



# THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

## The Swedish Club of Houston

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

### Return to BraeBurn Country Club

#### 2005 SCH Smörgåsbord

**The best Smörgåsbord in Houston** is the one sponsored by our Swedish Club of Houston. After trying 3 other places, the club is returning to the BraeBurn Country Club. With the assistance of John Stavinoha and selected club cooks, the feed will be delicious and authentic as possible in Houston.

**Saturday, October 29th**  
**Starting at 6:30 PM**

#### The Main Menu will be

Limpa bread  
Crisp bread  
Two different kinds of cheeses  
Selection of three different kinds of Herring  
Smoked salmon  
Gravad lax w/ mustard sauce  
Devilled eggs  
Garden salad w/ Italian dressing  
Swedish meatballs w/ cream sauce  
Lingonberry jelly  
Swedish ham  
Jansson's temptation  
Boiled new potatoes  
Pickled cucumber slices  
Swedish mustard  
Iced tea  
Lingonberry drink  
Blueberry cobbler w/ vanilla sauce  
Ice-cream  
Coffee

#### Cash Bar (snaps incl.)



The first table at BraeBurn

**PRICE:** Pre-registered Club members=\$25  
Non-Members and door price = \$30  
Children 12 and younger= \$10

Make **reservations** via the SCH website [www.swedishclub.org](http://www.swedishclub.org), by mail using the form on page 7, or phone by Wednesday the 26th at noon to John Stavinoha 713.661.0159

BraeBurn Country Club is **located**  
8101 Bissonnet Street, Houston, TX 77074  
(713) 778-3824 See Map Page 7



Table Hopping Was Fun in the Ballroom

# My trip to Barkeryd!

By Frida Sellman



I first arrived in Barkeryd on Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup>. I had heard much of this town from the past Lucia's articles in the newsletter and from visits with Inga-Lisa and Gusten and was unsure over what to expect. Any nervousness I may have felt on the drive up to Barkeryd was quickly relieved upon my arrival as I was graciously welcomed and immediately felt at ease.

At the church I first met with Alf Karlsson, Evert Jonsson, and Pelle Johansson. Alf Karlsson led the tour of the church and we

visited the graves of Sven Magnus Svensson's parents and brother and learned about his role in Texas-Swedish history.

Sven Magnus Svensson left Sweden in his early twenties to pursue a better life in America. He was tremendously successful in America and came back to his hometown offering to fund transportation to America for anyone willing to work for him for a full year. This generous offer was well received and about 900 Barkeryd residents and 10,000 people from the surrounding communities moved to Texas in the late 1800s. Sven Magnus ran large ranches in Northern Texas, helped develop modern ranching techniques and became a close friend of Sam Houston. Today, his important contribution to Texas is recognized by sending a young woman of Swedish descent to the heritage festival each year. Traces of the strong tie between Barkeryd and Texas was apparent at this graveyard, Alf showed us another grave which was actually shaped like the San Jacinto monument complete with the lone star of Texas.



The interior of the church was as beautiful as the pink exterior and contained several interesting artifacts including a red robe from the 1500s, a candlestick from the original church on the same site, and an impressive organ which was donated by Sven Magnus.

Next we visited the "hembyggsforeningen" (homestead association) which consisted of numerous traditional red and white buildings and a stage fenced in by the traditional Småland wooden fence. The buildings were used to showcase old farm equipment,

Swedish textiles, antique furniture, and a traditional store and school room. One of the buildings was devoted to an exhibit concerning the immigration to Texas and the history of the Lucia programs complete with pictures of all 17 Lucias. Eighteen years ago, the Calissendorff's together with the Jonsson's began the St. Lucia program to educate a new generation of Swedish-Americans about the unique connection between Småland and Texas. The exhibit included letters from the Swedish pilgrims, descriptions of the harsh traveling conditions, and a where they settled upon arrival.



Upon completion of the grand tour we had coffee out in the open field where the festival was to take place the following day. The idyllic setting with the traditional red houses in the beautiful Swedish country side was as though taken directly out of one of Astrid Lindgren's stories.

