



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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

Electronic Newsletter

Our Swedish Club spends about a dollar per copy to send this newsletter to you in black and white. With your cooperation we can save that dollar and provide the copy to you faster and in color via our website.

We've been telling you in a little box

Remember you can see and download the newsletter and most of the pictures in full color on the Club website www.swedishclub.org

Instead of printing, folding, taping, stamping, and waiting three days for delivery, we would simply send you an email telling you when the newsletter is ready on the website. You can then read it on-line or download and print if necessary. It is loaded in Adobe Acrobat so anyone can read and print it. . You can try it now on the direct link: <http://www.swedishclub.org/scnews.htm> . The Acrobat Reader is a free program at www.acrobat.com

Your Executive Board requested we try this method to improve the service, brighten the paper, and save the cost.

If you don't get an email asking you to try this service, it means we don't have your current email address. Please send an email to arvid@johanson.us so we can collect your address.

Editors Note: This works very well for the Retiree's Club that I belong to. They are now reaching a full fifty percent of the club after 6 electronic issues. In fact the new edition of their newsletter arrived as I was writing this article.

TEST:::When are the Swedish Flag Day and the American Flag Day? For answers please see Page 9?

Sweden National Day Party June 7th

We will celebrate the Swedish National Day (which is June 6th) on Saturday, June 7th at 3 pm at the Norwegian Seamen's Church in Pasadena. The event is organized by the Consulate of Sweden in Houston, SACC Texas, The Swedish Club of Houston, and SWEA Houston.

The festivities start at 3PM at The Norwegian Seaman Church. We will have a Swedish Smörgåsbord prepared by Swedes; music; and folk dancing. Please come out and pay tribute to The Swedish Flag and to meet our friends from the other organizations.

The advance price for the event is \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for children 7-12 years of age and free for children under that age. Make checks payable to the Swedish Club and send to: Consulate of Sweden, 2909 Hillcroft, Suite 515, Houston, TX 77057 by May 31st ! Use the form on Page 9.

You may call Nina Björk for more info at the Consulate:713-953-1417

NOTE: The May 31st cutoff date is very important since the food is being prepared by members- an accurate count is very important. A very few tickets will be available at the door for \$20 for adults and \$10 for children.

If you don't like Swedish Food, bring your own meal and join us for the fun and festivities.

Bring your swimsuit if you'd like to use the swimming pool.

Our thanks to Nina Björk for spearheading this effort. ...The first in several years.

The Norwegian Seaman's Church is at 4309 Young Street in Pasadena 77504.

President's Corner

It's amazing how time flies. It seems like yesterday we had our annual meeting and suddenly we are quickly approaching summer. For many this is the favorite time of the year.

I know many of you are in your planning stages for your trip to Sweden. This year there are several bargain fares to Scandinavia. Some of them might even get you there. The lowest fare I have heard about, so far, is about \$700.00 round trip. This is from Houston to Copenhagen and back to Houston. If they go much lower, you better pack a pick nick basket.

April 26 we had one of our last events before summer. It was the Bonfire/Blue bonnet bash in Brenham. Our member Doctor Margit Winstrom and her husband Doctor Bill Riley hosted this year's event. This was a great event. Margit and Bill have a fantastic place in Brenham. They went through a lot of work to plan this event. There was something for everyone to do. You could sit in the shade and just relax or participate in one of many events, including relaxing to the music from the band in the barn. If you missed it I hope you make plans for next year. This place is well worth a visit. The ranch is beautiful and you will find a lot of Swedish memorabilia.

Thanks Margit and Bill for a wonderful day.

Our next event will be **June 7, 2003**. We will celebrate **The Swedish National Day or Flag Day**. We will be a day late, but we thought a Saturday would be better to get together than a Friday night. This event is arranged together with The Swedish Consulate, SWEA, SACC and The Swedish Club. Please come out and pay tribute to The Swedish Flag and to meet our friends from the other organizations. The festivities start at 3PM at The Norwegian Seaman Church. We will have a Swedish Smörgåsbord, prepared by Swedes, music and folk dance. See more details on the front cover and the reservation form on page 9. Please sign up early so we are able to prepare enough food.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our board members for continued hard work. This time I specially want to thank Rod Anderson for his

outstanding work as our treasurer. **Thanks Rod** for hanging in there.

