



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

Arvid's Article

Usually I am too busy flushing out the articles of event promotion and event wrap-up to have any space for an article on the side of the page as I started out 25 editions ago. Following so close on the holiday, others haven't gotten up to speed on what they want to say yet, so here are some of my thoughts.

If you missed the December 10th ChristmasTraditions/Luciadagen you really missed a great opportunity to share with fellow Swedes and have a great time. Margaret St.Clair and company really did a fabulous job-see her article on page 2.

I am really proud that we have a new Editor coming on after the election. Laura Millikan has agreed to take over after the election and a short transition. I've enjoyed most of the effort to meet people and get articles but I do understand the "deadline" real reporters complain about.

I also want to thank you ALL for helping us become more electronic just in time for the postal increases. 4 years ago we were all paper and stamps, now over 60 % read the newsletter electronically. A little extra thanks is due John Stavinoha and Erich Wolz for their help in going electronic with the emails and website. Hopefully more of you will tell us that you no longer need the black & white paper.

Since I try to read anything I can find in English about Sweden I've learned a lot more about my fathers homeland. Most recently though, I have been concerned with the outrageous Swedes who forget how many of us "SWEXANS*" are on this side and that they need something more than themselves to believe in. The antiwar comments becoming anti-American comments and the purposely antichristian designs trouble me. Maybe you saw the picture of the new jean label in the Chronicle. That would have been bad enough but his comment was that he "insists his graphic designs have a purpose beyond selling denim: to make young people question Christianity..." *Continued on page 6.*

PEA SOUP AND PANCAKES

ANNUAL MEETING

7 PM - January 21st, 2006

The Annual Meeting this year will be held in the beautiful Dome Room of the Inwood Forrest Country Club on Saturday, January 21st. The meeting will be held in conjunction with a pea soup and pancake supper. Please see menu below and reservation form/map on page 7 to RSVP for this event by January 17th. Map and Directions are on Page 6.

MENU:

Pea soup with sides of mustard, thyme and marjoram
Knackebrod and cheeses
Swedish Pancakes with fresh berry sauces.

A CASH BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE AT 6:15.

REASONABLE PRICE adults \$15

and children (3-12) \$5



PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING. It is not often that we bring up issues directly related to the viability of the club. We will do so this year. We need your input.

AGENDA:

Treasurer's Report
Membership Report
Nomination & Election of Officers & Directors
Tentative Calendar of Events for 2006
Open Forum on Club Activities

Please send in your reservations. See Page 7

Recap: Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen 2005 and TACK SÅ MYCKET

By Margaret St. Clair

A great time was had by all at our 18th annual Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration held on Saturday, December 10th at St. Andrew Lutheran Church on the west side of Houston. Approximately 236 guests attended the event which included a service in the sanctuary with our 2005 Lucia, Maren Stavinoha and her attendants and starboys in procession. Afterwards everyone adjourned to the gym for traditional Swedish refreshments, singing, dancing and more. See Pictures Pages 3&4.

TACK SÅ MYCKET

This wonderful day would not have been possible if it had not been for the hard work of many people. So with that in mind, I would like to say a big TACK SÅ MYCKET to the following:

Scandinavian Airlines System for the discounted airline ticket for our Lucia

The parishioners of St. Andrew Lutheran Church for the use of their sanctuary and gym for our celebration. Special thanks to Secretary Glenda, Building Coordinator Ken, and to John White, who ran the sound board

Pastor Beth Halvorsen from The Lord of Life Lutheran Church for officiating at the Lucia service

Vocalists: Veronica Llanos Butler and Howard Phillips

Pianist: Ann Chadwick

Instrumentalists: Vassily and Diana Rodionov, Joyce Calderon

Greeters: Arvid Johanson and Ken Nilsson

Lucia, Maren Stavinoha, attendants (15), starboys (3), plus the helpers----moms and dads, Liz Cadwallader, Kelly Mauritzson, Elizabeth Webb Roehl and Nancy Webb

Kitchen Chair: Carol Clarke and helpers, Eleanor Johanson, Dina Colburn, Ken Nilsson and Rod Anderson.

