

# SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON



First Quarter 2021

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Swedish Club of Houston

[www.swedishclub.org](http://www.swedishclub.org)

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## Annual General Meeting

**The Swedish Club of Houston held its Annual General Meeting** on January 30, 2021 at the Bethany Christian Church. We welcomed two new board members and celebrated the continued support from our existing members and officers. This was not our usual Pea Soup and Pancakes but under the current Covid-19 concerns, we enjoyed the Swedish beer, Rekorderlig and other beverages with packaged snacks!



## 2021 Calendar Events

Date	Event	Location	Time
Jan 30th	Annual General Meeting	Bethany Christian Church	1pm
April 24th	Kraftskiva	Monument Inn	6pm
May 1st	Valborgsmassofaften	Winstrom's Ranch	3pm
June 6th (tentative)	Sweden's National Day	Southside Place Clubhouse	3pm
Aug 1st	Texas Day	Barkeryd, Sweden	
TBA	Summer Fika	TBA	1pm
TBA	Swedish Movie Night	TBA	6pm
TBA	Smorgasbord	TBA	6:30pm
Nov 14th	Christmas Craft Workshop / Fika	Teahen Home	1pm
Dec 11th	Christmas Traditions & Lucia Celebration	TBA	3:30pm

Newsletter By:

**Madelyn Mauritz Bossé**

3rd Generation Swede



## OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



### Zey Tuzun

I was born in Turkey in 1992 and moved to Houston with my family when I was 14. I got my undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Houston. Afterwards, I worked for a few years designing medical devices for heart failure patients and also worked in tax consulting before deciding to go back to school. I am currently enrolled in the MBA program at Rice University. After I graduate in May, I will be starting as an investment banker at Lazard, advising energy companies on mergers and acquisitions, as well as bankruptcies. I have a nine-year old black lab named Bro, and I love him more than anything in the world.

I started learning Swedish almost a year ago to be able to understand the food, fashion, and interior design blogs I am following online – Swedes have great taste! I completed the Duolingo three months ago, and I am currently working on improving my conversational skills and expanding my vocabulary. I can't wait to see everyone in person soon.



### Louis-Philippe Bosse'

This French-Canadian married a Swedish girl from Texas! I grew up in Montreal and moved to the United States upon graduation from the University of Montreal - Dental School. Moving around the states, I have lived in Kansas City, Hartford and Houston! I have been in private practice in Houston since 1997. Madelyn and I have 2 teenagers, Genevieve and Magnus. Life at home is very busy and full of brand new projects to keep me young and active. I have been participating in events at the Swedish Club of Houston for the past 5 years. Earlier this year, I have started learning Swedish with Duolingo; I am moving along slowly but surely....

I am looking to resuming in person activities and enjoying the camaraderie of the friends that I have made through the Swedish Club.

See y'all soon!!!!

## CELEBRATING OUR LUCIAS

### FRIENDS OF LUCIA

The Swedish Club of Houston is soliciting donors to its Friends of Lucia fund in order to continue the tradition of sending our Lucia to Sweden.

The Swedish Club of Houston has been represented by its Lucia at the Texas Day celebration in Barkeryd, Sweden every year since 1988. The Lucia program has provided a wonderful way for the members involved to travel and learn about our Swedish ancestry and our Texas connection with Barkeryd; a complete list of the Swedish Club of Houston's Lucias is available at <http://swedishclub.org/lucia>.

Why is Barkeryd (a small parish near Nässjö in Småland) important to Texans? This small parish had half of its the population emigrate to Texas between 1836 and 1927! The conditions were bad and the opportunity of settling in America was given to the people of Barkeryd. Around 1867 many young people left Barkeryd; S.M. Swenson and Svante Palm paid for their passage to come to work for them in Texas, where workers were needed to help on the farms. The immigrants worked off their passage in about 2 years. After the debt was paid off they were free to live and work for themselves. There are many Swedish communities around Central Texas which were settled by the Barkeryd immigrants. In their honor, the people of Barkeryd Sweden were proclaimed honorary citizens of Texas on May 27, 1975 by Gov. Dolph Briscoe.

If you would like to become a member of the Friends of Lucia and help support this long-standing tradition of the Club, you can either mail a check along with this form, or donate online via the link at <http://swedishclub.org>.

