



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston
Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen

Saturday, December 9, 2006

4:00 - 6:30 p.m.

**Christ the King Lutheran Church
2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77005**



2005 Lucia, Maren Stavinoha,
with her attendants and star boys

Early in the morning on Lucia Day, all over Sweden young Lucia maidens will be waking their families with coffee and lussekatter. The Christmas season will have officially begun.

Here in Houston, we can get a sense of that special day with The Swedish Club's annual Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen. Each year we select a young lady from our club membership to wear the Lucia crown of candles during our pageant and to represent the club at the Texas-Swedish heritage festival in Barkeryd, Sweden, the following summer. SAS co-sponsors our Lucia's trip by providing the club with a reduced airfare ticket. This year's Lucia is Morgan Leigh Halvorsen. (See Morgan's picture and story on page 4.) Morgan is a sophomore at Texas A&M University and is the granddaughter of SCH members, Rudy and Florence Halvorsen.

This year our Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen celebration will be held on Saturday, December 9, 2006, from 4:00-6:30 p.m., at Christ

the King Lutheran Church, 2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston (near Rice Village). (See map on page 3). Christ the King Church is particularly appropriate for the celebration, as there is a replica in the sanctuary of The Superb, the ship that Swante Palm traveled on from Barkeryd Parish to Texas.

The event includes a short worship service, during which Lucia leads her procession of female attendants and star boys down the aisle while singing "Sankta Lucia." As always, the service will include the singing of traditional Swedish Christmas songs, readings from the Old and New Testaments and a homily.

After the service, we will gather in the gymnasium to socialize and enjoy some traditional Luciadag refreshments, including lussekatter (saffron-flavored buns), pepparkakor (ginger cookies), lingonsaft (lingonberry-flavored drink), kaffe and glögg.

During the reception, the Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston will perform traditional Scandinavian folk dances and everyone will have the opportunity to sing and dance around the Christmas tree. In addition, The Swedish Club's Annual Bazaar will be open both before and after the church service, where everyone can purchase Scandinavian gift items. This is a great opportunity to finish (or begin) your Christmas shopping! There will also be a bake sale, as well as games and godis (candy) for the children. Rumor has it that the jultomte might even make an appearance!

Admission to the festivities is free and open to the public. Come kick off the Christmas season Swedish-style!



**President's Column
by Margaret St.Clair**

As I write this, it is the day after our annual Smörgåsbord. For those of you who didn't attend, you missed a wonderful opportunity

to socialize with fellow Swedes, to eat delicious Swedish food and to reminisce about the early days of the club. Yes, we celebrated our 20th anniversary in fine fashion! Attending were 113 folks who came from as near as Houston and from as far away as Sweden. BraeBurn Country Club served an excellent meal with all of the traditional dishes. Four former presidents were there—Inga Lisa Calissendorff, Todd Little, Don Turbyfill and Mona Raspler. Inga Lisa spoke about the club's early beginnings and presented us with challenges for our future. Don read a letter in absentia from Consul Jan Dryselius, another former president. We cheered the club and all sang, "*Ja, må den leva.*" This set the tone for the rest of the evening, which included live music, dancing and a raffle of a hand-made Viking ship. Another highlight was the introduction of our 2006 Lucia, Morgan Halvorsen. Morgan will preside over our Lucia festivities next month, and she will also represent the club next August at the Texas-Swedish Festival in Barkeryd, Sweden.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the evening—to all of you for coming, to John and Edie Stavinotha and Laura Millikan for organizing the event, to Ken Nilsson for donating the Viking ship, to Sjerrie Colburn for selling raffle tickets, to Mona Raspler and Inga Lisa Calissendorff for providing club memorabilia to display, to Joyce Calderon and Vas Rodionov for the lovely music and to the folks at BraeBurn Country Club who, for so many years, have provided an excellent venue for our smörgåsbords.

Our next event and the last one for the year will be the Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration which will be held December 9th at

Christ the King Lutheran Church near Rice University. This is a most appropriate location for our celebration, as most of Christ the King's charter members were of Swedish ancestry. It is an event not to be missed. First there will be a beautiful, candle-lit service in the sanctuary, led by Lucia Morgan and her attendants. Afterwards, everyone will adjourn to the Fellowship Hall for traditional Lucia Day refreshments such as lussekatter, pepparkakor, lingon drink, kaffe and glögg. There will be music, dancing, singing, treats for the children, a raffle and a bazaar. I can't think of a better way to celebrate our Swedish heritage than to attend the Christmas Traditions and Lucia Day Celebration!

Now for a bit of business With the end of the year approaching, we need to be thinking of whom we want to serve on the board. Elections will be held at the annual meeting in January. If you are interested in serving, please let me know. The board is a fun group. We meet once a month, usually on the second Wednesday evening at IKEA. Before each meeting we gather in the cafeteria to share a meal. We do not convene in June and July. Our May and November meetings are held in a more social atmosphere at a board member's home. Everyone brings their spouse/significant other and a covered dish to share (usually Swedish!). We do a good job of combining business with pleasure!

If you feel that you cannot serve on the board, please consider other ways in which you can contribute to the organization. For instance, you could bake for our Christmas Traditions/Lucia Day Celebration or be a greeter at one of our events or serve on a cleanup committee, just to name a few. There are many little jobs that need doing and we need everyone to pitch in and help. There is a place for YOU in The Swedish Club. Please volunteer.

In closing, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season! God jul och gott nytt år!

Margaret

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

In order to make our Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen the success we all want it to be, we need YOU!! Helpers are needed to:

- serve refreshments
- bake Swedish cookies (recipes can be supplied)
- make baked goods/candies for Bake Sale
- sell raffle tickets
- make craft items for bazaar
- sell bazaar items and baked goods
- be a greeter for sanctuary or gym
- set-up (2:00-4:00 p.m.)
- clean-up (6:30-7:00 p.m.)

Craft items and baked goods are needed to sell in order to help defray costs of the celebration and the trip to Sweden for our Lucia. There will also be a donation jar on the bazaar table for those who want to contribute cash.

To volunteer, please contact Nancy Webb by phone (713-661-1011) or e-mail (Nancy.Webb@kelsey-seybold.com).

Attendants and Star Boys Wanted



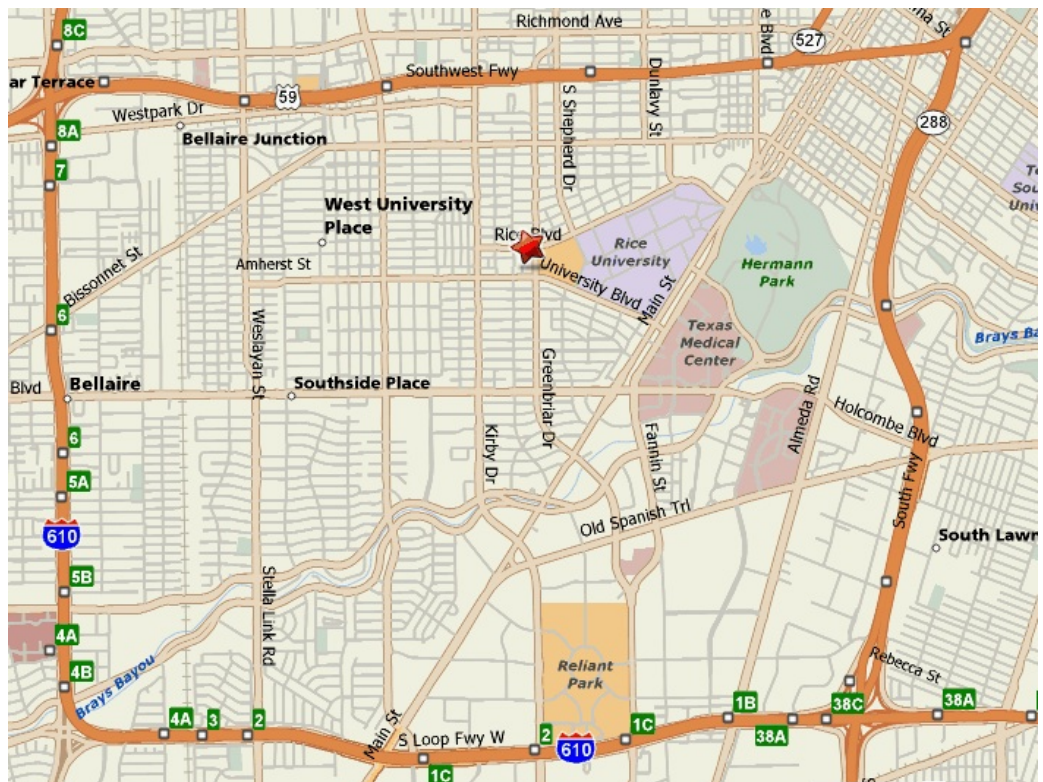
Girls (ages 5 to 20) and boys (ages 5 to 15) are wanted to participate as attendants and star boys in the Lucia

procession at the Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen on Saturday, December 9. Attendants wear all-white clothing with silver trim and accessories which the Club can provide. Anyone having their own outfit is encouraged to wear it.

The attendants will be singing (in Swedish) "Sankta Lucia" and "Stilla natt" during the service in the sanctuary, just as they did last year. Contact Nancy Webb at 713-661-1011 or by e-mail (Nancy.Webb@kelsey-seybold.com) if your child/children will be participating. Please do so as soon as possible, in order that your child will have time to receive her/his own CD of the music to practice.

Christ the King Lutheran Church
2353 Rice Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77005

(at the corner of Rice Boulevard
and Greenbriar in the Rice
University Village area)



Lucia 2006

Morgan Leigh Halvorsen, granddaughter of SCH members Rudy and Florence Halvorsen, has been selected as our Lucia for 2006. Here is her story in her own words:



Ever since I was a little girl I dreamt of getting the honorable privilege of wearing a candle-lit crown atop my head. When I was younger I wanted to be Santa Lucia because she got to lead the procession and looked radiant with the candle crown and the red sash around her waist. Now that I am older I know there is much more

that goes into being Santa Lucia. This has inspired me to apply to represent her for The Swedish Club of Houston this year.

The tradition of Lucia has been around for centuries and is one of much admiration. The name Lucia, literally meaning light, was the name of a young lady with much fortune who came on December 13th to rescue the Swedes from a time of darkness and evil. She shared her food and her faith with the people and helped cast away the sorrow by bringing light into their dark homes. After she refused to marry her fiancé, he attempted to destroy her. However, her kind-heartedness could not be destroyed and he was the one who was stripped of his power. This legend has been celebrated for many years in many places. Her cause was such a good one; it is no wonder that this tradition is still celebrated. Therefore, I would be blessed and honored to be able to represent her this year.

My family ancestry has always been of great interest to me. My grandparents are members of the Swedish Club of Houston and are very involved in their Swedish heritage. They once participated in some Swedish folk dancing and even traveled to Sweden to dance. On my father's side of the family, I have several members that are of Scandinavian descent. My great-grandmother (the mother of my grandfather, Herta Hjordis Svendsen, was born in Nossemark, in the province of Älvsborg Län in Sweden, which is near Stora Le Lake. She came to Galveston, Texas, in June of 1926, and not long after, on January 6, 1927, married my great-grandfather, Johan Arnt Halvorsen, who was born in Halden, Norway.

The relatives of my grandmother were Scandinavian too but a little more distant than my grandfather's side. My grandmother's father's parents were both from Sweden. Her grandmother, Ida Amelia Olson (Bergwall) moved from Billdal, Sweden, to Galveston, Texas, where she met her future husband, Carl Otto Bergwall, who had moved to Galveston from Ekstad, Gotland, Sweden. After they were married, they moved back to Sweden for six years and then later returned to Galveston. Both of them became charter members of Zion Lutheran Swedish Church. In this church in 1956 my grandmother, Florence Halvorsen, was the Santa Lucia.

As of now I am a sophomore at Texas A&M University, and am studying to receive a Bachelors of Science with a Biomedical Science major. With this degree I plan on attending medical school and becoming a family practitioner. The medical field has always been of interest to me and something that I enjoy studying. Ever since my freshman year of high school it has always been the career choice of mine. Another interest of mine is playing soccer. I played some in junior high and high school, and last semester I played on an intramural team in college. I plan on joining another team this fall. The best part about playing with an intramural team was that I only knew two people on the team, so I got to make new friends.

One other aspiration of mine is to travel. I would love to travel the world and learn more about world history. I feel that this experience would open a door for many more chances to travel, meet new people, and learn more about their culture. All of these interests are important to me, but by far the most important one of them all is family. I enjoy every minute that I spend with them. They have always been there for me and always will. I especially realized their devotion after I moved to college where that kind of reliability is hard to find.

I strongly feel that this opportunity would be an excellent experience for me and be one that I would thoroughly enjoy. Lucia represents a good and charitable cause, both of which qualities I would love to embody. Not only would it be a good experience for that purpose, but also because I would get a chance to mingle with some new and exciting people.



Morgan (center) as an attendant, with her grandmother, Florence Halvorsen, and brother, Andrew (right), in 1993

Dining with the Directors--- Last Chance in '06!

The last Swedish Club board meeting for 2006 will be held Wednesday, December 6, at IKEA. All members are welcome to join the board in the upstairs dining room at 6:30 p.m. to enjoy a meal together. At 7 o'clock, everyone adjourns to a meeting room. We welcome the opportunity to hear your comments and ideas!

BITS & PIECES

🇸🇪 Ingrid Philipson is organizing **Swedish language lessons** for kids. If your children want to learn to *tala svenska*, contact Ingrid by phone (832-423-8884) or e-mail (yourdreamhomewithingrid@yahoo.com).

🇸🇪 Diana Rodionov discovered some really nice **films of Sweden** at the following web site:
http://sweden.se/templates/cs/CommonPage___2865.aspx



Save the Date!

What: Annual Meeting/Pancake and Pea Soup Dinner
When: Sunday, January 28, 2007
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Where: Buffalo Grille, 3116 Bissonnet at Buffalo Speedway

**Watch for details in the
next issue of the newsletter!**

SWEA Lucia Celebration

SWEA (Swedish Women's Educational Association) of Houston will hold their annual Lucia Celebration on Sunday, December 3rd, at the Southwest Chinese Church, 12515 Sugar Ridge Blvd. in Stafford, Texas. The event is from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

In addition to the Lucia procession, the program will include a Christmas bazaar and a raffle. Refreshments of lussekatter (Lucia buns), pepparkakor (ginger spiced cookies), hot dogs, lemonade, coffee and glögg will be served. There will be activities for the children, such as a fiskdamm (fish pond) and an arts and crafts area. Everyone can participate in dancing and singing around the Christmas tree.

Admission is \$10.00 for adults, and \$2 for children (3-15 years). Also, please bring a wrapped gift and indicate whether it is for a boy or a girl and what age (infant to age 16).

To get to Southwest Chinese Church, take US 59 South toward Victoria. Exit at W. Airport Blvd./Kirkwood. Turn left under US 59 onto W. Airport Blvd. After you cross Murphy Rd., Sugar Ridge Blvd. will be the first street to the right. Turn right onto Sugar Ridge Blvd., and the church will be on the left side. Approximate drive time from downtown Houston is 20-25 minutes.

For more information, please contact Margaret St.Clair at 281-493-4978 or by e-mail (margestclair@hotmail.com).

Swedish Organist to Play Vespers

Magnus Kjellson of Göteborg, Sweden, will play an organ vespers at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2353 Rice Blvd., on Sunday, January 14, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. Kjellson is founder and artistic director of Göteborg Baroque Soloists, and was featured on the CDs *Gertrudenmusik: Hamburg 1607* and *Dietrich Buxtehude: Abendmusik*. Everyone is invited to this event, sponsored by the Bach Society of Houston.

Celebrating 20 Years of SCH *1986-2006*

At the Smörgåsbord held on October 28, 2006, The Swedish Club of Houston celebrated 20 years of preserving Swedish heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast. The fellowship was delightful, the food was delicious, the tables were beautifully decorated, the music and dancing were festive, and a great time was had by all!

On this and following pages are pictures from that event, along with a speech presented by Inga Lisa Calissendorff and a letter written by Jan Dryselius, Honorary Consul, Consulate of Sweden. Both Inga Lisa and Jan are former presidents and founding members of The Swedish Club, along with others listed by Inga Lisa. To all those who have worked so hard over the last 20 years, we say, "Tack så mycket!" And we lift our glasses and say "Skål!" to another 20 years!



Howard Phillips (left) and Gusten Calissendorff,
founding member of SCH



Runa and Al Joslyn, founding members,
and Todd Little, former president 1993-94



Gunhild Jansson, founding member, and Lennart Nilsson



Joyce Calderon and Vas Rodionov provided
music for dinner and dancing





CONSULATE OF SWEDEN

Jan B. Dryselius
Honorary Consul

October 25, 2006

To the Members of the Swedish Club
On the occasion of our 20th Anniversary

Dear one and all!

Mary and I are so disappointed not to be with you this evening. 20 years is an important milestone. It says we knew there was a place and time for us to join together and appreciate our heritage and it says we were right.

I remember our first convening meeting held in Bellaire in October 1986. Inga-Lisa and Gusten Calissendorff, Gunhild and Birger Jansson, Nancy and Roger Westrup, Dan Jones, Marjorie and Per Reich, Runa and Al Joslyn, John Ekdahl were there and yes, I was there also. It really was Inga-Lisa who dared dream out side the box. She asked us to be there. She asked us to make her dream a reality. And we were all there hopeful and excited about what was about to become a reality. Now 20 years later we are still here seeing our hopes and dreams live on thanks to all the hard work of the current and past Board Members and each and every one of you.

I know Inga-Lisa and Gusten are here tonight as are Runa and Al Joslyn and Ethel and Willy Barnevik. WOW. What a wonderful tribute to come all the way over from Sweden [anything to get out of the cold]. Thank you for coming and making a special evening even more precious!

It sure was a lot of work but we had fun. Inga-Lisa was happy she had found a home for her Swedish Classes. The Scandinavian Folk dancers were happy that they might find and recruit dancers to their troupe. Others were happy that we could perhaps establish a library. Everybody seems happy diving into Swedish delicacies wrapped around a good party. In March we practice singing drinking songs happily warming our throats with the nectar of the Gods called Aquavit [water of life] whilst gleefully sucking a delicate dill infused crawfish with Swedish abandon. October brings us the Smörgåsbord. Our first and most famous Smörgåsbord was held in October 1988, just like now. We had rented Spring Shadows Pavilion. It was an affair to remember. We prepared all the food ourselves under the strict supervision of Gunhild Jansson. I can still hear Gunhild in her soft voice saying, We will do it this way or we won't do it at all!! Wait a minute...I recall that same voice sounding like a drill sergeant giving orders to a new batch of

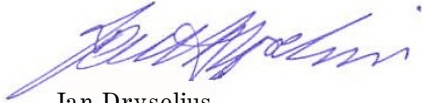
2909 Hillcroft St., Suite 515
Houston, Texas 77057-5852
Telephone: (713) 953-1417 • Fax: (713) 953-7776

recruits also. Oh but it was tasty and Gunhild reigns supreme in Swedish cuisine. I think we served over 400 guests. Mary, Gunhild, Birger and I found ourselves wallowing through the garbage cans, at the end of the evening, for the sterling silver serving pieces that were unceremoniously dumped there. We found them all and peace was restored and a memory created. Useful little tidbit some 20 years later! Isn't that right Gunhild? My goodness we were tired that night. Tired but well pleased with ourselves. Then came Christmas Traditions with our own Christmas Bazaar so ably run year after year by Asta Nilsson and the re-creation of a Swedish Christmas with songs, dance and narration. I especially loved the dance of the three Ginger Snap Men. And the culmination of the evening was and remains the presenting of our very own Lucia with her entourage of willing and not so willing but all adorable tärnor and stjärngossar. Thanks to SAS's generosity we have every year been able to provide a free ticket to our chosen Lucia to represent us at Barkeryd's Texan Day celebration. They celebrate Texas Day there as a remembrance and tribute to all the emigrants that left Barkeryd Socken for Texas during the latter part of 1800s. No less than one fourth of the entire Barkeryd population emigrated.

And what is so wonderful is that these activities are still part of our annual cadence of events. My hat is off to each and every one of you who have carried on with all the activities over all these years. I certainly am looking forward to all the new ventures and traditions yet to be dreamed and brought to fruition.

Please join me in saluting the Swedish Club with the time honored Swedish, now in English, cheers: Long Live the Swedish Club Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah!

Sincerely,



Jan Dryselius

[Editor's note: Ethel and Willy Barnevik were not able to attend the Smörgåsbord.]



Inga Lisa Calissendorff (center), founding member and former president of The Swedish Club of Houston, with SCH President Margaret St.Clair and her husband, Dave

Inga Lisa Calissendorff's speech at the 20th Anniversary Celebration in Houston—October 28, 2006

Time goes on and on and on—many things change over a period of 10 years, and with more than 20 years in our Club, many wonderful friends we have had with us has left us and moved on to another place.

We two, Gusten and I, are very happy to be here tonight with you all.

First let us remember May 9th, 1986, at 4:00 p.m., where we met at the Swedish Consulate General's Office in Bellaire, Texas. Eight families came together and were represented:

Westrup, Roger and Nancy
Reich, Per and Marjorie
Jansson, Birger and Gunhild
Dryselius, Jan and Mary
Joslyn, Al and Runa
Jones, Daniel
Ekdahl, John
Calissendorff, Gusten and Inga Lisa

We met in becoming a viable organization and the need for laying the ground work before recruiting members. At this meeting the Swedish Club was born.

We the 8 members of families put down the money at the table for founding the organization. It

was said that we the families should get our money back at a later date, but not one of the families insisted to get their money back.

Now with wind in the sails—we took course for a new Club in Houston. The Swedish Club of Houston—20 years ago.

At an anniversary you like to have not only remembrances but also gifts and items for the future. We are looking for two Anniversary gifts—No. 1. **A travel leader** to the Club's 2008 trip to Barkeryd, Småland, where the cradle for Texas History Immigration will be found. That will be the year our 20th Lucia represents us at the Texas Swedish Festival there. The challenge: A travel leader for the Club.

No. 2. **An Historian for our Club.** It is a very interesting challenge to collect material and pictures from former Presidents and other leaders from these 20 years of history, to put together in some sort of book, before all is forgotten and thrown away unless it is recorded for future days and years. The challenge is an Historian for our Club. Let us hope to find such a leader!

Now let us press forward to the next 10 or 20 years in time. Let us stand up and sing the old Swedish Birthday or Anniversary song: "Ja, må den leva—"/A four-time Hurrah for our Club.----- Skål and Tack!

SWEDISH CLUB PRESIDENTS

1987-1988. Inga Lisa Calissendorff
1989-1990. Glen Johnson
1991. Birger Jansson
1992. Jan Dryselius
1993-1994. Todd Little
1995-1996. Don Turbyfill
1997-1998. Mona Raspler
1999-2000. Peter Widmark
2001-2003. Leif Mauritzson
2004-2005. Pelle Fisk
2006. Margaret St.Clair

Greetings from Old New Sweden . . .