The many who contributed cookies and other baked goods for refreshments and for selling

Bake Sale Chair: Diana Rodionov

Bazaar Chair: Rod Anderson and family

Raffle Chair: Nancy Webb and helpers, Kelly Mauritzson, Sjerrie Colburn and Elizabeth Webb Roehl

Decorations: Gunhild Jansson and SWEA

Swedish Christmas tree: Jay Flusche

The Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston

Jan Dryselius for sharing his memories of Christmas in Sweden

The Swedish Consulate of Houston for donating books to the bazaar

Pelle Fisk for pleasing the children with his version of jultomte

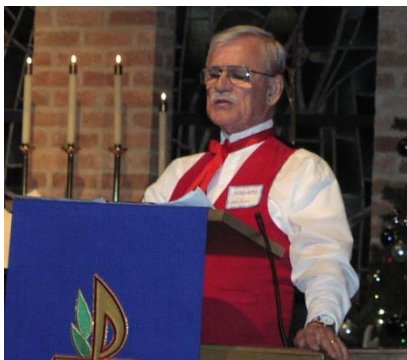
IKEA, Roland's Swiss Bakery and Nancy Webb for the raffle gifts

The Houston Chronicle for their announcement of our event

Diana Rodionov for her assistance in sewing attendants' gowns and mailing promotional flyers

EVERYONE who helped setup and cleanup

And last, but not least, my husband Dave, who patiently served as my go-fer and advisor!





Introducing Board Member Ingrid Philipson in Her Own Words



I was born and raised in Mexico City. My dad, Lennart Philipson, was born in Stockholm. He studied Hotel and Restaurant Management in Lausanne, Switzerland. When he graduated, he was told there were a lot of opportunities in Mexico City. In Mexico City he got an initial job as a Chef. My mom (Sara Morales) used to work for a Swedish company and through friends they were introduced. Then they married. My dad worked as a General Manager at the University Club for about 16 years, until he opened his own Numismatic -Coin store, where he buys-and sells coins for about 25 years; now.

I am the youngest of three kids. As a kid, our dad would always tell us about life in Sweden: our cousins, uncles, aunts, and our grandparents. I always felt connected to Sweden; it was like I belonged there. ... As kids, each one of us took turns traveling to Sweden in the summer and meeting the family. I especially loved the nature, the sailing, the archipelagos, the kraft skiva, the singing, and mostly the people who are simply real and natural. One of the summers which I enjoyed the most was the one when I got to participate with the "Tall Ship Race". We sailed for two weeks from Stockholm down to Bornholm in Denmark. The sail boat was an ice carrier and got refurbished by funds left by my great grand father for the purpose of keeping youngsters out of trouble during the summers. If any of you are interested in sailing a tall ship in Sweden, please let me know so that I can provide you with all the details.

After all the exposure to the restaurant business, (working half summers in restaurants since I was 12 years old) I decided to follow my dad's steps and study Hotel and Restaurant Management. During my last year in high school, I studied Swedish for six months, I packed up all my belongings and off I went to Sweden. I lived in Skokloster (close to Uppsala) with the

Wretner's, family friends. The Wretner family owns the "Wardshus" Hotel / Conference center in Skokloster. There, I worked in the kitchen, learning how to prepare all the Smorgasbord.

I traveled through Europe with my brother Edvard. During our visit to Lausanne, Switzerland "Escol Hotelier"- Hotel School, we learned that the waiting list was three years long.

My dad recommended the Hilton Hotel and Restaurant Management School in Houston, where I was accepted in fall of 1986. I graduated from the Hotel and Restaurant Management School in Houston with a minor in Accounting in 1990. I had the opportunity to work with the Houston Country Club, The Ritz Carlton, Cafe Express, McCormick and Schmick's Seafood Restaurant and finally as "Food Service Director" with the Hampton at Post Oak, a Retirement Community.

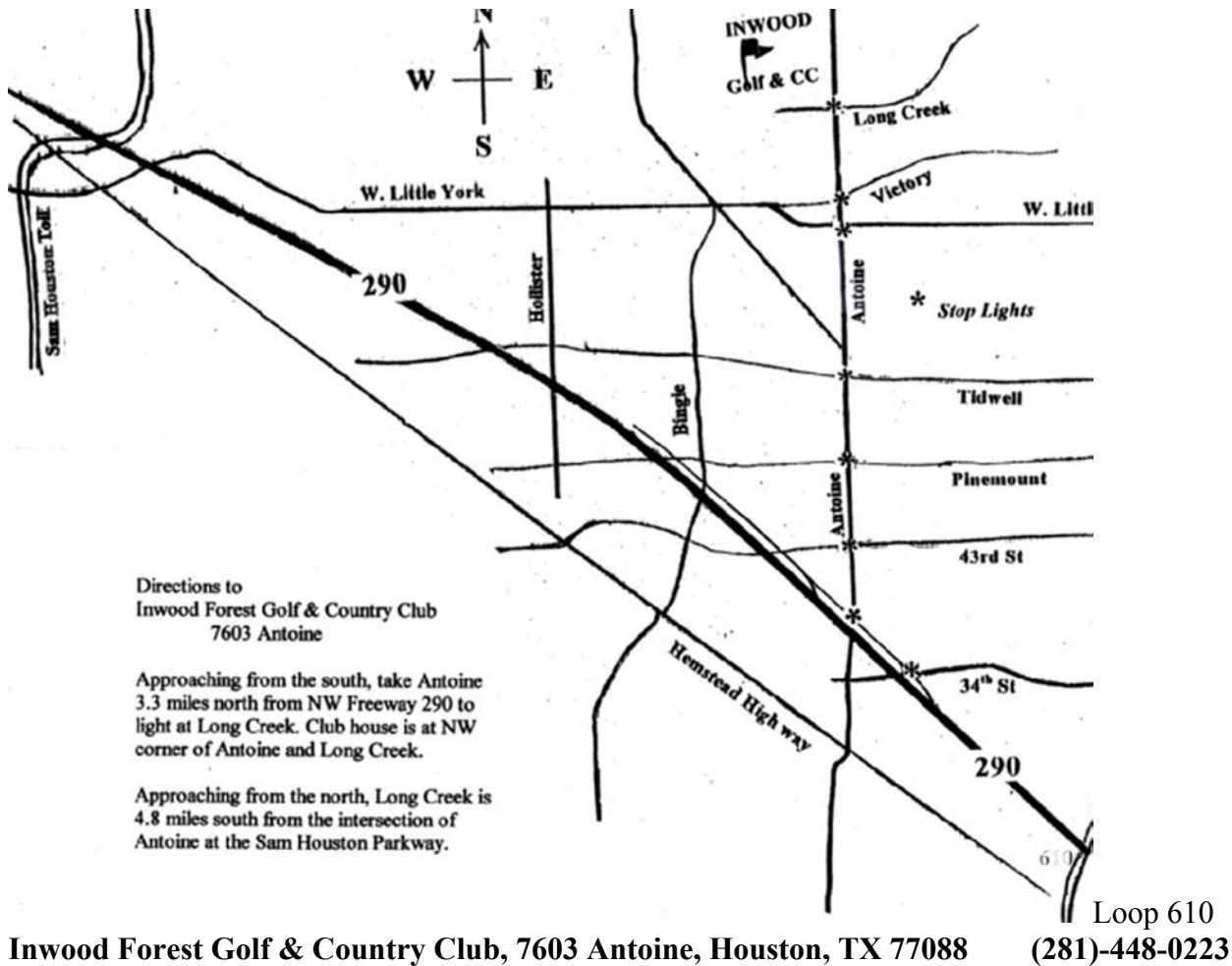
I decided to change my career to Real Estate, when I was married to my former spouse. I managed about 30 family owned properties in Houston. We owned most of them. During that time, I also managed a family owned law firm. We purchased a building and I took care of the architectural design and management aspects of it. In 1999 I got my Real Estate license with Keller Williams Realty. I am now passionate about helping families buy and sell homes.

I have two children, Annett (7) and Daniel (9). They attend a Montessori school here in Houston. They are involved in the music program at Rice University, playing piano, Tae Kwon Do, ballet, choir singing, Cub Scouts and Spanish lessons. I am looking forward to finding a Swedish teacher for them; so they can soon learn Swedish and they can start spending their summers in Sweden with all their cousins.

Some of my interests are yoga, sailing, dancing, singing along, playing piano, playing tennis, swimming, cooking, dining out, fine arts, arts and crafts, meditating, being outdoors, camping, traveling, giving and getting massages; simply having a great life! I currently continue my education with the Art of Living Foundation www.artofliving.org, The Landmark Education <http://www.landmarkeducation.com/>, and I teach Sunday school at Unity church.

I enjoy meeting Swedes especially those with a Latin touch! yourdreamhomewithingrid@yahoo.com

MAP & DIRECTIONS FOR ANNUAL MEETING



Arvid's Article Continued from Page 1...

The Chronicle further describes Sweden as "a secular country that cherishes its free speech and where churchgoing has been declining for decades." You can see the whole article at

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/world/3555822.html>

Simply said remember please pray for the USA and for Sweden.

*The SWEXAN nickname is used by The Wooden Spoon of Plano, TX on their craft items.

Try something new this time by looking at Ken Nilssons photos in a Kodak Album.

You're invited to view these photos online at Kodak Easyshare Gallery!

Just click on View Photos to get started at

<http://www.kodakgallery.com/I.jsp?c=ubxwnlr.19ngjl5n&x=0&h=1&y=-2qhrsg>

If you're new to the Kodak Gallery, create a free account. Once you've signed in, you'll be able to view this album whenever you want and order Kodak prints of your favorite photos.

RESERVATION AND MEMBERSHIP FORMS

Pancake and Pea Soup Dinner/ Annual Dues

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY January 17th for Dinner

WHAT :: Peas Soup and Pancake Dinner with Punch, Coffee, Juice Drink.

WHEN :: Saturday, January 21st, 2004 starting at 7:00 P.M.

WHERE :: The Inwood Forest Country Club, 7603 Antoine, Houston, TX 77088 (281)-448-0223

Make checks payable to the "Swedish Club of Houston" and mail this order form, plus payment to
The Swedish Club of Houston, c/o John Stavino
807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire TX 77401

Name(s) _____

Telephone # _____

of Members & guest tickets _____ x \$15 = \$ _____

of Children (3-12 years) tickets _____ x \$ 5 = \$ _____

2006 SCH Dues (if included here, or see below) \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

[Information and Questions to the Event Line at 713.774.2739 anytime](tel:713.774.2739)

Membership Application / Renewal Form - Bring or send it in now.

Annual dues are \$35 for family membership, \$25 for individual memberships, and \$10 for Student Memberships on a calendar year basis. Please pay now and save the club another mailing.

Please make check payable to "Swedish Club of Houston" and mail with your reservation to:
The Swedish Club of Houston, c/o John Stavino 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire TX 77401

PLEASE pay special attention to the email addresses. They are hard to check.

Name(s): _____

Street: _____ Home Phone: (_____) _____

City: _____ Work Phone: (_____) _____

State: _____

ZIP: _____

Home E-mail(s): _____

Work E-mail(s): _____

Which E-Mail Address do you want the Newsletter Notice Sent: Home ___ or Work ___ or Both ___



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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.

PHOTO CREDITS: Ken Nilsson + Johansons

Please send **YOUR NEWS** by email to 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
1/2 Page	\$ 80.00
Full Page	\$120.00

2005 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Swedish Club News
www.swedishclub.org

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Events Line = 713.774.2739



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