I hope you all will have a great summer.

Må Gott!

Leif

Favorite Swedish Recipes

Is your favorite Swedish recipe listed below? If not, please send a copy to Mary Lynn Koenig who is collecting them for a Club Recipe Book Project.

Aina's chicken stew with fruit cocktail
Bob's Swedish rye bread
Cabbage rolls
Cake from Kramfors
Cheesecake
Felix chocolate cake
Fish bolls au gratin with lobster sauce
Ground beef rolls
Inger's potato salad
Instant Overnight Pickles
Junior pancakes
Kreolskans Sunday Stew
Lemon Sauce
Meatballs
Mom's special chocolate frosting
Pesto Rolls
Pretzels
Quick And Easy Pickled Beets
Rice Pudding
Rye bread
Salmon with vegetable pasta and feta sauce
Succecake
Swedish Glogg
Swedish Nut Cake
Texas Gravlax
Traditional Easter Buns
Ziti al Tonno

Mary Lynn Koenig is putting together the recipe book as a club fund raiser. English or Svensk is OK. (Her husband, Pelle Fisk, will translate.)

Email to MaryLynnKoenig@bigfoot.com or mail to 26951 Crown Haven Ct., Kingwood TX 77339.

Why Allana Went to Sweden Early for her Lucia Trip and Why You Should Go.

I cannot think of a better way to honor your Swedish heritage than to brush up or begin your Swedish language skills. The Uppsala International Summer Session (UISS) will allow you to do just that in an environment that is academic, culturally diverse, and a little laid back. After all, it is summertime!

Some of the high points of the program include the multicultural and multigenerational classrooms. Students range from college kids to grandparents, and the group interacts. The “fika,” or coffee break, ritual every morning during class allowed students to get to know each other with mug and cookie in hand. In my classroom, I often partnered with a Japanese student when we did speaking exercises. Hearing his Japanese-Swedish accent versus my American-Swedish accent helped me hear differentiations in speech. It was such a contrast to my language classes in high school and college.

The travel opportunities offered through UISS are another positive facet. My group travelled by boat (which was half the fun) to Finland for an amazing weekend in Helsinki. I took my own side-trip from Helsinki and caught a ferry to Estonia for an unforgettable day-trip. The hotels were top of the line and the whole trip was fairly inexpensive because of the group rate through UISS. Another fun trip was my adventure in Lapland. I went on a four day hiking excursion in the wilderness, something I could not have done alone and I am so glad I had the chance to go with UISS’s experienced guide—the director’s husband!

The UISS staff offers a plethora of evening and weekend activities. This includes a tour of Uppsala’s “nations” (like fraternity houses), movie screenings, visiting musicians, and dinners. The local excursions are numerous. I tried to do every fieldtrip offered, but it was impossible to keep up. I saw many country churches, the Swedish Film

Institute, Drottningholm Castle, City Hall, and much more.

I hope that some of you will read this and be inspired to learn Swedish, learn about Sweden, and make memories to last a lifetime. You can learn more at www.UISS.org. If you cannot access the internet, call Nelleke van Oevelen-Dorrestijn, director UISS, in The Netherlands at +31 13 5212388 or +46 18 102374 for her assistant in Sweden. Don’t delay...if you are interested in attending the first session of the summer, applications are due in less than a month! Please email me if you have any questions at Lannyclarke@yahoo.com.
Submitted by Allana Clarke, SCH Lucia 2001

How You (Your Children) CAN GO !

The University of Texas at Austin

Announces the availability of

Three generous scholarships

For one year’s study in Sweden

To be awarded to deserving UT student.

Check out the Swedish Studies Program at UT and the Scholarships at their website:

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/swedish/>

Contacts:

Dr. Kit Belgium – Phone 512-471-4123 or email belgium@mail.utexas.edu

or

Dr. Ivalu McQuiddy – Phone 512-471-6490 or email ivym@mail.utexas.edu

(Ed. Note: You knew there was a catch- you have to be a deserving UT student- so plan ahead !)

