



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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

November/December

2010

Volume XXIII-No. 6



Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen

Saturday, December 11, 2010
Christ the King Lutheran Church
2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston

4:00 p.m. - Bazaar opens
4:30 p.m. - Worship Service and Lucia Procession
5:00 p.m. - Bazaar and Reception
6:00 p.m. - Closing

The annual Swedish Club of Houston Christmas Traditions and *Luciadagen* celebration will be held on Saturday, December 11, at Christ the King Lutheran Church. The event begins at 4:00 with the opening of the bazaar and continues with the worship service and Lucia procession at 4:30 p.m. With Carrie Anderson as Lucia 2010, we will officially kick off the Christmas season, Swedish-style!



Lucia 2009, Athena Flusche, led the procession last year. Everyone can sing and dance around the Christmas tree. There will also be games and treats for the children, along with a visit from the *jultomte*.

Admission is free and open to the public. Invite your family and friends to join you at this very popular event!

Välkommen och God Jul!
Welcome and Merry Christmas!

There's still room for you!

Many Swedish Club members are already hard at work preparing for this year's Christmas Traditions and *Luciadagen*, but more are needed. According to Jo Anna Harlan, Reception Co-Chair, there is still a need for persons to:

- make baked goods/candies for the bake sale
- sell baked items
- work with the bazaar
- sell Club t-shirts
- sell raffle tickets
- be a greeter/floater

After looking over this list and deciding where/how you would like to help, please let Jo Anna know at jahzah.h@gmail.com or 281-369-3410.

Come join us!! ***Julgranskarameller*** **Workshop**



Saturday, November 13, 1:00-5:00 p.m.
(or come and go whenever!)

Home of Margaret St.Clair
13831 Queensbury Lane
(near Beltway 8 and I-10 West)

Please bring a dessert for our Swedish Coffee Table.

RSVP: 281-493-4978

Every year, several SCH members get together to make 50 candy-filled Christmas tree decorations called *julgranskarameller*. We hang them on the Christmas tree at our Lucia Celebration, and later the *jultomte* gives them out to all the children. They are easy to make, so come and join the fun!

Swedish Club Lucia 2010

Carrie Anderson, daughter of Rod and Jackie Anderson, has been selected as our Lucia for 2010. She is 23 years old and is a graduate of the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas, where she majored in Fashion Merchandising and minored in Marketing. While enrolled at the university, she studied one semester abroad at the London College of Fashion. Currently, Carrie is a department secretary at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston. She also is a Beauty Advisor for Estee Lauder at Macy's Galleria, in addition to working as a freelance stylist. Carrie's future plans include attending graduate school to study Public Relations or Event Planning and Production. In her free time, Carrie enjoys fashion, art, reading, traveling, education and baking.

Below is Carrie's application essay in which she explains why she wants to be Lucia.

Growing up my sister, brother and I looked forward to the Lucia procession, a unique opportunity to experience our heritage and culture with others around us. We saw the same faces year after year, and they became sort of an extended holiday family. I remember putting on the white robe and picking out the silver tinsel to wear around my waist and to make my headpiece. I always envied the Lucia as she got ready, watching her as she put on the candle crown, and then we led her into the church. I always hoped to be "her" one day.



As we grew older we still attended, but I would help out with the Christmas Lucia Gift Bazaar. I enjoyed seeing the younger children and the older generation coming together. Everyone enjoyed the Lucia celebration and hearing all the stories, songs and dances. This year I'm hoping for the privilege of fulfilling the role of Lucia.

When Christmas comes around, my Swedish grandfather comes down to celebrate with us. His parents (my great-grandparents) both emigrated from Sweden—Karl coming from Vingåker, near Örebro, and Carrie from Lillärdal in Jämtland. Karl and Carrie both came over when they were teenagers and met and married in South Dakota. Our house would be decorated with Dala horses, Swedish textiles, ornaments and candles. My father would cook Swedish

meatballs for days, it seemed like, lingonberries, *lefse*, Swedish cookies, and of course we had to have herring. There were always the jokes that the Norwegian side of the family (my dad's mom) would make us eat *lutefisk* the following year, but luckily it never appeared!

I would love the opportunity to represent The Swedish Club of Houston in Sweden. I would love to see where my family came from and be able to experience the culture first hand. I believe it would be an amazing journey and experience that I would treasure.

