



# THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

## The Swedish Club of Houston

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

### **Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen--- December 11<sup>th</sup> 2004**

The Sankta Lucia Day, and the procession and ceremony accompanying it, has long been an important pre-Christmas tradition to Swedes around the world. Here in Houston, The Swedish Club tries its best to bring a little of that special day to the citizens of our community. Every year we select a young lady from our club membership to wear the Lucia crown during our pageant and to represent the club at a heritage festival in Barkeryd, Småland, Sweden in August the following summer. SAS co-sponsors our Lucia's trip by providing the club with a reduced airfare ticket. This year's Lucia is Frida Sellman, a recent graduate of Trinity University where she received her Bachelor and Masters degree in accounting. She is the daughter of Eric and Eva Sellman.

Our Christmas Traditions and Lucia procession is scheduled for Saturday, December 11, 2004 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 1353 Witte Road, Houston, TX 77055.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A NEW  
LOCATION FOR OUR CELEBRATION.**  
< See Map on Page 3 >

The event includes a short church service, during which the Lucia leads her procession of female attendants and star boys down the aisle to the musical strains of "Santa Lucia, the Neapolitan Boat Song". This year the attendants and star boys will be singing some traditional Swedish songs, thanks to the leadership of Eva Sellman.

After the service, we will gather in the gymnasium to socialize and enjoy some traditional Luciadag refreshments. These will include, but are not limited to, Lussekatter (saffron flavored buns), Pepparkakor (ginger

cookies), Lingonsaft (lingonberry flavored drink), and coffee.

Also during the reception the Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston have graciously agreed to perform some traditional Scandinavian folkdances. And there will be storytelling about the Jultomte and dancing and singing around the Christmas tree. In addition, our annual Christmas bazaar will be open in the gymnasium before, during and after the ceremony. Scandinavian gift and folk items will be available for purchase. What a great way to finish (or start!) your Christmas shopping.



The club is looking for girls and boys to participate as attendants and star boys. Female attendants must be between the ages of 5 and 20 and star boys must be between 5 and 15. Attendants wear all white clothing with silver trim and accessories. The club will provide the trim and accessories, and is able to provide some articles of clothing, but anyone having their own outfit is encouraged to wear it. Please contact Margaret St.Clair at 281-493-4978 or e-mail her at [margestclair@hotmail.com](mailto:margestclair@hotmail.com) if you would like to participate.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!  
THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC**

## Frida Sellman—Swedish Club of Houston Lucia 2004



My name is Frida Sellman. I am a recent graduate from Trinity University where I received my Bachelor and Masters in Accounting. I work at Grant Thornton as an Assurance Associate and plan to pursue my C.P.A (certified public accountant license) upon completing my first tax season.

I was born the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 1981, in a little small town north of Gothenburg. Both of my parents went to University in Gothenburg and they wanted their children to grow up in this town. In 1982, my father accepted a job in Oslo, Norway. Our time in Norway was very brief as my father was transferred to Kuwait. Over the next twelve years we moved five more times, first to Saudi Arabia, then Bahrain, then to Stockholm, then England and finally Houston. We never did make it back to Gothenburg other than for vacation.

My sister and I did learn English in school but we always spoke Swedish at home. It was very important for my parents that we continue our Swedish traditions even though we lived abroad. My mother would organize Lucia-processions at our schools and a Swedish “jul-tomte” would visit our home on Christmas Eve. In England our family were very active members of SVEA and I participated in the Lucia procession every year.

In the Woodlands our family is very involved with a Lutheran church. In high school, I organized a Lucia procession with the youth group since there are several individuals with Swedish heritage. This year I am teaching Swedish I at Ikea for the Swedish Club. (if anyone is interested in attending its at 7.00 p.m. on Mondays)

Although I have only spent three years in Sweden, I have grown up with Swedish traditions and understand the importance of the Lucia celebration and I am honored to represent the Swedish Club of Houston in Barkeryd.

