



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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

March/April

2009

Volume XXII-No. 2



President's Column by Cathy Wahren

Greetings, fellow Club members and interested readers! Who am I? Well, if you are one of the lucky folks able to attend our fabulous Pea Soup and Pancakes/Annual Meeting on

January 24th, you would have seen me, your new Club President for 2009, and two other Board members, Karen Wolz (as Vice-President) and David Bash (as Treasurer), elected for duty as officers.

This event was truly fabulous for many reasons. Our Board members took it upon themselves this year to change venues and cook up this traditional menu in the church kitchen using authentic recipes provided by Club members. We had a lot of fun putting it on, plus attendance was great, and we have received many compliments on the food. That equates to a successful event in my view—I hope you all agree.

This was the final event organized by our now Past-President Margaret St.Clair, and it's no surprise that it came off wonderfully. I have big shoes to fill and will do my best to keep up the momentum that she has gained.

A bit about myself: I joined the Board most recently early in 2008. You can find a short introduction that I wrote at that time in the March/April 2008 newsletter that introduced new Board members. To paraphrase briefly, I am the daughter of a long-time Club member, Uno Wahren, and have been associated with the Club through him since its inception. I served on the Board many years ago but have been on a rather long hiatus until recently.

I'm thrilled to be involved again and see how things have changed and improved. I hope to be able to serve you, our members, successfully and look forward to a great year of events. Our calendar is mostly already set, which helps immensely with the planning. (Thanks, Margaret!)

The *Kräftskiva* (Swedish-Style Crawfish Party) is set for Saturday, March 28, at the Monument Inn. This is a lively event that is as fun for the whole family as it is for the more boisterous among us (if you

care to stay a bit later!). Remember that we do have other types of food available for those who aren't crazy about mud bugs. Please make your reservations today, either online at www.swedishclub.org or by mail using the form on page 9!

Cathy

Kräftskiva



Swedish Crayfish Party
Saturday, March 28
6:00 p.m.



Monument Inn,
4406 Battleground Road, La Porte

It's time for crayfish! Not to be confused with Cajun-style, the delicious crayfish are prepared with the traditional Swedish seasoning of sea salt and dill and will be served with fried fish, fried chicken, potatoes and corn.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Seating is limited, so reserve early. Reservations must be received by Wednesday, March 25, and may be made **online** at www.swedishclub.org or **by mail**, using the form on page 9.

Round up your friends and family and join us for a wonderful evening of food, fellowship and *snapsvisor* (drinking songs)!

REMINDER: A new dues year began January 1st. If you have not already renewed your membership for 2009 (\$35 for families, \$25 for individuals), you may do so either **online** at www.swedishclub.org or **by mail** by sending your check payable to "Swedish Club of Houston" to John Stavino, 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, TX 77401.

**Celebrate *Valborgsmässoafton*
with a Swedish bonfire
and Texas barbecue
Saturday, April 25, 3:00 p.m.**

Help welcome back spring Swedish-style at the *Valborgsmässoafton* bonfire and barbecue on Saturday, April 25, at Dr. Margit Winstrom's ranch, 3383 Peters Lane, Brenham. (See page 9 for directions.)

Activities will begin around 3:00 p.m., with Frisbee, volleyball, badminton, croquet and other customary Swedish games. Also on the agenda is a hayride across the large ranch, followed by the long-awaited bonfire and singing of traditional spring songs.

NOTE: Bring hot dogs, hamburgers or something else to grill for yourself, plus one side dish (Swedish, if possible) for everyone to share.

This event is free, but please let us know by Thursday, April 23, that you are coming, either online at www.swedishclub.org or by calling Event Chair Pelle Fisk, 281-348-2584.

***Valborgsmässoafton*
(Walpurgis Night) in Sweden**

Although we will celebrate *Valborgsmässoafton* on Saturday, April 25, this year, in Sweden it is always celebrated on April 30.

This ancient festival has survived from Viking days, when warriors of old celebrated an annual feast in honor of returning spring. Bonfires lighted on mountain tops were thought to frighten away demons of darkness and gloom. Today people observe the festival throughout the land by lighting fires on hills and mountain peaks in symbol of welcome to the lengthening days.

In Stockholm thousands of people celebrate the festival at Skansen, the city's outdoor museum and animal park, where the tremendous bonfire of logs and tar barrels which blazes from the top of the Reindeer Mountain is visible for many miles.