Howdy Texas Swedes,

A while back you indicated you would like to be kept informed on what's happening in "Old New Sweden." Below is a copy of our Calendar of Events. Perhaps if any of you are planning to travel to the northeast, you may be able to participate in one or more of our many activities listed.

Although it is only just underway, I am currently coordinating the establishment of a new museum at the Kalmar Nyckel Shipyard, the "New Sweden Centre." Hopefully we will be having an opening sometime in the spring for the "Life in New Sweden Exhibit." This will be posted on the Calendar of Events when it happens.

If you would like to be included on a mailing list for future calendars, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Aleasa Hogate

goaleasa@juno.com

New Sweden Center VP Educational Director

www.SwedishHeritage.us

COLONIAL SWEDE CALENDAR

December/January, 2006

Sat., Dec. 2 - Annual Swedish Cabin Trim-a-tree Party, 9 Creek Rd., Drexel Hill, PA (For information, email swedishcabin@yahoo.com)

Sat., Dec. 2 - Salem (NJ) 19th Annual Yuletide Festival (For information call the Salem Co. Historical Society at 856-935-8800)

Wed., Dec. 13 - Christ (Old Swedes) Church Patriot's Lucia, River Rd., Swedesburg, Upper Merion, PA (For information, contact HerbertRambo@ColonialSwedes.org)

Fri., Dec. 15 - Swedish American Chamber of Commerce-Philadelphia Chapter Christmas Dinner (For information email information@sacc-philadelphia.org)

Sun., Dec. 17 - Swedish Colonial Society Julmiddag in historic Swedesboro, NJ (For information, email HerbertRambo@ColonialSwedes.org)

Sat., Jan. 20 - Dinner with Colonial Swedes & Friends at the Riverview Inn, Pennsville, NJ (For information, email HerbertRambo@ColonialSwedes.org)

Tues., Jan. 23 - Kalmar Nyckel Maritime Lecture Series at Wilmington, DE (For information, call 302-429-7447 or email info@KalmarNyckel.org)

Sat., Jan. 27 - King Neptune's Dinner supporting Kalmar Nyckel Foundation's Maritime Heritage Centre (For information, call 302-429-7447 or email info@KalmarNyckel.org)

The Christmas Revels 2006: A Nordic Celebration of the Winter Solstice

Performance Dates: December 9, 10, 16 & 17

Performance Times: 2:30 and 8:00 pm on Saturdays
2:30 pm on Sundays

Location: Moores Opera House,
University of Houston
Entrance 16, Cullen Blvd.



Join Revels Houston as they head north to Iceland, Scandinavia and the lands of Karelia as the Revelers and special guests take you to at time of ancient forests, lakes, and small villages. Join the Karelian Folk

Music Ensemble as they create an enchanting mix of song, musicianship and storytelling, recounting the ancient epic poem of the Kalevala.

Performers include a Children's chorus of 16, and Adult and Teen chorus of 34 (including SCH Web master, Erich Wolz), five actors, nine other musicians, and the internationally acclaimed Norwegian dance troupe, Småjondølane.

Tickets are \$18-\$30 and may be purchased online at www.revelshouston.org, by phone (713-668-3303 or 713-669-9528) or at the theater one hour before each performance. Children under 15 are half price, and student discounts are available.





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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** to ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net or 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

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Ken Nilsson	Treasurer	kennilsson88@msn.com
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Dina Colburn	Director	djcolburn@yahoo.com
Eric Condon	Director	econdon@houston.rr.com
Pelle Fisk	Director	PelleFisk@bigfoot.com
Laura Millikan	Newsletter Editor	ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net
Ingrid Philipson	Director	yourdreamhomewithingrid@yahoo.com
John Stavinoha	Membership & Language School	John.Stavinoha@memorialhermann.org
Mark Swanson	Director	Mark.Swanson@lr.org
Erich Wolz	Webmaster	wolz@evl.net

Swedish Club News
www.swedishclub.org

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Events Line = 713.774.2739



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c/o Laura Millikan
6102 S. Sumac Drive
Pearland, TX 77584-8064