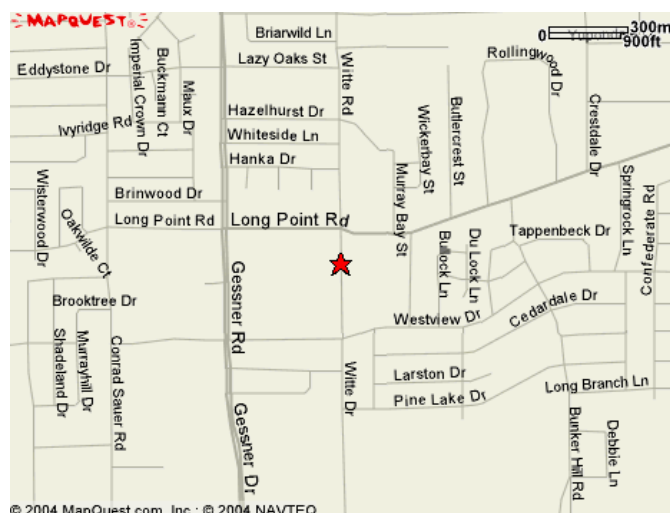
Note: All the pictures are in full color and the links are active on the electronic edition on the Swedish Club Website:

<http://www.swedishclub.org/> on the page  
<http://www.swedishclub.org/scnews.htm>

## A BIT MORE ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

**Help Wanted:** We need volunteers to help setting up, decorating, baking for the bazaar, baking cookies for the refreshment table, working in kitchen, helping clean up after it's over. Please call Margaret St. Clair (281.493.4978) in advance to volunteer, so she can have an idea who wants to do what.

**New Location:** The church we usually use is under major reconstruction, so we will be at St. Andrews Lutheran Church.



**Bazaar Items:** The annual bazaar helps support the cost of this event and the trip to Sweden for our Lucia. Please bring any craft or baked goods you would like to contribute.

**Donation Jar:** There will be no offering taken but a jar will be provided on the Bazaar table for those who would LIKE to contribute cash to help with expenses of this event and Lucia's trip to Sweden.

**Past Lucia's:** We will again recognize all previous Lucia's from everywhere and anytime. Please come and let us recognize you. We would enjoy knowing about your Lucia experience and what happened afterward.

## Smörgåsbord A Success

The Smörgåsbord last Saturday evening (Nov 6th) at IKEA was an outstanding success. < See the next two pages for photos of most of the tables. > ( There were too many people to picture them all. )

You should have been there to enjoy the fellowship and the food prepared by Chef Lawrence of IKEA's new 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Restaurant. We knew they could fix meatballs, but all the fish and supporting foods were also great.

We really planned to start at 7 PM and eat at 7:30. So many people were there at 6PM we had a hard time getting set up and registering everyone. 110 adults and 9 children attended. Food service started early but the baking couldn't be speeded up. A few unlucky people left before the dessert was served which was delicious "homemade" blueberry cobbler with vanilla ice cream.

Thanks to IKEA's reasonable price on the food and free use of the facilities, we had a great smörgåsbord without losing money. (A real novelty lately.)

Special thanks are due to Pelle, Gunhild, Dina, Sjerrie, Margaret, Rodney, and all the others that helped with the arrangements and decorations.

Thanks also to our Lucia 2004, Frida Sellman, and Lucia2004 Event Director, Margaret St.Clair, for visiting at each table.

## Genealogy and SCH Guestbook

Some question come up about Swedish genealogy by email and in the club on-line guestbook.

The websites of both the Swedish Embassy in Washington and the Swedish Consulate in Houston have helpful links-some in English.

Some people use the Guestbook on the SCH website to ask about their ancestors in Houston Area. Check it out you may be able to help.



## Smörgåsbord 2004 – IKEA – Lots of Friends, Food, and Fellowship





## Smörgåsbord 2004 – IKEA – Lots of Friends, Food, and Fellowship



## Joint Swedish Meeting Explores New Embassy Building in DC

Mr. Peter Wahlqvist, the Cultural Counselor for the Swedish Embassy in Washington DC, was in Houston and met with a joint Swedish group under the auspices of SACC, SWEA, the Consulate, and the Swedish Club\*.

Mr. Wahlqvist has a degree from the University of Lund. He has worked at the National Theatre in Göteborg and served as freelance director at the Royal Dramatic Theatre and the City Theatres of Stockholm, Göteborg, Malmö, and Helsingborg as well as Swedish Television. Before his appointment as a Cultural Counselor to the Embassy of Sweden in Washington, DC in 2003, he worked in several networks of European Union on different cultural issues.

IKEA's restaurant was the caterer for some delicious Swedish snacks to fuel the reception. Just to prove it was Houston, IKEA included some stuffed "mild Jalapeños". Then we retired to a large classroom to see and hear Mr. Wahlqvist's description of the new Swedish Embassy Building.