Sponsorship Level:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 – Speaker of the Riksdag	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 – Cabinet Minister
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300 – Prime Minister	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 – Governor
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150 – Deputy Prime Minister	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 – County Councilor
		<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 – Municipal Commissioner

☐ Yes, please list my name as a Friend of Lucia

☐ No, I wish to remain anonymous

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **The Swedish Club of Houston**

Mail to: Swedish Club of Houston, c/o Karen Wolz, 4526 Waynesboro Dr., Houston, TX 77035

## SWEDISH CULTURE & TRADITIONS

### VÅRTECKEN

Are you seeking Spring time? Looking for signs? When in Sweden, sitting outside on snow or ice and feeling the sun warm may be a sign that Spring is fast approaching! After months of darkness, cold and snow while the daylight extends with slight temperature rises, Swedish people start to hunt for Vartecken or “signs of spring”! This isn’t just a few people but a nationwide phenomenon that spreads like wildfire across the country. Everyone starts to get “spring fever” and sections appear in many newspapers featuring the “signs of spring” sent in by the public. One of the most famous Vårtecken is the cranes returning to Lake Hornborgasjön in southwestern Sweden, after spending the winter in warmer climates. Every year people come to see thousands of cranes dancing and calling on the lake shore. The **first cranes** usually arrive at Lake Hornborgasjön as early as mid-March, although the greatest numbers are usually seen in early April. The birds are counted each evening, when they fly to their sleeping places. The record is from Tuesday the 3rd April 2019, when no less than 27,300 cranes gathered in the area below the Trandansen Information Centre, at the southern tip of the lake.





## HISTORY OF VOLVO CARS



**Erik Gustaf Larson** (1887—1968) was a Swedish automotive engineer and the co-founder of Volvo. He held a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Royal Institute

of Technology in Stockholm. Larson was responsible for the technical design of the first Volvo model [ÖV 4](#), introduced on 14 April 1927.



**Assar Thorvald-Nathanael Gabrielsson**

(1891-1962) was a Swedish industrialist and co-founder of Volvo. He held a

Bachelor's Degree in

Economics and worked as a sales manager with bearing manufacturer SKF in Göteborg. He was hired in 1916 by Björn Prytz at the sales department and was appointed sales manager for the entire SKF company group in 1922. He held that position until the new automobile company AB Volvo was founded as a subsidiary company within the SKF company group.

### 1924 The Importance of Crayfish



In June 1924, when Assar Gabrielsson met his old friend Gustaf Larson in Stockholm, he unveiled his plans to try to establish the manufacturing of a new Swedish automobile. Gustaf Larson had worked for SKF in 1917 and 1919 but now worked for AB Galco in Stockholm. In August 1924, Gustaf Larson happened to be passing the seafood restaurant Sturehof in Stockholm when he noticed that they had newly caught crayfish on the menu. At one of the

tables he spotted a familiar face, his friend, the economist Assar Gabrielsson, who had also gone in for the crayfish. Gabrielsson and Larson were former colleagues at SKF, the Swedish Ball Bearing Company. When they met over crayfish at Sturehof, the discussion came to focus on cars. At the time, almost 15,000 cars a year were being imported into Sweden, mostly from the US. Gabrielsson and Larson reached a verbal agreement together. One month later, the design work on a Swedish car had started.

## History of Volvo Cars / AB Volvo

In 1927, the first Volvo car drove out through a factory gate in Gothenburg on the west coast of Sweden. The car was officially called the ÖV4. It was an open tourer with a four-cylinder engine.



In 1944, the PV444 would be the car that would make Volvo an international car company. "The little Volvo" was seen as a promise about post-war prosperity and in the course of two weeks 2,300 people placed orders for a PV444.



In 1953, the Volvo Duett was launched as "two cars in one". For both work and leisure, it was intended to signify a car that could be used for business during the week and as a comfortable sedan away from work.



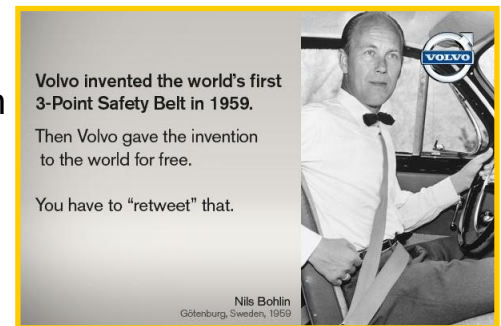
In August of 1955, the first PV444 was unloaded in the port in Long Beach, California. The exportation to the US was the symbol that the car culture had begun. Only two years later, Volvo was the second biggest import brand in California and in 1974 became Volvo's biggest market.



## History of Volvo Cars / AB Volvo

IN 1959, there can be few people on the planet who have saved as many lives as Volvo engineer Nils Bohlin. His revolutionary three-point safety belt design made its debut in the Volvo PV544 of 1949.