OTHER JUNE SWEDISH EVENTS

Nordic Fiddles and Feet - WV

Members Karen and Erich Wolz highly recommend a week-long Scandinavian folk dance and music camp they've go to every other year

The annual program is scheduled for 28 June through 5 July 2003, at Buffalo Gap Camp, Capon Bridge, West Virginia.

Now is the time to register since registrations already are arriving. MEN take note: They are encountering the regular challenge of registrations from women outpacing those from men, so they want to encourage the males to register earlier.

Their website has been updated and can be viewed at

<http://www.nordicfiddlesandfeet.org/>

They welcome suggestions to improve the site. What are your favorite Scandinavian dance and music links?

Seek info or send comments to barthoj@mail.nih.gov.

Submitted by Karen and Erich Wolz



Midsummer - Elgin Area of Texas

The Midsummer celebration in Elgin will be on June 19 at the SPJST on Highway 95 in Elgin (it is just a couple of blocks north of Highway 290... on the right and on the West side of Elgin if you are coming from Houston).

It will start with a social time at 5:30 p.m. with the BBQ following at 6:30 and the program at 7:30.

The cost of tickets is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 10 and under . in advance (it is appreciated if advance tickets are bought because it helps to know who is coming so they can order the meals). If tickets are still available, the cost will be \$8 and \$5 at the door..

A social hour will last from 5 to 6:30 p.m.. Viewing of the silent auction items will also begin at this time. At 6:30 p.m., a barbecue meal will be served. The program will feature recognitions, music, and humor. It will conclude with a grand march and dancing around the May Pole. Girls and boys of Swedish ancestry, of all ages, are invited to put flowers around the May Pole and to march around it. Those who desire to participate should call Laurie Webb at (512) 281-3459 or Denise Halter at (512) 281-2897.

Submitted by Charlene Hanson Jordan

Midsummer – Round Rock, TX

The Midsummer program at the Palm Valley Church just off Highway 79 on the east side of Round Rock will probably be as usual, on the Sunday following the program in Elgin, June 22, at 2:30 p.m. for the organ music, with the speaker at 3:00.

Anybody can come ---without notice. There is no cost except for a collection plate. It has been, for many years, a reunion of Swedish pioneers and celebration of their coming to Texas. Ellsworth Peterson plays the organ wonderfully and the church is beautiful and three scholarships (Crone, Widen and Texas Swedish Pioneers) are awarded.

It is hard to compare the two gatherings, because they are different. One is a solemn church program and the other, a big joint meal. We somehow need to support them because they serve the purpose of reminding us, the Swedes, about their heritage.....

Submitted by Charlene Hanson Jordan

FOLLOWUP – Mamma Mia by ABBA // Joint Financial Meeting

Mamma Mia!, the hit musical comedy based on the Swedish songs of ABBA, finally arrived in Houston at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. Being a teenager in Sweden when ABBA was at its most popular, and given the show's rave reviews, I was not to miss this opportunity. My wife was delighted to hear me suggest going to see a musical.

Mamma Mia! first opened at London's West End on April 6 1999, twenty five years to the day after ABBA won the Eurovision song contest with "Waterloo". It has also played on Broadway and is currently on a world tour, braking local box-office records everywhere.

The story, written by Catherine Johnson, concerns Sophie who lives with her mother on a small Greek island. Sophie is about to be married to Sky and wishes for her father to walk her down the aisle. However, she has a problem: who is her father? Her mother does not want to tell her, so Sophie reads her mother's diary and discovers the name of three men who could possibly be her Dad. Not wanting to be married without her father being present, Sophie invites all three men to the wedding without her mother's knowledge. The fun starts when the three men arrive on the island and discover why they have been invited. Sophie's mother Donna has also invited her two best friends, Rosie and Tanya to attend the wedding. Donna and her two friends recapture their long lost youth and in doing so create a great comedy trio.

I think Mamma Mia succeeds very well. The story is interesting and involved without being too confusing. There are numerous sexual innuendoes and ABBA references, and the whole show is a lot of fun; especially the first act. You can also tell that the performers are all having a lot of fun performing their parts to a very high standard. My two favorite performers were the outstanding mother "Donna" played by Monique Lund and her hilarious best friend "Tanya" played by Ellen Harvey.