Currently the Embassy is in a rented space in a building on Embassy Row at 15<sup>th</sup> & M Streets.



There's no room to show the Flag or do any walkup promotions.

The new Embassy will be on the Promenade on the Potomac River banks. It will be opened near Labor Day in 2006.

The design was chosen by a tough competition. "Basically, our building is a modernistic glass construction, which is encompassed by an intricate belt of wood character. The combination of an exterior cladding of screened glass with a layer of wood veneer on glass sheets behind give the building a modern, Scandinavian touch which, through its translucency, becomes a built image of that openness which Sweden would like to present to the world," say *Gert Wingårdh and Tomas Hansen, architects* \*\*

Some of the key features described were:

A sidewalk patio where people normally walk that can promote Sweden to the common man or the students from two nearby universities.

2010 technology implemented in 2006 with high quality, large screen video phones.

An award winning website,

Windows that double as video screens toward the busy streets,



\* If you did not get an email invitation to this meeting, please consider supplying the club with your email address. So many interesting things come up between newsletter editions; we have to use emails and the website.

\*\*This quote and more is on the embassy website:  
[http://www.swedenabroad.se/pages/general\\_12867.asp](http://www.swedenabroad.se/pages/general_12867.asp)



## UN Choir Features Swedish Song

"Carols and Candles: a global holiday"

It is the season for UNA International Choir to sing a unique collection of carols! "Carols and Candles" features songs from around the world. Enjoy them in the original languages: in Latvian, Swahili, German, French, Spanish, English and of course your favorite one in Swedish: "*Nu ar det Jul igen!*" Come join us in the merry holiday spirit!



We welcome you on December 11, 8.00 PM at St. Anne's Catholic Community on 1216 Westheimer, Houston TX 77098. Parking is free.

There will be a reception and international bazaar after the performance, around 9:15 PM. There will be plenty to do for kids, too!

Tickets are \$10 pre-sale, \$15 at the door. For tickets, call Geneva at 281-498-7265.

See more info at

<http://www.unahouston.org/unachoir/>

### INTERNET LINKS

**SWEDISH CONSULATE IN HOUSTON**

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

**SWEDISH AMERICAN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

<http://www.sacctx.com/>

**SWEDISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON**

[http://www.swedenabroad.se/pages/start\\_6989.asp](http://www.swedenabroad.se/pages/start_6989.asp)

## Help Wanted for 2005

Our Swedish Club reorganizes its Board right after Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers ( the first clubmeeting of the New Year ) .

There will more info for the meeting time and place in the next issue of the Newsletter.

In the meantime please consider how you should be helping preserve and promote Swedish Heritage and Culture in our area. If you can help please contact President Pelle Fish at 281.348.2584 or Vice President Dina Colburn at 281.495.4658.

Special needs this time are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Event Directors, Directors-at-Large, Reporters, & Photographers.

Always needed are those who are willing to serve and to learn how to conduct the club business and events. Willingness to serve is more important than ability. You do not have to speak Swedish.

### Typical Social/Cultural Events Are:

The Christmas Traditions/Lucia program Dec 11th 2004 – Margaret St. Clair-Event Dir.

Pea Soup and Pancake Dinner (Annual General Meeting) ... Tentative Jan 22, 2005

The Kräftskiva [Swedish not Cajun Crawfish Party] Tentative April 9, 2005 – John Stavinoha-Event Director.

The Summer Picnic (includes Midsommar & Flagg Dagen ) – Tentative 4 June 2005 – Jay Flusche-Event Director

The Smorgasbord Last Nov.6, 2004

### Common Joint Efforts:

The Viking Fest- Waco. All Texas  
Scandinavian Celebration was April 17th & 18th 2004

The Valborgsmässoafton Bål [ Bonfire welcoming Spring] (Previous April 26th 2003)

The Swedish National Day – June 6 – Last Celebration was in 2003.



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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 & views 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 **YOUR NEWS** by email to [arvid@johanson.us](mailto:arvid@johanson.us) or when necessary by post to the return address below

## NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card	\$ 20.00
1/4 Page	\$ 40.00
½ Page	\$ 80.00
Full Page	\$120.00

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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**Texas Nyhet**

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

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**EventsLine = 713.774.2739**



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