

THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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

September/October

2010

Volume XXIII-No. 5

Smörgåsbord 2010 Saturday, October 23 6:30 p.m. - Cash bar; 7:30 p.m. - Dinner BraeBurn Country Club



Photo: www.imagebank.sweden. se © Ann Lindberg

Bread and cheese are important parts of the *Smörgåsbord*. Come one, come all to the favorite SCH event of the year! Bring your family and friends to the annual *Smörgåsbord*, on Saturday, October 23, at the beautiful BraeBurn Country Club, 8101 Bissonnet, Houston. The cash bar will open at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Ticket price is \$30 for Club members, \$35 for non-members, and \$15 for children (12 and under). **NOTE:** Reservations must be made in advance, and payment must be received by Wednesday, October 20.

Make your reservations today *by mail* using the form on page 7, or *online* at the SCH web site,

www.swedishclub.org. Seating is limited, so reserve early!

Folk Dancers back from Denmark

by Kathy Bjork

The Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston finally went to Denmark! We had a fabulous time and stayed with truly wonderful and gracious host families. The Steffensens did a fantastic job preparing us, and Carl and Ingrid worked extremely hard on all the logistics. We are so grateful for everyone's involvement.

We had performances in Tivoli (Copenhagen), Horsens, and Rebild. Denmark is such a beautiful country. We had warm, receptive audiences, and the whole experience has left us with wonderful memories to cherish.

We will start classes again in September, at Christ the King Church in Rice Village. If you think you might be interested, please check us out. We meet on Monday nights from 7-9. Questions??? Email <u>sfdofh@yahoo.com</u>.

Benches Honor Jonssons and Calissendorffs

by Jay Flusche

On August 1st at the Barkeryd Hembygdsfest, the Swedish Club of Houston and the present and former Swedish Club Lucias donated a pair of benches to Barkeryd's Hembygdsförening. The benches were placed on the stoop of Setha stuga, one of the buildings at the Barkeryd Hembygdsgård.

The presentation was made by Athena Flusche, the 2009 Swedish Club's Lucia.

The reason for the donation was to recognize Gunvor and Evert Jonsson and Inga Lisa and Gusten Calissendorff for their efforts in creating the Barkeryd-Houston connection through the Swedish Club Lucia



Photo: Marianne Westerholm Setha stuga, where the benches were placed on either side of the

Swedish Club Lucia brogram. They arranged for the Swedish Club Lucia to travel to Barkeryd each summer to take part in the

travel to Barkeryd each summer to take part in the Hembygdsfest. The Houston Lucia would not only learn about the story of the Swedish emigration to Texas, but it would also give her a chance to learn about her own Swedish roots.



Inga Lisa Calissendorff and Anita Johansson enjoy sitting on the new bench.

wonderful program possible.

We thank Inga Lisa, Gusten, Gunvor and Evert for everything that they have done for the Swedish Club.

Not only has it served as a learning opportunity for the Houston Lucias, but it has also served to make the emigration story real for the Småland residents. To see a girl from Texas of Swedish heritage come back to the country of her ancestors makes the emigration story come alive.

The program began in 1988, and there have been 22 Lucias that have made the trip to Barkeryd. It was nice to be able to give something back to the people who have made this

2010 Lucia committee chairs needed

It takes a lot of people working together to make the annual Lucia Celebration the success it always is. This year the SCH Lucia Celebration will be held on Saturday, December 11, and Margaret St.Clair, Lucia Celebration chair, is still in need of some committee chairpersons.

Two Lucia co-chairs are needed, so that Margaret can cycle out of the position in 2011.

