



# THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

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

## Club Updates



- The Annual Meeting was held in January and we now have a new president and a new board. Read all about it on page 2 and 3.
- Grab a bib! The Crawfish Party is around the corner! Be at the Monument Inn in LaPorte on March 24 for the festivities. Details on page 6.
- Going to the International Festival? Stop by our booth for a visit on April 21-22 and April 28-29.
- It's almost springtime and that means Valborg. Start planning your trip to Brenham now! Find more details on page 4.

## In the News



- The Swedish Language Council (Språkrådet) recently released a list of new words for 2011. Take a look at some of the newest word entries: <http://bit.ly/words2011>
- It's a Princess! Crown Princess Victoria and husband Daniel welcomed little Princess Estelle to the family on February 23. The little princess is named after an American. Read more about the first Estelle here: [http://bit.ly/first\\_estelle](http://bit.ly/first_estelle)
- More Swedes are emigrating now than in the 19th century. Read about it here: [http://bit.ly/swe\\_emigr](http://bit.ly/swe_emigr)

flickr photo credit: Mads Boedker

## President's Corner

by Erich Wolz

While I have been a long-time member of the Swedish Club (and a Board Member since at least 1998, when I became the club's first -- and so far only -- Webmaster), I never expected to be nominated much less elected President. I am at the same time both honored and humbled, and hope that I can live up to everyone's expectations. My "Swedish connection" is via my wife's mother's father, Nils Persson, who was born on the island of Gotland. I'm originally from NYC, but as the bumper sticker says, "I came to Houston as fast as I could."

With a new year comes a new Executive Board; at our Annual Meeting in January, four new directors were elected. Thanks to Marie Teahen, Joakim Cederlund, Linn Larsson, and Bert Sheldon for stepping forward to help us preserve Swedish culture and customs. I am looking forward to working with you on this year's board! I would also like to extend a heartfelt "Tack så mycket" to our outgoing President Devon Westerlund and outgoing Directors Christopher Westerlund and JoAnna Harlan; their participation on the board will be missed.

Several activities are coming up this spring. Be sure to reserve the following dates on your calendar:

Saturday, 24 March, 6 pm -- Kräftskiva (Crawfish Party) featuring Swedish singer/songwriter Sofia Talvik. This event will again be held at the Monument Inn in La Porte (more information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter). Seating is limited, and reservations are required; submit your reservations online at <http://swedishclub.org> (do it now, before you forget, as last year's Crawfish Party was sold out)!

Saturday, 28 April, 3 pm -- Valborgsmässoafton at Dr. Margit Winstrom's ranch in Brenham. Although we have received large amounts of rain and water rationing was lifted, overall we are still in a minor drought. Hopefully there won't be a burn ban in effect for this year's bonfire!

Are there any activities the club is not currently doing that you would like to see? Is there anything we are doing that you would like to see changed? If you don't tell us, we'll never know! We are always looking for your input, ideas and participation -- after all, this is YOUR club.

If you haven't yet paid your 2012 dues, they are now (over)due. A Membership Renewal Form can be found at <http://www.swedishclub.org/join-us> (\$35 Family, \$25 Individual, \$10 Student).

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Crawfish Party!

## **New Board Members**

A new board was elected in January of this year and several new faces have joined the board. Read a little bit about two of your newest board members, Bert Sheldo and Marie Teahen.

### **Bert Sheldon**

My name is Bert Sheldon. My grandparents met in Chicago after emigrating from the Swedish provinces of Blekinge, Hälsingland, Skåne and Västergötland. I knew little about my family's history until in a chance meeting with an amateur historian I mentioned a box of old Swedish papers that I had inherited from my father's family. This led to a quest that had me digging through Mormon records, studying Swedish and taking five trips to Sweden to dig through records, tour museums and visit places where my ancestors had lived.

I moved to Minneapolis and in 1992 joined the American Swedish Institute where I was an active member until moving to Texas in 2002. I have been a member of the Swedish Club of Houston since 2005.

### **Marie Teahen**

After finishing high school in Sweden, I wanted to travel, so I worked as an Au-Pair in Boston for a year, then I worked in the hotel industry in Austria and England for a year. My love for learning about cultures, lead me to a Geography degree 4 years later from Salem State College in MA. I continued on to work for a company in Boston that created customized travel around the world for religious and academic groups.

In 2001, I married my American boy and after celebrating 10 years this summer we have 3 children, one from each state we have lived in - MA, VA & TX. After many years of working with children in different areas, I decided to follow my calling and become a teacher this year.

Since my permanent move to the US, I have taken an active role in other Swedish groups where we have lived, and now I am excited to organize the Swedish Lucia Celebrations 2012 for the Swedish Club of Houston.

Want to get in contact with Bert, Marie, other board members? Go here for more info: <http://www.swedishclub.org/about/contact-us>

## Valborgsmässoafton



Welcome spring back to Texas with Swedish flair. Join us for the Valborg Bonfire and BBQ at Dr. Margit Winstrom's ranch in Brenham.

