News from Sweden (from Swedish Council of America's February 2010 eUPDATE)

→ Sweden's Royal Academy of Sciences has awarded American scientist Walter Munk the 2010 Crafoord Prize in Geosciences for his research on ocean circulation. The 92-year-old will receive the 4 million kronor prize (about \$560,000) at a ceremony in Stockholm on May 11 in the presence of Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf. The academy announced that Munk received the award "for his pioneering and fundamental contributions to our understanding of ocean circulation, tides and waves, and their role in the Earth's dynamics." Munk was born in Austria but moved to the U.S. in 1932. He became professor of Geophysics at the University of California, San Diego, in 1954. The Crafoord award has been given annually since 1982 for scientific research in areas not covered by the Nobel Prizes.

→ Four households in Washington D.C. are acting as Climate Pilots during the next eight months. They are committed to making a difference by finding real everyday solutions to climate change and in this way serve as an example for others. The project is a collaboration between the City of Kalmar in Sweden and the Embassy of Sweden in Washington. You can follow them on their journey at [www.climatepilots.wordpress.com](http://www.climatepilots.wordpress.com).

→ Sweden is set to undergo a territorial expansion following a government decision recently which will alter the border with Finland to Sweden's advantage. The move will expand Sweden's territory by a few hectares, based on an agreement with Sweden's neighbor to the east.

### Places to go and things to see . . .

**Philadelphia, PA (through May 2, 2010)** - The American Swedish Historical Museum will present the print work of Stockholm artists Rachele Puryear and Lars Nyberg in an exhibit titled, "Printscapes: Impressions of Nature." Puryear creates colorful screen-printed patterns that originate from her impressions of nature. In contrast, Nyberg's black and white drypoints depicting Swedish winters appear

sparsely drawn, but each image erupts with detail upon closer investigation. This exhibit is an opportunity to learn about the diverse realm of printmaking through the work of two insightful and skilled printmakers. For more information, visit [www.americanswedish.org](http://www.americanswedish.org) or call 215-389-1776.

**Minneapolis, MN (through May 30, 2010)** - The American Swedish Institute will feature the work of seventeen contemporary Swedish designers—all young, progressive women. The exhibit showcases examples of their most recent work, spanning a wide variety of design fields including glass, ceramics, textiles, architecture, furniture, industrial design, interior design, and graphic design. Portraits and photos of the designers can be found at [www.17swedishdesigners.com](http://www.17swedishdesigners.com). For more information, visit [www.americanswedishinst.org](http://www.americanswedishinst.org) or call 612-871-4907.



*Glad Påsk!*  
(Happy Easter!)

Directions to *Valborgsmässoafton* Bonfire and Barbecue, Saturday, April 24:

- ▶ US 290W towards Austin
- ▶ Turn left onto O'Malley Rd. (The turn off 290 comes up fast and is easy to miss. When 290W and 36N make the split with a sharp 270 degree right turn, drive 2.0 miles further on 290W, then make the left onto O'Malley Rd.)
- ▶ Turn left onto CR-29/Lange Lake Rd.
- ▶ Turn right onto CR-25/Old Mill Creek Rd.
- ▶ Turn left onto CR-2/Beckerman Rd.
- ▶ Turn right onto Peters Ln. and stop at 3383
- ▶ Drive through the gate and up to parking by the ranch.

**Thank you, Board members, for preparing the  
Pea Soup and Pancake Supper in January!**



Elisse Karlsson and Erich Wolz help in the kitchen.



Margaret St. Clair prepares tea.



Cathy Wahren and Karen Wolz get the condiments ready.



Lots and lots of pancakes!



And at last everything is ready for the guests to arrive.

**KRÄFTSKIVA - SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010**

**(Must be received by Wednesday, March 24)**

**Please make check payable to "Swedish Club of Houston" and  
mail to: Karen Wolz, 4526 Waynesboro Dr., Houston, TX 77035-3644**

Name:	Phone Number:	
Name(s) of other(s) Attending:		
_____ <b>Adults</b> attending Crayfish Party	@ \$20 each	_____
_____ <b>Children</b> (12 and under) attending	@ \$10 each	_____
<b>CHECK TOTAL</b>		_____



# 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 [newsletter@swedishclub.org](mailto:newsletter@swedishclub.org) or by post to the return address below.

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