The most popular and traditional spring festivities are held in the old university towns of Uppsala, Lund and Göteborg, with its famous carnival parade. Current and graduated students party all day and all

night, and even perhaps longer than that, wearing all the while their characteristic white graduation caps.

For most Swedes, though, Valborg just means the end of the winter season and there is no better way to celebrate it than singing spring songs. Spring songs and choral singing are very typical of the Swedish Valborg celebrations, with many of the traditional songs dating from as far back as the 19th century.

Valborg is a double national festivity in Sweden because King Carl XVI Gustaf celebrates his birthday on Valborg's day, April 30th. Swedish flags are raised all around the country to salute him and show him respect.

May Day (May 1st) follows the Valborg celebrations with a wide choice of events, marches and demonstrations taking place across the country to celebrate the working class' rights. The 1st of May is a public holiday in Sweden, and many Swedes spend the day either attending the celebrations of political parties and trade unions, or simply enjoying a picnic outdoors with friends and family, weather permitting.

Sources: *Festivals of Western Europe*, by Dorothy Gladys Spicer, 1958; and www.scandinavica.com.

**SACC to hold Sixth Annual
Scandinavian Golf Tournament**

Swedish American Chamber of Commerce, Texas (SACC, TX), in connection with Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce and The Royal Danish Consulate, is holding the Sixth Annual Scandinavian Golf Tournament on Monday, March 23, 2009, at Augusta Pines, Spring (Houston), TX.


The schedule includes lunch and practice beginning at 12:00 noon, a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. and dinner and an award ceremony following the tournament. Cost is \$500 for a foursome or \$125 for individuals, and the deadline to register is Tuesday, March 10, 2009.


Tournament prizes include a weekend in a BMW, golf clubs, golf equipment and much more. Win a car for a hole-in-one!

The tournament is being held in connection with the INTSOK US-Norway Technology Conference, and the featured sponsor is Bring Logistics US, Inc.


For more information, contact Astrid Marklund, Chairman, 6th Annual Scandinavian Golf Tournament, phone: 281-486-7330, cell: 281-851-5877 or astrid@asmdevelopment.com.

BITS & PIECES


 Carrin Patman reports that the **Swedish Excellence Endowment of the University of Texas** hosted a Study in Sweden Party on Tuesday, February 17. The Endowment is multi-disciplinary, with its emphasis on projects that promote Sweden across the academic spectrum. Interested UT students from any academic specialty are welcome to apply for a generous scholarship to study or do research in Sweden. For further information, contact: carrinmp@austin.rr.com.

 **Nordic Fiddles & Feet**, a week of Swedish and Norwegian music and dance with some of the best Scandinavian folk musicians and dancers in the world, will be held June 28 - July 4, 2009, at Camp Ogontz, near Littleton, New Hampshire. A mini-camp is also available, June 28-30. The 2009 brochure with registration form, is available online at <http://www.nordicfiddlesandfeet.org/2009i.html>.

For more information, contact: NFF, 4401 Alta Vista Way, Knoxville, TN 37919; 865-522-0515; fiddlesandfeet@bellsouth.net.

 Swedish rock band **The Soundtrack of Our Lives** released a new studio album on March 3. The new album, the group's sixth full-length, is entitled "Communion" and was released by Yep Roc Records. It has already been hailed as "epic" in a four-star review in Spin Magazine. The band recently won the Grammy for Best Band of the Year at the Swedish *Grammisgalan*.

Read more and listen at www.tsool.net.

 The **Consulate General of Sweden in New York** has created a page on the free-access social networking website Facebook, allowing users from around the world to stay informed of their activities and other Swedish events in the New York area.

With sincere sympathy . . .

Sincere sympathy and prayers are extended to Carrin Patman, frequent contributor to The Swedish Club News and former SCH member, on the recent death of her husband, William N. (Bill) Patman. Mr. Patman served Texas for a quarter of a century as a State Senator and U. S. Congressman.

Around Swedish America in 365 Days (from Swedish Council of America's January 2009 "e-UPDATE")



In celebration of its 80th anniversary, the Swedish Press magazine has taken off on a virtual trip through Swedish America. The journey started on New Year's Day on the West Coast of Canada, in the little town of Lund, that was founded in 1889 by Karl and Fredrik

Thulin from the university town of Lund in southern Sweden. For the rest of the year you can follow this interesting trip and find out, among other things, how Charlie Anderson, the Three Lucky Swedes and John Nordström of the Nordstrom department stores, made their fortunes.