Anita and Pelle had prepared a wonderful dinner in their home and took us on a lovely tour of a nearby town called Gränna, which is

famous for their red/white striped mints and as the hometown of the famous explorer Andree.

The next morning I met with Inga Lisa to go over my speech. We had a lovely breakfast on Anita and Pelle's open porch, enjoying the view of Swedish nature and then we visited Evert Jonsson's home to take the traditional Lucia photograph on the front porch before made our way over where the parade started. Participating in this parade was quite the experience, it began with a marching band and people dressed in the traditional folk costumes, next came the classic cars, then the walking men's choir singing Astrid Lindgren's "fattig bond-dräng" (poor farmer servant/apprentice), a gentlemen



pulling a cage of chickens, and the horse riders. I arrived by horse and carriage.

The festival hosted numerous Swedish local artists, sold hand-made crafts and sold traditional Swedish candy in a paper cone, and coffee was served for



My Trip to Barkeryd! By Frida Sellman

the fika-loving (*Fika* = (v)swedish term for drinking coffee accompanied by coffee cake or biscuits) Swedes. Local men and women dressed up in traditional attire showed the typical farming duties of the Barkeryd locals and pre-technology farming techniques including weaving, making candles and spinning wool. There was so much to do and see and people to meet at the festival, before I know it was time for my much practiced and anticipated speech. My family and I were introduced by Inga-Lisa on the stage and I received a replica of the candlestick from the Barkeryd church and a hug from Alf Karlsson who bragged that he had hugged the most Texas Lucias of anyone in Barkeryd.



After the festival, we returned to have a wonderful dinner with Anita, Pelle, Inga-Lisa, Gusten, Evert and Alf.

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work making this Lucia program a reality:

Thank you to the Swedish Club of Houston for giving me this opportunity to represent them in Barkeryd. I was honored to be

selected and will cherish the memories of the heritage festival.

Thank you to the Hembyggsforeningen for all their work behind this festival. It was truly a wonderful experience.

Thank you to Anita and Pelle for your hospitality and how you generously welcomed us into your home! Thank you Anita for the beautiful Christmas decorations!

Thank you Inga-Lisa and Gusten for all your help in planning this wonderful program, for your help with my speech, and the nice introduction on stage.

Thank you to Alf Karlsson for the interesting tour, warm welcome to Barkeryd, and the book about Swedish/American immigration.

Thank you to Evert and Gudrun for all your work in making this program a success, thank you for the beautiful hand woven table-cloth.

Thank you Margaret St. Clair for your work and time spent planning the Lucia procession in December.

Thank you SAS for providing airfare!

Thank you to Sjerrie and her mother for meeting me and helping me prepare for the festivities.



## CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AND LUCIA CELEBRATION

**Saturday, December 10, 2005**  
**3:00-6:00 PM**  
**St. Andrew Lutheran Church**  
**1353 Witte Road**  
**Houston, TX 77055**

Enjoy the Christmas Season, Swedish style! There will be a short church service, during which we will present the Club's 2005 Lucia. We'll then adjourn to the gymnasium where we will socialize and enjoy the festivities such as sampling Swedish cookies, coffee, lingonsaft, lussekatter and glögg, singing and dancing around the Christmas tree, and doing some holiday shopping at our Swedish bazaar. There will also be a raffle, a bake sale and a fiskdamm for the children.

All of this is free of charge and open to the public. See you there!

Please note: Those of you who would like for your children or grandchildren to participate in the Lucia procession as attendants, please see the Lucia application on page 8 or call Margaret St. Clair at 281-493-4978. Also you can read about 2004 Lucia's trip to Sweden on page .

### CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

If you have attended our Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebrations in the past, you know that the Club offers many fine Swedish imports for sale in our bazaar. The chairman of the bazaar, Rod Anderson, is open for suggestions and is taking requests for what you would like to purchase. The club buys the items at 30 to 40% off retail and our markup is small, so it is a wonderful buying opportunity. Please contact Rod at [dakotarod@earthlink.net](mailto:dakotarod@earthlink.net) before October 20 with your requests.