Volvo waived its patent rights so that everyone could benefit whatever car they drive.



In April 1965, the brothers Joginder and Jaswant Singh crossed the finish line of the Safari Rally in first place in their Volvo PV544. The white Volvo's victory in the world's toughest rally became news all over the world.



Another big safety step was made in the 140-series. It had disc brakes all round, a collapsible steering column, dual-circuit brake system and energy-absorbing crumple zones front and back. The 140 was the first car that thoroughly addressed safety issues and started building Volvo's reputation as the world's safety leader.



In 1967, Volvo's first rearward-facing child seat sold to customers was created by turning the front passenger seat around. Adding a padded backrest with straps made sure that the rearward-facing child was kept in place.

The solution was sold as an accessory for the recently introduced Volvo Amazon. Rearward-facing child seats are designed to support the neck and help spread the force of a frontal impact over a larger area. Frontal impacts are the most frequent and usually the most severe impact situation.





## History of Volvo Cars / AB Volvo

In 1976, Volvo's international reputation for advanced safety was confirmed when the US government bought 24 Volvo 240 for extensive crash testing. The result was that Volvo was officially chosen as the benchmark to set safety standards for all new cars.



Also in 1976, the world's first, the lambda sond, is introduced. This oxygen-sensing probe reduces harmful exhaust emission by 90% and is called "the most significant breakthrough ever made in the control of vehicle exhaust emissions" by the California Air Resources Board. Again, Volvo waived its patent rights and today, virtually every petrol (combustion) engine car has one.



In 1991, the Volvo 850 was developed and created Volvo's with four World's firsts: 1) a transverse five-cylinder engine, 2) side Impact Protection System, 3) self-adjusting belt reels for the front seat and 4) the Delta-link rear suspension. The 850 is also the first of Volvo's bigger models with front wheel drive.



### 1999 – Volvo is sold.

**Volvo Group sells Volvo Car Corporation to Ford Motor Company for the sum of SEK 50 Billion (Today's exchange rate would be \$5.73B).**

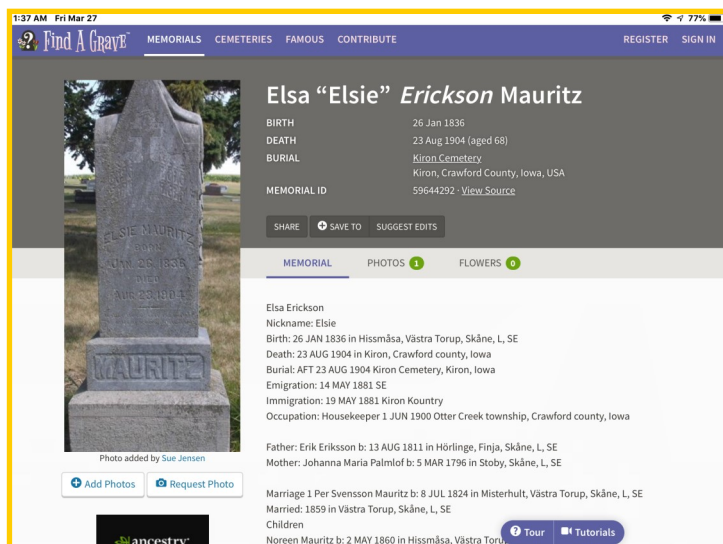
In 2002, Volvo's first SUV, XC90 is launched and becomes an instant success all over the world and redefines the segment for big SUV's. Within a few years it becomes Sweden's single most important export product.



**2010 Chinese Carmaker Geely purchases Volvo Cars from Ford Motor for "only" \$1.8 Billion.**



## Member News & Updates



### Family History Search Site

I have been updating my family tree with family records and photos. My tree on Ancestry.com dates back my Swedish family to the 1670's but only single mother/father names and dates. One evening while searching the web, I came across this web site "Find A Grave".

I discovered more of my extended family relatives that came over to the United States. It was very exciting to learn more about my Swedish relatives and hoping for a trip in Iowa in the future will uncover more entries on my family tree.

-Madelyn Mauritz Bosse

### Genevieve I. Bosse



My daughter, Genevieve is a sophomore at St. Pius X High School. She is active in sports running Cross Country in the fall and Track & Field in the Spring along with working toward her Eagle Scout rank.

Louis and I were so excited to receive notification that Genevieve has qualified academically for membership in the Del Sarto Chapter of the National Honor Society.

**Please send in your announcements and updates that you want to share with the club!—[newsletter@swedishclub.org](mailto:newsletter@swedishclub.org)**