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

Lucia Chair: Margaret St.Clair, Co-Chairs: ______, _______ - secure Lucia and attendants; secure airfare, church, pastor, organist; print programs; participate in "Service of Word"

<u>Reception Chair</u>: _______ - oversees set-up and everything in the Parish Hall; secures entertainment (dancers, tomte, music); orders Lucia buns; buys lingondrink, pepparkakor, paper goods

Refreshments

Kitchen chair: Carol Clarke Kitchen helpers: Dina Jo Colburn, Dianna Shapiro, _____

Glögg: Karen Wolz Bakers: Ellise Karlsson, Cathy Wahren, Dena Doeffler, _____, plus many bakers needed to bake for Bake Sale!

<u>Raffle Chairs</u>: Karen Wolz, Linda Andersson secure raffle items; run raffle; help with Parish Hall setup

Other Sales Chair: _______ - sells baked goods, T-shirts, other; helps with Parish Hall setup Greeters/Floaters: Amy Acord, Ovi Galvan, Michael Odfalk - greet guests upon arrival; assist in Parish Hall where needed, both before and during reception

<u>Workshops</u>

Julgranskarameller (Sat., Nov. 13, 1-5 p.m.): Margaret St.Clair, Diana Rodionov, Carol Clarke, Cathy Wahren, _____,

Centerpieces (Fri., Dec. 10, 1-3 p.m.): Margaret St. Clair, _____, ____

BITS & PIECES

Beginner Swedish language classes will meet weekly on Monday evenings, 7:00-9:00 p.m., starting Monday, September 13. Registration will be held that evening from 6:15-6:45 p.m. in the upstairs restaurant at IKEA, followed by the first class meeting. For more information, contact John Stavinoha, Language School Director, at john.stavinoha@memorialhermann.org.

In a recent issue, *Newsweek* magazine ranked Sweden as the third best country in the world to live in behind only Finland and Switzerland. The editors began with the question, "If you were born today, which country would provide you the very best opportunity to live a healthy, safe, reasonably prosperous, and upwardly mobile life?" They then chose five categories of national well-being education, health, quality of life, economic competitiveness, and political environment—and compiled metrics within these categories across 100 nations. Read more at www.newsweek.com/feature/2010/the-world-s-best-countrie s.html.

Swedish Council of America (SCA) has launched a Facebook fan page as well as a Twitter page. Through these new media methods, SCA is reaching out to a broader audience of individuals and organizations interested in historical or modern Sweden. Check them out at www.facebook.com/pages/Swedish-Council-of-America/14 2457029103671?ref=ts and twitter.com/SwedishCouncil.

Tusen tack!!

by Margaret St.Clair

Many, many thank yous to all who participated in the Barkeryd Bench Project honoring Evert and Gunvor Jonsson and Gusten and Inga Lisa Calissendorff.

Kudos to:

■ Members of The Swedish Club and former Swedish Club Lucias and their families for donating monies to purchase the two benches;

Barkeryd's *hembygdsförening* for their assistance in selecting and ordering the benches and for placing

them in such a lovely location—the porch of *Setha stuga*; Athena Flusche, our Swedish Club Lucia, who

presented the benches at Barkeryd's Texas-Swedish Festival on August 1; and

Ingrid Llanos, friend of The Swedish Club, who assisted me in the Bench Project. She was invaluable as a mentor and as a translator and communicator between me and Barkeryd.



From the Consulate General of Sweden in Houston . . .

2909 Hillcroft Street, Suite 515 Houston, TX 77057 Phone: 713-953-1417 Web site: http://www.swedishconsulate.org/ Email: houston@consulateofsweden.org



Fall greetings from the Consulate General of Sweden in Houston

Ove Källström/Norrlandia

Hurricane Season Preparedness

The following websites provide helpful information and resources on preparing for and surviving a hurricane and other disasters:

The official website of the State of Texas: "Be Prepared in the Event of an Emergency" texasonline.com/portal/tol/en/emergency

Regional Disaster Preparedness www.readyhoustontx.gov

National Weather Service Forecast Office -

- Houston/Galveston www.srh.noaa.gov/hgx
- Brownsville www.srh.noaa.gov/bro
- Corpus Christi www.srh.noaa.gov/crp ٠
- Lake Charles, LA www.srh.noaa.gov/lch

Forecasted Maximum Sustained Wind Data for the City of Houston by Zip Code -

www.houstonhidefromthewind.org

The Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project (TSARP) -

a joint study effort by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Harris County Flood Control District. See Flood Plain for Houston and surrounding areas: tsarp.org and tsarp.org/resources/index.html

NOAAWatch All Hazards Monitor -

Information about ongoing environmental events www.noaawatch.gov and www.ncddc.noaa.gov

Emabassy of Sweden in Washington D.C. - In the Event of a Catastrophe: www.swedenabroad.com/Page____34709.aspx

Be prepared and stay safe!

Mobile Photo Station for Regular Passports

During the spring of 2010, the Embassy in Washington conducted a pilot project using a mobile photo station. Due to the success of the project it will continue during the fall of 2010.

This will enable Swedish citizens to apply for regular passports at a number of Swedish Honorary Consulates. The number of applications is limited, however.

Please call to make an appointment and to obtain payment information.

- Consulate General of Sweden in Houston: Phone: (713) 953-1417
- Consulate of Sweden in Dallas; Phone: (214) 521-2312

Schedule for the mobile photo station during Fall 2010: Mon. and Tues., Nov. 8-9 Dallas Thurs. and Fri., Nov. 11-12 Houston

For more information, see:

67914.aspx. www.swedenabroad.com/Page



Job Opening

Job Title: Newsletter Editor Organization Name: The Swedish Club of Houston **Position Type:** Part-time (6 issues per year) Start Date: March/April 2011 issue Starting Salary: \$0 per year (may negotiate for double) If interested, contact Cathy Wahren, President, at catalinaw2@yahoo.com or 713-686-8686.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Christmas Traditions and

Lucia Celebration 2010

Saturday, December 11, 2010, 4:00 p.m. **Christ the King Lutheran Church**

Note: If you would like for your children or grandchildren to participate in the Lucia procession as attendants, please contact Margaret St.Clair at 281-493-4978 or margestclair@hotmail.com, so she can send a copy of words and CD for the songs they will sing during the service.

Swedish Club News www.swedishclub.org

My trip to Sweden and Barkeryd

by Athena Flusche Lucia 2009

Hi! It's Athena Flusche, the 2009 Lucia. As the Lucia, I have had the amazing opportunity to go to Sweden and to represent the Swedish Club of Houston at the Barkeryd Hembygdsfest. I started the trip flying to Stockholm. After a layover in the Stockholm airport my mom, Judy Flusche,



and I transferred flights to London. Mom and I stayed in London for about a week, seeing all the sights that we could. During this week we made a day trip to Paris. We saw some of the major sites and the final stage of the Tour de France!

After our week in London, Mom and I went back to Sweden for a more extended time. We stayed with family for a few days. Her cousin Mia is married to Sven Lindström and they have two daughters, Kajsa and Stina. Stina is only a few months older than me. While visiting the Lindströms, mom and I saw Malmö and Falsterbo. Those cities are about as far south in Sweden as one can get. We also visited Mia's parents in Helsingborg. Ami and Ivan Lindh hosted a very nice meal for us. Mia's brother Jonas was also at this lunch. While with my relatives in Falsterbo, I practiced my speech, and they were able to really help me with my pronunciation. Also in Falsterbo we met Mia's Sister, Anika. My mom, on a previous trip, had met everyone except for Kajsa, Stina, and Anika. This trip was my chance to meet everyone. It was a great opportunity, and I was very pleased to meet some of my Swedish family.