Calling all attendants and star boys



Like Carrie Anderson, Lucia 2010, many of our Swedish Club Lucias first dreamed of being Lucia when they served at a young age as attendants in the Lucia procession. Girls (ages 5 to 20) are invited to participate as attendants and boys (ages 5 to 15) as *stjärngossar* (star boys). Attendants and *stjärngossar* wear all-white clothing with silver trim and accessories which the Club provides, although anyone having his/her own outfit is encouraged to wear it.

If your child(ren) or grandchild(ren) would like to be part of this special event, please contact Margaret St. Clair (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.

From the Editor . . .

There are many ways to participate in and contribute to The Swedish Club of Houston. One of those is as editor of this bimonthly newsletter, *The Swedish Club News*. It has been my great pleasure to serve in that position for almost five years now. The time has come, however, to pass the baton, so the January/February 2011 issue will be my last.

That means we need a new newsletter editor, beginning with the March/April 2011 issue. If you are interested in filling this important position, or if you have questions about what is involved, please contact me at ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net or 281-412-9377. I look forward to talking with you!

Laura Millikan

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



Kebnekaise fjällstation
(mountain lodge)

Season's Greetings!

The Nobel Prize 2010

Every year since 1901 the Nobel Prize has been awarded for achievements in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and for peace. The Nobel Prize is an international award administered by the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden. In 1968, Sveriges Riksbank established The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. For a list of this year's winners, see swedenabroad.com/News_7067.aspx?slaveid=114222.

General election 2010

The General Election 2010 was held on September 19, and as a result Sweden has formed a new government. The newly elected Riksdag gathered for the first time at the opening of the Riksdag session on October 5. Read about how a government is formed at <http://sweden.gov.se/sb/d/2856/a/18332>. (Editor's note: For Riksdag election results in English, see the Election Authority web site at www.val.se/in_english/index.html.)

Bookmark this web site

Everyone with an interest in Sweden should have swedenabroad.com/washington as a favorite web site!!!

BITS & PIECES

 Margaret St.Clair will host a workshop at her home for making **table centerpieces** for the *Luciadagen* celebration on either December 9 or 10, 1:00-3:00 p.m. If you are interested in participating, call Margaret, 281-493-4978, for more information.

 The Norwegian Seamen's Church, 4309 Young St., Pasadena, will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar Friday, November 12th through Sunday, November 14th. Shop for unique Christmas gifts, including Swedish linens, special holiday crafts and much more. For hours and more information, see www.sjomannskirken.no/media/36369/julebasar_-flyer-forside_2010.pdf

 Diana Rodionov, SCH member, recommends several videos of the recent wedding of Sweden's Crown Princess Victoria and commoner Daniel Westling. Among them are www.cnn.com/video/data/2.0/video/world/2010/06/18/nyberg.sweden.royals.marrying.cnn.html (filmed a week before the wedding) and www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mqcnRS1Gm8.

Folk Dancers plan busy Christmas season

by Kathy Bjork

The Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston have some upcoming events that we would love to see you at. On Saturday, November 13th, we will dance at noon at the Norwegian Seamen's Church, 4309 Young St., in Pasadena. They always have such a wonderful Christmas Bazaar.

Saturday and Sunday, December 4th and 5th, we will be at Dickens on the Strand in Galveston. If you make it down there, please stop by our booth to say 'hi'. We will be selling glögg.

Then on Saturday, December 11th, we will be at the St. Lucia Celebration and will dance after the church service. All three events are sure to put some Christmas spirit in you!

News from Sweden (from Swedish Council of America's July, September and October 2010 eUPDATES)

→ Visitors to Sweden are often amazed by the grandeur and variation of the Swedish landscape, and by the richness and diversity of Swedish culture. Equally amazing to tourists is the variety of types of accommodations across the country. Swedish hoteliers give tourists the chance to live in a hotel made of ice and a hotel under a lake, so it was only a matter of time before someone decided to put a hotel in a tree. The Tree Hotel, in the village of Harads in northern Sweden, opened with six rooms in July but will eventually expand to 24. Each room is designed by a different architect and has a different character.

