



# THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

## The Swedish Club of Houston

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

### **Midsommarfest!!! Midsummer Picnic!!!**

*by Patric Stafshede*

#### **Burgers, Dancing & Games in Bear Creek Park at the Summer Picnic.**

Now is the time to reserve Saturday June 4 for an afternoon (3-6pm) of fun and Swedish traditions.

First we welcome everybody to "fika", i.e. coffee and cookies, before starting to play. We will have plenty of games for adults and kids as well as dressing and raising the midsummer stång. This will of course be followed by dancing around the stång.

When everybody is exhausted from the games and dancing, we will retreat to the hamburgers and hot dogs, which the club will provide. And to mimic the Swedish midsummer fare, we will of course have strawberries for dessert.

There is no fee to attend, but we kindly ask everyone to bring a side dish to share, such as pickled herring, salads, fruit, chips etc. Also please bring your own water or soft drinks. (Alcohol or glass containers are not allowed in the park). The club will provide plastic flatware, paper plates and napkins.

In order to get the nicest midsummer stång in Houston, we need all the help we can get. Although we recognize that it may be hard to find branches of birch in your neighborhood, please bring lots of greenery and flowers that we can use to decorate the stång.

The summer picnic this year has a new location, Bear Creek Park ([www.pct3.hctx.net/PBearCreek/](http://www.pct3.hctx.net/PBearCreek/)), which is located just West of the city, near the Katy Freeway. See the map <website above or on page9> for detailed directions.

We will be in Pavillion #2, which is located near a playground for children of all ages.



Please RSVP by May 31, to Patric Stafshede by sending in the form below, or on the website, to help us in planning the event.

**Yes! I/We will attend the midsummer party in Bear Creek Park on June 4<sup>th</sup>.**

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

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Adults:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Children:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Reservation To  
Patric Stafshede**

**2812 Jarrard St**

**Houston, TX 77005**

## Educational Opportunities- Heritage and Heroes

### First Take this Test on a Hero

1. Who was Raoul Wallenberg?
2. Where is this Sign for a Wallenberg Lane near us?



3. What other city in Texas honors him with a street name??

< Answers see page 6 >

### ROOTS

A new Swedish Book named "Your Swedish Roots" was reviewed in the current "Nordic Reach" Quarterly Magazine (P.74). The book is touted to be a rare English version of how to do research on your ancestors from Sweden. Not limited to method, it has images, photos, drawings that can take the reader back to the ancestral lands. It can be read thorough and saved for research. It is available from [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) if you search that site for it, I found it for \$19.95 + SH.

### ANCESTRY

Also the Swedish Consulate of New York has a free ancestry guide, named "Tracing your Swedish Ancestry" that can be obtained for an email to [info@swedennewyork.com](mailto:info@swedennewyork.com) or can be printed at [http://www.swedenabroad.com/pages/start\\_7928.asp](http://www.swedenabroad.com/pages/start_7928.asp) THEN clicking on *Press and Information* to find the listing. (It is 47 pages long so you might just want to order a copy.)

### Swedish Emigrations and Genealogy Program in Växjö, Sweden-Jul24-Aug8

It may be too late for you this year, but there is an interesting combination program you may want to take advantage of soon. This 16 day program includes:

- guided genealogy research at St. Sigfrid Folk College and the Swedish Emigrant Institute with the largest emigrant archives in Europe
- guided trips through Cathedrals, Castles, Parliament, Stockholm City Hall, Skansen, Drottningholm, & Lake Marlen .
- Tours of Växjö, Stockholm, Kingdom of Glass, Öland, and Kalmar

More Information is available at:

Scandinavian Seminar, 24 Dickinson St., Amherst, MA 01002, TP:413.253.9736.

Email: [study@scandinavianseminar.org](mailto:study@scandinavianseminar.org)

Website: [www.scandinavianseminar.org](http://www.scandinavianseminar.org)

The site also list some elderhostel programs of interest to Swedes.

### Meet A New Swede:

#### Molly Elizabeth Johanson

by Eleanor Johanson



born on April 12—grand-daughter of Arvid & Eleanor Johanson. She lives with her parents Mike & Jana & two sisters -Madison 6 & Mary Claire 4- in Boyd, Texas. Arvid & Eleanor happily welcome this new addition to their greater family. *Ed.Note: The above may explain the lateness and disjointedness of this edition See more at [www.mollybeth.name](http://www.mollybeth.name)*

## Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston

*by Joyce Calderon*



The Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston put on an excellent performance at the inauguration ceremony of the new FIS (Federal Inspection Services) building at the George Bush Intercontinental Airport/Houston on January 15, 2005. The program was based on the international theme. The Mexican Ballet Folklorico, > the Turkish Folk Dance Group, the Dutch Klompendansers, and the Chinese Li-Mei Hua Dance Academy also performing on stage. The Honorable Bill White and Mr. Larry Kellner of Continental Airlines were some of the distinguished guest speakers at the event.

All guests and dancers were given an extensive guided tour of the new facilities following the program. The new FIS international arrivals building will enhance IAH's position as one of the most vital air service gateways for the United States of America.

It was a memorable occasion.