### Help Needed

The Swedish Club of Houston's 2005 Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration will be held on Saturday, December 10 from 3-6 p.m. at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 1353 Witte Road on the west side of Houston.

In order to assure that the Club has a successful Celebration, we need YOUR help. Last year's event was a huge success, with nearly 300 in attendance. We think that this year's celebration could be even bigger. A dozen people can not do it all. Please read the jobs listed below and contact me to tell me where you can work. Most slots for chairmen have been filled, but we need lots of helpers in all areas.

#### CHAIRMEN:

Kitchen and refreshments----Carol and Allan Clark  
Bake Sale-----Diana Rodionov  
Raffle----Nancy Webb

#### Decorations:

Christmas Tree----Jay Flusche  
Tables and Walls-----Gunhild Jansson  
Julgranskarameller---Gunhild Jansson  
Song leader for singing/dancing around the Christmas Tree-----???YOU???  
Fish Pond---Patric Stafshede  
Bazaar----Rodney Anderson  
Guest Check-in----Arvid Johanson

HELPER JOBS: 8 kitchen/refreshment workers; many, many people to bake Swedish cookies for refreshments (recipes can be supplied if you need them!); make cakes, cookies, breads, candy for the Bake Sale; 6 people to sell raffle tickets; sales help for bazaar; make craft items for bazaar; greeters for the sanctuary and gym; set up (noon to 3 p.m.); cleanup (5 to 6 p.m.)

Please contact Margaret St. Clair: phone( 281-493-4978) or e-mail ([margestclair@hotmail.com](mailto:margestclair@hotmail.com)) and state what job-- whether large or small-- you want, in order to make this year's Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration, the best one ever!

# 2005 SWEDISH CLUB LUCIA INFORMATION & APPLICATION

*By Margaret St. Clair*

Applications for the Swedish Club of Houston's 2005 Lucia are now being accepted. Our 2005 Lucia will be presented at the Swedish Christmas Traditions and Lucia Procession scheduled for Saturday, December 10, 2005 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church.

Candidates must be single women between the ages of 16 and 24, who are \*members of the Club\*. They must be able to attend the Swedish Traditions program on December 10, and must be able to represent the Club at a celebration and parade in Barkeryd, Sweden on August 6, 2006. Round-trip airfare for our 2005 Lucia will be provided from Chicago to Sweden. The Lucia is responsible for her own ground or air transportation to and from Chicago. On her return to Houston, the Lucia must write an article for publication in The Swedish Club News about her experience in Sweden.

Participants are also needed for the Lucia procession. The procession is made up of female attendants, ages 5 – 20 and starboys, ages 5 – 15. Attendants and star boys wear all white clothing and accessories. The Club can provide some articles of clothing, but individuals are encouraged to use their own.

For eighteen years the Lucia program has provided a wonderful way to travel and learn about our Swedish ancestry and our Texas connection with Barkeryd, Sweden. As an ambassador of the Club, our Lucia will be in a parade and send greetings to the people of Barkeryd from The Swedish Club of Houston.

**Applicants for Lucia, in addition to completing the application below, must also write a short essay about her Swedish heritage, her interests and why she would like to represent the Club in Sweden. In addition, she must provide a current photo of herself. The application must be postmarked by September 26, 2005. For questions or further information, call Margaret St. Clair at 281-493-4978.**

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THE SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON  
APPLICATION FOR 2005 LUCIA CANDIDATES, ATTENDANTS AND STARBOYS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
I would like to be: (check one) Lucia \_\_\_\_\_ Attendant \_\_\_\_\_ Starboy \_\_\_\_\_

**Lucia candidates only:** Please include your essay and current photo with your application.

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Mail applications and enclosures to Margaret St. Clair, 13831 Queensbury, Houston, TX 77079.

Lucia Candidate Requirements: single, 16 -24 years of age \* **member of The Swedish Club of Houston** \* available for the Club's Christmas Traditions program on December 10, 2005; able to represent The Swedish Club of Houston at Barkeryd, Sweden on August 6, 2006, and write an article for The Swedish Club News on your return from Sweden.

*\*Club membership may be either individual or as part of a family membership including granddaughters.\**

RESERVATION FORM THE SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON SMÖRGÅSBORD

Please make your check payable to Swedish Club of Houston and mail to:

John Stavinoha, 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, TX 77401

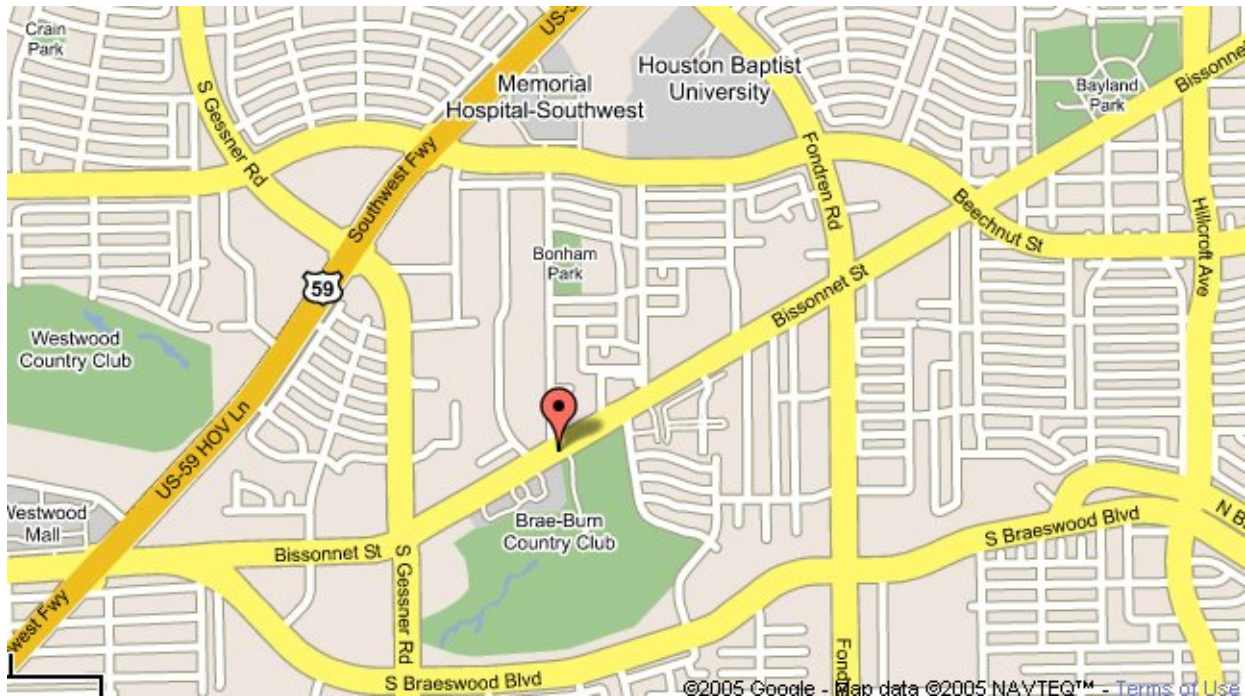
Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Adult Members Preregistered before Oct 26		x \$ 25.00 =	\$
# Non-Members and door price		x \$30.00	\$
# of Children's (12 & under)		x \$10.00 =	\$
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>

BraeBurn Country Club, 8101 Bissonnet Street, Houston, TX 77074



Map by Google Maps <http://maps.google.com/>

TRIVIA::: Have you seen the new IKEA Catalog. How many copies were printed and in how many languages?? See back cover for answer.

# Scandinavian Dancers Tour

by Joyce Calderon



The Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston were invited to perform at the 100<sup>th</sup> celebration of Norway's independence from Sweden, which was held at the Gardermoen Kulturpark, just outside of Oslo, on June 5.



What a fantastic time we had during the week's stay in the country. Our Norwegian folk dancer hosts from Jessheim and Sotra/Bergen provided us with lodging, wined and dined us and took us sightseeing in both Oslo and Bergen. We traveled by train over high snow-covered mountains, through many a tunnel, and spent a full day enjoying the beauties of the Sognefjord, the longest fjord in the world, and Norway's deepest. The cool, crisp clean air, the amazing quantity of water falls and breathtaking scenery will forever be in our memories.



In another few years we plan to take another trip to Scandinavia. Now is a good time to join the Scandinavian Folk Dancers, as we are beginning a new dance season, and all will be learning the new dances together. Our co-directors, Frances & Carl Steffensen, have chosen a variety of fun dances for the fall.

Please call either the Steffensens (281) 493-4801 or Joyce at (281) 360-9670 if you would like to visit us and perhaps join our group as either a dancer or musician. We would love to have you come! We practice on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 at the Christ the King Lutheran Church across from the Rice University. The first 15 minutes is devoted to informal pleasure dancing: waltzes, polkas, hambos, etc. The musicians will be playing music by request. We hope to see you soon.

**WANTED:** *YOUR* recipes for the Swedish Club Recipe Book. Mary Lynn Koenig is putting together the book as a club fund raiser. English or Svensk is OK. (Her husband, Pelle, will translate.) Email to [MaryLynnKoenig@bigfoot.com](mailto:MaryLynnKoenig@bigfoot.com) or mail 26951 Crown Haven Ct., Kingwood TX 77339. Home Phone 281.348.2584



## HELP NEEDED

Needed are new Board Members and Officers for 2006. A committee is looking for new or recycled people to work as Board Members and Officers for the new year. You can volunteer yourself or your friend to any Board member or President Pelle Fisk 281.348.2584.

One specific need is the Newsletter Editor. This includes putting out a paper of flexible size. Timing is about six times a year to promote SCH events. Templates are available for working in MS Word but any word processor or publishing program would work. Printing now is done by Office Depot but other print shops may be nearer.

**SWEDISH CLUB GUESTBOOK** One of the features of our club website is the Guestbook. Your editor checks it regularly at the requests of the previous boards. PLEASE view the entries and see if you can make the commenter feel welcome. Especially needed are Young Couples, Svensk speakers, and Singles. Just click the Guestbook on the website <http://www.swedishclub.org/> and then click VIEW.

## Billions of Kronor in Notes and Coins Lose Value on January 1, 2006

Old bank notes and coins valued at nearly 5 billion Swedish crowns will become worthless at the stroke of midnight on December 31, 2005.

Older versions of the 100 krona and 500 krona notes which lack the foil strip and translucent picture found on the newer editions will no longer be legal tender. The same is true of the older, larger 20 krona notes that are bluish. Silver colored 50 öre coins will also lose all value. It has become confusing to the public to have so many variations of the same bank notes in circulation. In addition, the older notes do not have the security features which have been added in recent years.

Approximately 5 per cent of the Swedish bank notes and coins in circulation today will become invalid.

See [www.riksbank.se](http://www.riksbank.se) for more information and photos of the notes and coins in questions.

## THANKS KENT ULLBERG



*Kent Ullberg and SCH Pres. Pelle Fisk*

Renown sculptor born in Bohuslan and now headquartered in Corpus Christi, Kent Ullberg, shared his life and work with the SCH on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Kent took us around the world with a slide show of his previous and current projects. The largest project included a herd of bison and many individual water fowl which is covering more than a city block in Omaha, Nebraska. His exhibit that will be in the Houston Museum of Natural Science thro October 30<sup>th</sup> is well worth the trip. His local work "The Guardian," a massive sculpture of an eagle graces the main entrance of the Federal Reserve Bank building at 1801 Allen Parkway in Houston. A large eagle also graces the Texas A&M Campus near Kyle Football Field.



*SCHVP Margaret St. Clair, Verlee Ullberg, and Eleanor Johanson*

A very informative and enjoyable time was had by all. If you missed the reception, but don't miss the exhibit at HMNS until October 30<sup>th</sup>.

NOTE: The kentullberg.com website id temporarily out of service, but a Google search will turn up many interesting sites with pictures.



# THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

**The Swedish Club of Houston**  
*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 **YOUR NEWS** by email to arvid@johanson.us or when necessary by post to the return address below

## NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

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1/2 Page	\$ 80.00
Full Page	\$120.00

TriviaAnswer: 160,000,000 copies in 25

Languages in 33 countries

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