→ Öresund Bridge celebrated its 10th anniversary in July. The opening of the Öresund road-rail link tied Sweden to Denmark and helped to spur a dramatic change in the fortunes and image of the city of Malmö,



Photo: www.imagebank.sweden.se © Jan-Erik Andersson/Malmö Turism

home to almost 300,000 people. The high bridge part of the Öresund Bridge has the longest cable-stayed main span of all bridges in the world. That goes for both road and rail traffic! The

tunnel part of Öresundsbron is the world's longest underwater tube tunnel, also for both road and rail traffic.

→ Development of new wind power stations in Sweden is expected to break the record this year despite the fact that global investment in wind power has slowed during the economic slump. The Swedish center-right government aims to have an output of renewable energy amounting to 50 percent of energy needs by 2020. Today around 20 percent of Sweden's current energy production comes from renewable sources. The development of wind turbines has been very rapid—since the mid-1980s, turbines have doubled in size every four years. In 2009, 198 new wind turbines were installed in Sweden. At the moment there are 219 wind turbines under

construction, with a combined generating capacity of 495 megawatts.

→ A new University of Gothenburg study has revealed that an increasing number of Swedish companies have changed their working language from Swedish to English. As more Swedish companies are sold to owners in other countries, employees are forced to change their working language from Swedish to English, according to a thesis written by Vivianne Apelman, who is also involved in language education at Chalmers University of Technology. Her findings confirm previous research pointing to increased Anglicization in the workplace and that companies tend to take for granted that their employees are proficient in both written and spoken English.

→ Sweden has earned the highest reputation ranking in Reputation Institute's CountryRep 2010, its annual survey measuring public perception of 39 countries around the world. "A strong country reputation builds stakeholder support, making Sweden a country people will recommend as a place to visit, invest, live and work," says Nicolas Trad, Managing Partner of Reputation Institute, a global, private advisory firm specializing in corporate reputation management.

→ Three more actors have joined the cast of the Hollywood version of "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo," which began shooting in Sweden this month. Director David Fincher confirmed that England's Joely Richardson and Steven Berkoff and Sweden's David Dencik will join the cast of the English-language version of the film. British actor Daniel Craig, best known for his role as James Bond in the last two 007 films, is playing the role of Blomkvist in the English version and has been filming scenes in Stockholm's Södermalm neighborhood. Filming is expected to take place also in Uppsala, north of Stockholm, and locations in Hälsingland province in eastern Sweden, including Bollnäs, Gävle and Söderhamn.

→ 18-year-old Anton Amadé Abele is set to become the youngest-ever member of the Swedish parliament after replacing Moderate Party colleague Anna König Jerlmyr, who was recently named the new deputy mayor of Stockholm. Abele expressed his enormous gratitude for the support that he has received, and described the chance to enter the Riksdag as an honor.

Seen at Smörgåsbord 2010 . . .



Brita Donohue and David Bash greeted guests



Fredrik Rehnmark and Per and Marie Leander



Dinner is ready . . .



Rod, Claire, Carrie (Lucia 2010) and Jackie Anderson

*Save the Date
for the
next big event!*



What: Annual Meeting/Pancake and Pea Soup Dinner
When: Saturday, January 22, 2011, 6:00 p.m.
Where: Christ the King Lutheran Church,
2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston

(If you would be willing to help prepare pancakes for the dinner, please contact Margaret St.Clair at 281-493-4978 or margestclair@hotmail.com.)



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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, and your favorite Swedish shops, products or resources.

Please send news to newsletter@swedishclub.org or by post to the return address below.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Cathy Wahren	President	president@swedishclub.org
Karen Wolz	Vice President	vicepresident@swedishclub.org
David Bash	Treasurer	treasurer@swedishclub.org
Devon Westerlund	Secretary	secretary@swedishclub.org
Laura Millikan	Newsletter Editor	newsletter@swedishclub.org
John Stavinoha	Membership & Language School	membership@swedishclub.org
Christopher Westerlund	svensk talande	svensk@swedishclub.org
Erich Wolz	Webmaster	webmaster@swedishclub.org
Linda Andersson	Director	landerssondiamond@yahoo.com
Dina Colburn	Director	djcolburn@yahoo.com
Elisse Karlsson	Director	ehayes38@aol.com
Fredrik Rehnmark	Director	fredrikr@sbcglobal.net
Margaret St.Clair	Director	margestclair@hotmail.com



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

c/o Laura Millikan
6102 S. Sumac Drive
Pearland, TX 77584-8064

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED