



## THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

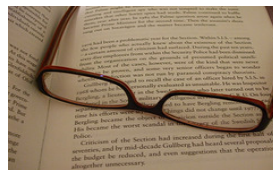
*Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986*

### Club Updates



- Club activities kick into high gear this time of year. Be a major part of it all by lending a helping hand. Use your talents to carry on Swedish tradition in Texas! Kids can be attendants or star boys during Lucia. If you like to bake, take photos or sell goodies, there's a place for you too. Interested? You'll find specific details on page 5 and 6.
- If you enjoy crafting, join Margaret St. Clair this Saturday, **November 12** for the **julgranskarameller workshop**. More details on page 5.
- Our yearly **Lucia celebration** will take place on **December 10**. Lauren Garde will carry the crown and the tradition forward as this year's Lucia.

### In the News



- Swedish citizens can apply for a **regular passport** at the Houston consulate on **November 10 and 11**. A mobile photo station will be available for use. Appointments must be made in advance. More info: [http://bit.ly/passport\\_info](http://bit.ly/passport_info)
- *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, the American **film remake** of Stieg Larsson's book, *Män som Hatar Kvinnor* will be released **December 21** in theaters nationwide. The remake was filmed entirely on location in Sweden.
- Read about a few of Sweden's recent technological innovations: [http://bit.ly/swedish\\_tech](http://bit.ly/swedish_tech)

photo from flickr users: nikki m

## Swedish Club Lucia 2011

Lauren Garde, daughter of Tim and Jill Garde, has been selected by the Board of Directors to be our Lucia for 2011. She is a Houston native and is in her Senior year at St. Agnes Academy. Lauren leads an active life. She is a varsity cheerleader and is a member of the St. Thomas Spirit Club. Lauren enjoys both wave boarding and snow boarding. She is also a member of the Young Republicans Club of Houston. After graduation, Lauren plans to attend college and is currently deciding on her future school. Below is Lauren's application essay in which she explains why she would like to be chosen as Lucia:

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### Lauren Garde



My name is Lauren Garde. I am currently a senior at St. Agnes Academy. I live at home with my parents Tim & Jill Garde and my younger sister Sarah. I respectfully submit this application to be your Lucia for the upcoming Swedish Christmas Traditions program, and to serve as your ambassador of the Swedish Club of Houston to the people of Barkeryd, Sweden.

My mother grew up in a Swedish-American church in Pennsylvania where they celebrated a Lucia Festival every December at Christmastime. She has told stories of the tradition to my sister and me our whole lives, but we have never had the first-hand experience of Lucia. Now that I am growing older, I am becoming more interested in my Swedish heritage. I am fascinated by the stories that my mother and grandmother tell of Lucia and of our Swedish relatives and traditions.

Both my great-great-grandfather and great-great-grandmother came from Sweden. In fact their wedding portrait hangs in my living room. Other than their names, little is known about them. My grandmother tells stories of her childhood memories of them, and how they lived in rural Pennsylvania. I can't help but wonder if their life in Pennsylvania was much like their life in Sweden...maybe it was vastly different.

I would like to take the opportunity that being the Lucia provides me to explore my Swedish heritage. I am very interested in participating in Lucia and traveling to Sweden to explore my ancestors' homeland and how they may have lived. Maybe I will find information on where they came from, and why they decided to move to America.

I appreciate your kind consideration of my application, and I look forward to participating in Swedish traditions this year.



## **Christmas Traditions And Luciadagen**

Saturday, December 10, 2011  
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  
6:30 p.m. -- Closing

The annual Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen celebration of the Swedish Club of Houston will be held on Saturday, December 10, at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

The event begins at 4:00 p.m. with the opening of the bazaar and continues with the worship service and Lucia procession at 4:30 p.m. With Lauren Garde as Lucia 2011, we will officially kick off the Christmas season, Swedish-style! Following the service, everyone is invited to gather in Parish Hall for fellowship and traditional Luciadag refreshments, as well as to continue shopping at the bazaar and bake sale.

The Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston will perform traditional Scandinavian folk dances, and 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!



2010 Lucia Carrie Anderson

**Välkommen och God Jul!**  
**Welcome and Merry Christmas!**

## **There's Still Time to Help Out!**

Many Swedish Club members are already preparing for this year's Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen, but there are many opportunities to participate in this celebration. Thanks to the hard work of all those who donated baked goods last year, our bake sale was tremendously successful. If you're not a baker, we still need help with:

- Selling baked goods/candies for the bake sale
  - Working in the bazaar
  - Helping in the kitchen
- Persons to mingle, greet, float, & take photos
- BAKING THOSE SWEDISH GOODIES/BREADS/CANDIES

If you are able to help out in any of these areas, please contact JoAnna Harlan at [Jahzah.h@gmail.com](mailto:Jahzah.h@gmail.com) or 281-369-3410.

## **Julgranskarameller Workshop!**



Come join us!!  
Saturday, November 12  
1 – 5 pm  
(or come and go whenever!)

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

If you wish, bring a dessert to share 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!

## Calling all Attendants and Starboys!



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) are invited to participate 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 costume is encouraged to wear it.

If your child(ren) or grandchild(ren) would like to be part of this special event, please contact JoAnna Harlan, 281-369-3410 or [Jahzah.h@gmail.com](mailto:Jahzah.h@gmail.com). She will send you a copy of words and a CD for the songs that will be sung during the service.



## Swedish Food and Decorations



It's time for baking tasty treats, decorating your home for the holidays, and getting gifts for loved ones. If you want some Swedish goodies, gifts, or Christmas decorations try these US-based stores:

[cookswedish.com](http://cookswedish.com) - From Lindsborg, Kansas. Wide assortment of foods available.

[hemslojd.com](http://hemslojd.com) - Also based in Lindsborg. Gifts, food, and unique items. Free catalog available.

[nordichouse.com](http://nordichouse.com) - Based in California. Large assortment of items from books to cookware.

[scandinaviantouch.com](http://scandinaviantouch.com) - Located in Pennsylvania. Also sell wide assortment of gifts.

[scanselect.com](http://scanselect.com) - Founded in Seattle. Sell a nice assortment. Also publish a free print catalog.

[swedensbest.com](http://swedensbest.com) - In New York. No handling charges. Can send items as a gift.

[swedensfinest.com](http://swedensfinest.com) - In Florida since the 80s. Candles, tablecloths, napkins, and more.

photos from flickr users: ciami81 and kellykorv



## **Swedish Texans:** Swedish Churches in Texas

Before the Civil War, there were approximately 150 Swedish Texans living in the state. After the war, three factors ushered in a larger wave of migration to the country and the state: The Homestead Act allowed immigrants free land if they became citizens. Sweden also experienced three years of bad harvest due to drought. And ticket fares to the New World via steamship were reduced dramatically due to better technology.

With the influx of new arrivals, the desire for central places to worship and meet became a priority within many Swedish communities in Texas. As the population grew, many new churches were built within the state. Most congregations were Lutheran but there were Methodist, Evangelical Free Church, and Baptist congregations as well.

Churches played an important role for many Swedish Texans. It gave people a place to gather and worship. It also helped keep the culture and language active. Many times, the services, Sunday school classes, and confirmation classes were all held in Swedish - which was the norm until the 1920s and 1930s. The church was also a central place to meet and socialize.

Several of the churches built in Texas are still standing with active congregations. Others have closed or changed location. Most moved into a more general direction away from their Swedish beginnings. At many of the original sites, you will also find historical markers set up by the [Texas Historical Commission](#) detailing the history of that particular church.

Of those that remain, some continue to honor their Swedish heritage. [Gethsemane Lutheran](#) in Austin holds a Christmas Eve service with Lucia celebrations and a Christmas morning Julotta at 8 am. [Bethel Evangelical Lutheran](#) in Avoca holds a Smörgåsbord every other February during even years. [St. John's United Methodist](#) in Georgetown holds a Swedish bake sale in October and conducts a Julotta at 6 am for Christmas. [New Sweden Evangelical Lutheran](#) in Manor holds both a Lucia celebration and a Julotta. [Tenth Street United Methodist](#) in Taylor also holds a Julotta every year.

Information summarized from *The Swedish Texans* by Larry E. Scott.





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

## THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

c/o Sara West  
4023 Sherwood West  
Kingwood TX 77339-1037

### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

#### Important Dates:

Julgranskaramell Workshop:

**Nov 12 - 1:00 PM**

Lucia Festivities:

**Dec 10 - 4:00 PM**

Pea Soup Dinner:

**January 2012**