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## Christmas Traditions and Lucia Help Wanted

*by Margaret St. Clair*

The 2005 Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration will be held on Saturday, December 10, 2005, 3-6 p.m. at St. Andrew Lutheran Church on the west side of Houston. Following is a list of committee chairs needed:

- Kitchen and Refreshments (coordinator plus a minimum of 5 kitchen helpers)
  - Bake cookies for refreshments
- Bazaar (Organize the Bazaar, Bake Items, Make Craft Items, Sales Help.)
- Raffle (secure raffle items and sell raffle tickets)
  - Fiskdamm (Fish Pond)
- Decorations (tables and walls)
  - Swedish Christmas tree
- Type and print programs
  - Greeters
- Set up (noon to 3 p.m.)
- Clean up (5 to 6 p.m.)

For questions and to volunteer, please contact Margaret St. Clair: phone( 281-493-4978) or e-mail (margestclair@hotmail.com)



## Crawfish Party a Success; Song writers needed!!

by John Stavinoha

All in attendance agreed, at least those I spoke with at the annual Crawfish Party that the “Swedish-style Kräfter” were “utmärkt” or remarkable. There were close to 80 participants at the Monument Inn, including the Club Founders Inga Lisa and Gusten Calissendorf. About 150 lbs. of the crustaceans cooked in dill and salt were consumed.



New board member Patric Stafshede brought a fresh list of Snaps-Visor. Unfortunately it was the same few souls who had the voice or desire to sing.

After some thought on the subject, we have decided to open a contest for the best **“English language, Texas-Swedish themed Crawfish Snaps Song.”**

Suggested melodies would include:

Well known nursery rhymes – “Mary had a little lamb”, “Itsy bitsy Spider” etc.

Local favorites – “Yellow Rose of Texas”, “Deep in the heart of Texas” ...etc.

Popular tunes – “Memories” “Moon River” “People”...etc.

The little drinking and Skål-ing songs need only a verse or two (the shorter the better).

The subject matter can revolve around eating crawfish, drinking snaps, finding or losing love (ala Texas honky tonk themes...)

***Here’s the payoff:*** The top two songs will receive free admission for two at next years Crawfish party. Put on your creative thinking caps and let the words flow.... Good luck



*See more Pictures on Page 5*

## FUN WITH THE FOOD





## 100,000 names for 100,000 lives saved by Swedish Diplomat Raoul Wallenberg

January 17th 2005 marked the 60th anniversary of the disappearance of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish hero of WWII...

Raoul Wallenberg was the Swedish diplomat who disappeared in January 1945 after saving the lives of tens of thousands Jews condemned to certain death by the Nazis during World War II. He was captured by the Soviet troops which, in January 1945, took control of Budapest, to be never seen again. Shown at the right is an *Age Progressed Photo* (courtesy of National Center for Missing and Exploited Children – Horace Heafner – USA)



Learn More at <http://www.raoulwallenberg.net>

*The mere fact that a Gentile rendered his or her assistance to a Jew so as to escape death would have signified for that Gentile a similar destiny as that of the Jew. Had there been many of them perhaps we would not be lamenting the death of six million Jews. But, thanks to these few, humanity has not completely lost the shadow of its dignity... And to have tried then, under the conditions of the Holocaust, required a level of courage and heroism which very few of us possess.*

*Among these exceptional individuals someone emerged who, in a way, became the exception of the exception. Raoul Wallenberg. A member of a well-known, wealthy Swedish family, Wallenberg had nothing awaiting him in the continental Europe of World War II. In the comfort of the Sweden of that time, Wallenberg decided, however, to accept a United States initiative and go, as a diplomat, to Budapest so as to study what could be done for the Jews of that city who, very soon, would have been sent to Nazi concentration camps.*

*Challenging the entire machinery of Germany and its Hungarian allies, employing his imagination as an offensive weapon... Wallenberg demonstrated that human courage has no limits. Through a process of persuasion, threats and an unmatched dose of diplomatic creativity, this young 32 year old Swede managed to save the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews. His heroism was crowned by tragedy. Although the Germans and their Hungarian allies endeavoured to cause an accidental death to Wallenberg, he survived this ordeal in order to be subsequently arrested by the Soviet troops, who had just liberated Budapest, never to be seen alive again. Wallenberg is, then, a hero without a grave. < Written for the website above by Yoav Tenenbaum-edited for space >*

The IRWF launched a world wide campaign to definitively discover Raoul Wallenberg's final destiny. Fill the form on the site below and your name will be registered with thousands of others who will gather 100,000 names for the 100,000 lives Wallenberg saved. Help us push for the solution of this case. The IRWF will present the collected signatures before the UN.

<http://www.raoulwallenberg.net/?en/news/2018.htm>

**ANSWERS to Questions on Page 2: 1. See above article, 2. Missouri City near Walmart on Hiway 6. 3. El Paso**

Swedish Club News <a href="http://www.swedishclub.org">www.swedishclub.org</a>	Page 6	May - June 2005 EventsLine = 713.774.2739
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# Picnic Map





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

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<b>Swedish Club News</b> <b><a href="http://www.swedishclub.org">www.swedishclub.org</a></b>	<b>Page 8</b>	<b>May June 2005</b> <b>Events Line = 713.774.2739</b>
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