The festivities begin at 3:00 PM on April 28. There will be games, singing, grilling, and more during our annual Valborg celebration.

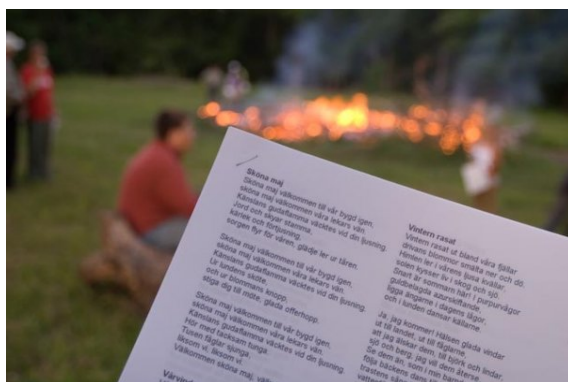
**Who: Swedish Club Members**

**What: Valborg Bonfire and BBQ to welcome spring**

**When: Saturday, April 28 at 3:00 PM**

**Where: 3833 Peters Lane, Brenham, TX**

Please bring one item to grill, such as hot dogs or hamburgers for each member of your family plus one side dish (Swedish, if possible) to share with everyone.



## **IKEA Events**

IKEA is sponsoring two events in Houston this Spring that may be of interest to our SCH members. The following information is taken from examiner.com:

### **Påskbord**

WHEN: Friday, March 23, 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

WHERE: IKEA Houston Restaurant (I-10 and Antoine, second floor)

WHAT: Celebrate the Easter holiday early at IKEA Houston with a traditional Swedish Easter Smorgasbord called Påskbord. Enjoy a delicious, all you can eat feast for one great price! Adults eat for \$9.99, while children get their fill for just \$2.49! (Seating is limited. Tickets must be purchased in advance. \*\$12.99 per person after March 20, 2012.)

### **Exhibit Featuring Ikea Products**

WHEN: March 4 - June 3

WHERE: Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), Beck Building, Ground Floor, 5601 Main Street

WHAT: A reproduction of the installation Conversation Piece by Barnaby Barford featuring products provided by IKEA Houston will be on display at the MFAH as part of the Shifting Paradigms in Contemporary Ceramics: The Garth Clark and Mark Del Vecchio Collection exhibition. IKEA FAMILY members will receive \$1 off admission to the exhibition when they present their card. Visitors can enter to win a \$200 IKEA gift card and membership to the MFAH.

[Meatballs, movies and museums meet IKEA Houston \(http://exm.nr/ikea\\_spring\)](http://exm.nr/ikea_spring)



flickr photo credit: ktpupp



## Crawfish Party!



Gather the whole gang and join us for one of the most anticipated Swedish Club events of the year! Be sure to book early because these seats go fast!

Annual Kräftskiva featuring Swedish singer/songwriter [Sofia Talvik](#)

<http://www.sofiatalvik.com>

Saturday, Mar. 24 2012, 6:00 PM

at the Monument Inn

[4406 Independence Pkwy S \(Tx 134\), La Porte](#)

(near the San Jacinto Monument)

\$25 Members

\$30 Non-members

\$15 Youth (12 and under)

**Seating is limited, and reservations are required.**

[Click here](#) by Wednesday, March 21 to submit your reservation online.

Do it now, before you forget!

(direct link: <http://swedishclub.org/component/forme/?fid=2>)

For more info [contact](#) John Stavinoha. ([membership@swedishclub.org](mailto:membership@swedishclub.org))

Make check payable to:

**The Swedish Club of Houston - Crawfish**

**c/ o John Stavinoha**

**807 Mulberry Ln**

**Bellaire, TX 77401**



## **The 9th Annual Scandinavian Golf Tournament Augusta Pines in Spring, TX**

If you love golf, this is the perfect tournament for you! The Scandinavian Golf Tournament is an annual event held in Spring, Texas. This is not an official SCH event but it is sponsored by several Scandinavian organizations, including the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce.

Monday March 26, 2012

Lunch & Practice: 11.30 am

Shotgun start: 12.30 pm

Dinner and Award Ceremony following the Tournament

[Download full information form and registration here.](#)

[http://bit.ly/scand\\_golf](http://bit.ly/scand_golf)

Deadline to register is **March 16, 2012**

## **Allt för Sverige aka The Great Swedish Adventure**



SVT recently aired the first season of its reality TV show featuring ten Americans with Swedish roots. The program is not available on SVT Play in the US, but you can now catch all eight episodes on YouTube.

To watch the episodes: Go to [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and search for the keyword "Allt för Sverige" or username "rokkystrand". These keywords will lead you to every hour-long episode from season one.

Watch as the group returns to discover their Swedish past and compete with each other for a chance to meet their living relatives in the Old Country.

If you like what you see and you have Swedish roots, why not sign up to be on season two?

Apply here: <http://www.greatswedishadventure.com/>



## 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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Important Dates:

Kräftskiva:

**March 24, 2012**

Valborg:

**April 28, 2012**