Mia and Sven drove Mom and me on the three hour trip to Barkeryd on Saturday. When we arrived, I was able to meet up with my dad and our friend Werner Aust who lives in Tranås. We also met up with Anita and Pelle Johansson, our hosts



Photo: Marianne Westerholm Barkeryd's Hembygdsgård

for the weekend and tour guides of Barkeryd and the festival. Anita and Pelle were great. When we got there we saw the famous gravestone of the parents of Sven Magnus Swenson. S.M. Swenson was quite a character. Then we went to have a meal at the Johanssons'. After lunch, we went to see some of the older historic buildings at the Barkeryd Hembygdsgård. The Hembygdsgård is the festival site. Mia and Sven had to return to Malmö, so we went back to Anita's house and heard the story of Sven Magnus Swenson. After getting acquainted with the history of Barkeryd we were able to relax.

Later, before dusk, Mom and I went on a walk to see the town. It was very pretty. There were red houses everywhere! We walked down the main road and then went down a side road and were able to see a gorgeous lake. We stayed at the lake while I took loads of pictures. We eventually got back to the house and were able to sleep very comfortably in the loft area that Anita and Pelle had set up for Mom and I. The next morning we had breakfast and started to get ready for the festival. I wore a turquoise western shirt, blue jeans, boots, and a cowboy hat. Before we went down to the festival we had lunch at Anita's. Inga Lisa Calissendorff and Mona Raspler were there along with Gusten Calissendorff's son. I was able to meet two of the 2009 Lucias from Barkeryd and Äng. We learned that we



were going to sing a verse of the Sankta Lucia song together at the festival, and we went over it together.

After lunch, everyone went down to the parade site. The band was playing and it was very energetic and fun. When the parade started I was in the back with my

Anita Johansson, Athena, and Inga Lisa Calissendorff

parents and many of the people that were with us at the lunch. We followed the band and headed towards the festival site. Once at the site, I was announced as the Texas Lucia and met Alf Carlsson. He talked all about the folks in the parade and explained how it was for the Barkeryd emigrants who moved to Texas.

I was then told that I was going to put a big flag into a flag holder attached to the building behind me. This

seemingly easy task proved a little more difficult than originally thought. The flag was heavier than I had expected, and the stand was higher. Luckily, Pelle helped me to get the flag positioned properly. It all went quite well. After the flag, we went down to sit in the front row to listen to the speakers who preceded me. I was quietly going



over my two speeches again trying to get the pronunciation right. I was able to ask Anita some questions about the speeches. This is when I got <u>really nervous</u>. The parade was fun and I was concentrating on the speeches. I was

Swedish Club News www.swedishclub.org focusing more on where I was and trying to keep smiling and waving little Texas flags. But now, the time for the speeches was quickly approaching, and I was nervous. We walked behind the stage and entered from the back entrance. Anita was very reassuring throughout my nervousness. She went up and introduced me, and then it was my turn. I made my first speech which was about my Swedish heritage and which thanked everyone who made the trip possible.

I then stepped back and waited for Anita to introduce my second speech. I was presenting two benches to the



Barkeryd Hembygdsförening in honor of the folks who made the Barkeryd-Houston connection possible: Evert and Gunvor Jonsson and Gusten and Inga Lisa Calissendorff. After this presentation, I was presented a candlestick that is symbolic of an emigrant's return to

Mona Raspler looks on as Inga Lisa Calissendorff and Athena sit on one of the new benches.

their community. They presented candlesticks to the Swedish Lucias that were there also. They then called us three Lucias forward, and we sang the first verse of Sankta Lucia together, in Swedish. After the song one of the announcers made a joking comment about how confusing things were with the three Lucias: two that were from two cities in Sweden, and one from Texas singing the Swedish Lucia song in Swedish at the Texas day festival in the middle of summer!

They then presented me with a book about Barkeryd. I was called up one more time, and presented with a certificate from the Jönköping Vasa Order. The lady who presented it was very nice; she asked me questions about who I was and what I wanted to do in life. Luckily, she asked in English, a language I fully understood! After all these presentations I was able to breathe again and exited the stage.