Twenty-two of ABBA's most famous songs are included in this musical and the seamless transition into certain songs and between scenes is done very well. The staging is simple but effective. Some of the costumes are unconventional and outrageously funny. In one scene, everyone is dancing and singing in swim suits, fluorescent colored life vests and snorkel gear. The second act has a little slower music and is more serious then the first half but ends in a fast mini concert with the songs "Super Trouper" and "Waterloo", performed by the whole cast.

You don't have to be familiar with ABBA to enjoy Mamma Mia! It is still very funny and you can expect something great . If, however, you are a fan of ABBA and their music, like I am, this exceptional show is not to be missed.

If you are out traveling and want to see this show, check out www.mamma-mia.com for the continuation of the U.S. tour schedule. It is also playing in Hamburg, London, New York, Toronto, Las Vegas and Tokyo.

Submitted by Pelle Fisk

Joint Financial Meeting

The information meeting for people who still have some connection to Sweden. There was help find out the individuals current situation regarding pensions and provide additional insurances for a secure life

If you missed the event and want more info you can contact SACC for a brochure. They still have quite a few brochures left to distribute to people interested in the subject.

You can contact Tellus at the address below.
Malte Börjesson
Tellus Insurance Advisory Services Ltd.
Regnbågsgatan 8A * 417 55 Göteborg SWEDEN
Tel: +46-31-779 0830
Fax: +46-31-779 0680
E-mail: malte@tellusforsakring.se

Info Submitted by Astrid Marklund

FOLLOW UP: Brenham Blue Bonnet Bash - Valborgsmässoafton Bål

Many Club members had a great time at the Brenham Retreat Home of members Margit Winstrom and Bill Riley on Saturday April 26th. Remember Margit? You've seen her ad in our newsletter as the good old fashioned Doc: (See Page9 or "www.olderfashioneddoc.com".) Margit and Bill are best described as gracious hosts. They did all the work for us to have a wonderful time playing games, riding a tractor pulled hay wagon across the large ranch, and enjoying the catered barbecue, professional western lore performance, western music, and the traditional bonfire - Valborgsmässoafton Bål. Part of the program was a dedication of the new barn to Margit's father who designed and built the steel barn.



The Wagon Ride



The Feed Tent



The Little House



The Games, Tent, and Barn



Bill and Margit in front of the Bonfire

Thanks Margit and Bill!

FOLLOW UP : Kräftskiva – Crawfish Party

Another Successful Kräftskiva

Again, thanks to John Stavinoha and the crew at Monument Inn, we had a good meal and a wonderful time on April 5th.



CAN YOU NAME THESE CLUB OFFICERS



See page 9

Finding Our Swedish Roots By Sonia Holz, Stockholm and member Gene Pettit, Bellaire

Nearly all Americans have roots in other countries. One major source is Sweden, who gave up to 1 million citizens to emigration prior to 1899, mostly between 1850-1870. In some areas of Sweden, including Smaland, every single household had family members leave their place of birth to try their luck in America.

Over the past several years the search for our roots has intensified, with more and more people wanting to know how and why their ancestors came to the United States of America. The revolution of electronic data exchange and the relative ease of using computer search engines have made family research a national pastime.

Svergies Slaektforskarfoerbund, The Swedish National Genealogical Society, has a very good website called Rotter, which translates to roots. One can access the site, leave inquiries, and sometimes, get an answer, all at no charge! Unfortunately, one never knows for certain if the answer is correct, because sources are not given. Without a viable source quoted, the work often has to be redone; "free" data can become very misleading, and, therefore, most expensive!

The Swedish National Society and regional societies can and will recommend qualified genealogists for family research with a track record for having done good research for several years back and who are active members of these societies. They follow the recommendations published and approved by the Swedish National Society, assuring accuracy and otherwise satisfactory results.

Doing research in Sweden is not as complex as it might be in the other parts of world. Swedish Church books have been maintained since 1700 (if not burned or otherwise destroyed) and one has access to them up to 1932. Then the 70 years of secrecy rule applies to afford privacy. There are, however, tools for obtaining even this information in some cases.

Since 1700 we have not only birth, marriage and burial church books, but even what are called huesfoerhoerslaengder, which are parish catechetical records on microfiche. Here one obtains broad, detailed information about a family. Of course, the handwriting of the pastors is not always legible; perhaps he spoke a different dialect and did not understand what was being told him. Other times you might seriously wonder if the pastor was half-blind, or was simply drunk on the schnapps he sipped as he recorded.