After that, my mom, dad, Werner, Anita, Pelle, Mona, and I were hanging out at the festival. We ate some good food. Many people were very nice and said I did wonderfully which was nice to hear. Dad and I met Tomas Löw, the son of Rune Löw, a man that stayed with us when the Barkeryd Choir toured the United States. Rune was a dear friend.

Everyone was really nice. Some people wanted pictures. We met a family from Houston that saw the Lucia celebration in December when I was crowned. Altogether it was a very nice day.

After the festival, Dad, Mom, and I left with Werner to stay at his house for a night. Werner and his wife Anna-

Lena were great. We saw Tranås, the little town they lived in. They were very welcoming and nice. Their house was beautiful. Anna-Lena brought us to the train station the next day and we headed for Stockholm. We arrived in the evening and saw Gamla Stan. Mom went home the next day, and Dad and I went to visit his friend Kjell in Bergby. We stayed several days with Kjell. This was interesting because Kjell and his dad had built their log house by themselves.

This little town was also pretty. We walked around a lot and had a very relaxing trip. Kjell and Rosalie, his girlfriend, took us to an elk reservation to see elk. We left after four nights and went home.

Overall, this was an amazing trip, and I have been very privileged to see this dream come true. I absolutely love everywhere I went and would go back anytime. I got to see people I have not seen in a while, meet new friends, connect with family, and experience places I have always wanted to go. I want to thank everyone who helped me along the way: Continental Airlines, for providing my round trip airfare between Houston and Sweden, The Swedish Club of Houston, my Barkeryd hosts, Anita and Pelle Johansson, and everyone else in Barkeryd who made my visit so special.

> Thank you! Athena Flusche

In honor of Gusten and Inga Lisa Calissendorff Donated 1 August 2010 The Swedish Club of Houston and Texas Lucia:

Dearest members of The Swedish Club of Houston and Lucía famílies!!!

Thank you all, from the bottom of my heart for the fantastic present Gusten and I received on the Barkeryd day on August 1, 2010.

The last years Gusten and Evert have placed themself on the chairs in front of the Immigrations Museum to see the Festival performances, and now two beautiful benches are placed on the same place with our names on them—where these two gentlemen had located themselves during the festivals. How they are missed Otroligt¹....

A big warm hug full of LOVE and THANKS for the beautiful present in our honor.

With love to all, Inga Lísa

¹Unbelievable

News from Sweden (from Swedish Council of America's August 2010 *eUPDATE*)

→ Rooney Mara, a relatively unknown American actress, has been cast to play the starring role of Lisbeth Salander in the U.S. remake of the first book of Stieg Larsson's Millennium trilogy, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, Sony Pictures has confirmed. Mara will play opposite Daniel Craig, who has been given the role of investigative journalist Mikael Blomqvist. Swedish actor Stellan Skarsgård has also confirmed that he had been offered the role of the main villain, Martin Vanger. Shooting is slated to begin in Stockholm this October for a December 21, 2011, release.

→ Last month Swedish divers working off the coast of Finland found 30 bottles of perfectly preserved champagne at a depth of 55 meters (180 feet), perhaps part of a consignment sent by France's King Louis XVI to the Russian Imperial Court. "For this wine, time has stood still," said Veuve-Clicquot's chief cellarman after tasting the two-century-old champagne.

→ China's Geely, the company that completed the acquisition of Volvo Car Corporation recently, plans to build a manufacturing facility for Volvo cars in Shanghai. The new facility, which will be located in the Jiading Industrial Zone, will have an annual capacity of 300,000 vehicles. Manufacturing of Volvo's C30 and V70 luxury car models will begin there in late 2012.

Places to go and things to see . . .

Wilmington, DE (anytime) - The New Sweden Centre in Wilmington is an interpretive center for the colonial history of the Delaware Valley, featuring "Hands-On-History" displays of artifacts from the Prehistoric era to the American War for Independence, with a special focus on native Americans and the New Sweden Colony.