Another valuable reference is the bouppteckning, or, the estate inventory. These documents are not filmed, and can only be accessed in the main provincial archives.

The years before 1700 are often documented in what are called mantallangder, a population census questionnaire, from court documents, etc. Many highly qualified researchers can read this old script, written in old style German, which was brought to Sweden by German and Dutch merchants.

Part of what Sonia does includes providing other material to her clients, such as photographs of the churches where one's ancestors were baptized, married and buried, and the surrounding landscapes. If you're lucky you will also learn of any of your living relatives uncovered in the process!

When one looks at the queries left in Rotter, one often wonders, how could anyone believe that providing just a name such as Carl CARLSSON in Sweden anything could be found? Should you provide the birthdate and place, however, the odds of finding him are excellent! In every circumstance, remember to have reasonable expectations, be patient, and allow plenty of time to accomplish the desired objectives.

Name, date and place are essential. When Sonia began her research for Gene, we had only the name John William CARLSON. But, we found a photograph of his grave marker, with his Americanized name, plus his birthdate and place, even though the Swedish village name was misspelled. With that information, Sonia was able to learn that he was baptized as Jonas Wilhelm KARLSSON. We guessed the US Immigration and Naturalization Service Clerk changed the name so he could spell it more easily. VOILA!, now, we have sixteen generations!

Gather as much information as possible in the States and then establish contact with an established Swedish researcher. The provincial archives have researchers on their payroll, available for hire at 380 SKr per hour (10.31 SKr = US \$1.00 as this article is being written) but they possibly will refer you to a private researcher who will charge in the range of 250.00 SKr per hour.

When you engage a person to do your research, insist on documentation of their information. Without this, your data is of much reduced value and you can never really determine what you have. Copies of the microfiche and other documents are part of the process, and you should have them for your records. Do keep in mind that some documents are entirely too fragile to handle, so handwritten notes are the best that can be done...that fact needs to be documented as well.

< *Continued on next page* >

Finding Our Swedish Roots (cont) Plus Advertising and Reservation Form

< Continued from previous page >

Sonia holds a Doctorate in Philosophy, and is a retired social worker. She currently charges 150.00 SKr per hour for genealogical research. She knows what she is doing, and is fun with which to deal! (Editorial comments by Gene). She has been doing research since 1990 in Sweden, Germany, and USA.

She has a website featuring her family history at: <http://w1.855.telia.com/~u85530824>

Sonia's recommendation is: get started in family research today!

Paid Advertising

Allow me help you locate your Ancestors in Sweden

- * 14 years experience doing Swedish family history research
- * Unlimited access to church and state archives in Sweden
- * Copies of churchbooks entries, on-line or by mail.

Sonia Holz, s.holz@telia.com

Member of Swedish National Genealogical Society, National Genealogical Society and Minnesota Genealogical Society.



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(713) 572-7540

RESERVATION FORM FOR NATIONAL DAY PARTY Saturday June 7th 2003 (Must be received by Saturday May 31)

*Please make check payable to
Swedish Club of Houston
and mail to*

**Swedish Consulate,
2909 Hillcroft, Suite 515, Houston TX**

Name:		
Phone Number:		
Others Attending:		
Adults Attending Dinner # _____	@ \$15 per attendee	
Children ages 7-12 Attending Dinner # _____	@ \$ 7.50 per attendee	
CHECK TOTAL.....		

Answer to test on Page 1
Sweden=June 6th ; America = June 14th

Answer to test on page 7:
Director Diana Rodionov, VP. Dina Jo Colburn,
and Director Gunhild Jansen



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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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 that is not in the general news, and your favorite Swedish shops, products, or resources.

Please send the news by email to arvid@johanson.net or when necessary by post to Arvid Johanson, 2010 Dowling Drive, Richmond TX 77469-5114.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card	\$ 20.00
1/4 Page	\$ 40.00
1/2 Page	\$ 80.00
Full Page	\$120.00

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IN THE NEXT (July-August) EDITION OF SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

- National Day Party Wrap-Up
- Picnic Info
- ¿¿ Your Article ??

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