At <u>www.colonialnewsweden.org/brochure10.php</u>, you can download a new brochure of New Sweden sites throughout Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland, with a map to show the locations and contact details for each location/organization.

Also, the New Sweden Centre website (<u>www.</u> <u>colonialnewsweden.org</u>) has been updated with lots of new information. There are several videos of Swedish Dancers on the site

(<u>www.colonialnewsweden.org/links-video10.php</u>), as well as a wonderful book and CD of Swedish dancing and Lucia music and instructions in their online store. (Editor's note: A special *tack så mycket* [thank you very much] to Aleasa Hogate, New Sweden Centre Education Director, who so faithfully keeps us informed about the Centre and its activities.

Philadelphia, PA (Saturday, October 23, 2010) - The Tenth Annual New Sweden History Conference, "Native and Newcomer Medicine in New Sweden, 1638-1750," will be on Saturday, October 23, 2010, at Bartram's Garden, 54th and Lindbergh Streets, Philadelphia (www.bartramsgarden.org). The New Sweden Centre in Wilmington, DE, is a co-sponsor of this annual event.

For more information, see the conference brochure at <u>www.americanswedish.org/New%20Sweden%20Conf%202</u> 010%20flyer.pdf.

Philadelphia, PA (anytime) - The American Swedish Historical Museum in South Philadelphia is the oldest Swedish Museum in the United States. Founded in 1926, the Museum has been dedicated to preserving and promoting Swedish and Swedish-American cultural heritage and traditions for nearly 80 years. The Museum today consists of 12 permanent galleries, one changing exhibition gallery, and a library.

The Museum is open Tuesday - Friday, 10 to 4, and Saturday and Sunday, 12 to 4. For more information, see www.americanswedish.org.

Julgranskarameller Workshop

Saturday, November 13, 2010 1:00-5:00 p.m. at Margaret St.Clair's home



For more information, contact Margaret at <u>margestclair@hotmail.com</u> or 281-493-4978.



Swedenroots Genealogy for you

Are you seeking the roots of your Swedish ancestors?

Have you hit the Brick Wall?

I would like to help you!

Yvonne Henriksson, Sweden

Web: <u>www.swedenroots.se</u>

e-mail: info@swedenroots.se

2010 Swedish Club Lucia and Attendants

Applications for The Swedish Club of Houston's 2010 Lucia are now being accepted. 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 Saturday, December 11;
- Able to represent the club at the Texas Day Celebration and Parade in Barkeryd, Sweden, on the first weekend of August, 2011 (round-trip airfare provided from Houston to Sweden); and
- On her return to Houston, Lucia must write an article for publication in The Swedish Club News about her experience in Sweden.

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 24, 2010**.

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 questions or further information, contact Margaret St.Clair at 281-493-4978 or margestclair@hotmail.com.

THE SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON APPLICATION FOR 2010 LUCIA CANDIDATES, ATTENDANTS AND STAR BOYS

Name:		Date of Birth:	
Address:		Phone No.:	
E-mail address:			
I would like to be (check one): Lucia	Attendant	Star boy	

Lucia candidates only: Please include your essay and current photo with your application, postmarked by September 24, 2010.

Mail applications and enclosures (essay and photo for Lucia candidates) to: The Swedish Club of Houston, c/o Margaret St.Clair, 13831 Queensbury, Houston, TX 77079.

RESERVATION FORM FOR

Smörgåsbord - Saturday, October 23, 2010

(NOTE: Must be received by Wednesday, October 20)

Please make checks payable to "Swedish Club of Houston" and mail to: Swedish Club of Houston, c/o John Stavinoha, 807 Mulberry Ln., Bellaire, TX 77401

Name(s):_____

Phone:

Address:___

E-mail address:

Adult members	x \$30.00 =	\$
Adult Non-members	x \$35.00 =	\$
Children (12 and under)	x \$15.00 =	\$
	Total	\$

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 <u>newsletter@swedishclub.org</u> or by post to the return address below.

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