The 365 current and historic points of Swedish interest will pop up on a Google map at the www.NordicWay.com web site. Each day a new dispatch will be posted from places like West Hollywood, where Ann-Margret's hand prints are outside the Mann Chinese theater in West Hollywood, to L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland where the Vikings established their first base camp.

When completed, the "travel blog" will form the most complete and fun documentation of the most important Swedish points of interest in the U.S.A. and Canada. Best of all, "Around Swedish America in 365 Days" is free and will remain at NordicWay.com long after the trip is completed. The popular site also contains information about the Nordic countries, a calendar with Swedish American events and extensive material from Swedish Press and its sister publication Scandinavian Press.

This trip of a lifetime was the dream of editor (and Honorary Consul of Sweden in Vancouver) Anders Neumuller. He had planned to complete it in 80 days, but realized that he would not have time this year when Swedish Press celebrates its anniversary. "Svenska Pressen" started as a weekly in Vancouver in 1929 and now has subscribers in every U.S. state and Canadian province, as well as subscribers in Sweden and elsewhere around the world.

For more information about the tour or Swedish Press email Anders (anders@nordicway.com).

Scandinavian Folk Dancers add new members

by Kathy Bjork

January and February have been very busy months for the Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston. We welcomed two new members; we are learning a new Estonian dance; we performed at multicultural festivals at St. Bernadette Church and Frostwood Elementary; and some of us hosted members of the National Danish Performance Team.

The two new members are Steen (Danish) and his wife, Ericka. Both are really fast learners, and we are happy to have them. They are learning the new dance along with the rest of us.

The multicultural festivals have been great—we are sharing our culture and learning a lot about others’.

It has been such fun hosting the Danes. They are on an 18-country ten-month tour. Their performance at the Jewish Community Center was awesome. We are hoping to see our new friends again when we go to Denmark in 2010.

Coming up: We will perform at the annual German Festival in Tomball on March 28th and in Danevang on April 18th for the Queen’s birthday.

We are always looking for new members. Come check us out in the basement of Christ the King Lutheran Church on Mondays from 7-9. For further information contact Kathy at 713-870-3543, or sfdofh@yahoo.com.

Swedish dancers to perform at Dance Salad Festival

Legendary Swedish choreographer Mats Ek and his life-long muse and wife, renowned dancer Ana Laguna, as well as dancers from the Royal Swedish Ballet and Göteborgs Operans Ballet, are coming to Houston to perform in Houston International Dance Coalition's Dance Salad Festival. Supported by Embassy of Sweden and Honorary Consulate General of Sweden in Houston, the dancers will perform on at least two of the nights of April 9, 10 and 11 at 7:30 p.m. at Wortham Center, Cullen Theater, 501 Texas Avenue, Houston.

Mats Ek, a highly original, award-winning Swedish artist, is one of the most talented and sought-after choreographers and theater directors today. With more than 40 years of experience

working on stages around the world, Mats Ek is known for his challenging and often provocative reinterpretations of many of the classics.

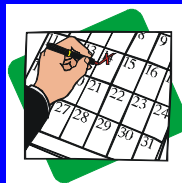
In a Premiere for Houston, his heartfelt piece, Memory, will be performed by the choreographer himself and his wife. This delicately evocative piece is a reflection on midlife sensuality: a man remembers a woman, the memory brings her on stage and the past becomes the present. Ana Laguna will also perform O Sole Mio, an exuberant piece by Mats Ek, set to music by Di Capua with lyrics by Capurno to the voice of Luciano Pavarotti.



With a total of twelve participating dance companies, the format for the event is that each company represented will perform each piece of choreography twice over the three days. At least six different companies will be performing each night with at least eight different choreographic works presented. To see the full range of the choreography presented requires attending two of the three evenings. A listing of each evening's performances will be available in March.

For more information, or to order tickets online, please visit www.dancesalad.org.

Mats Ek will also be featured in the Choreographers’ Forum, in collaboration with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, at the Museum’s Brown Auditorium on Wednesday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m. This event is free and the general public is invited.



Mark your calendar

Future 2009 SCH Events

Saturday, November 7 - *Smörgåsbord* at BraeBurn Country Club

Saturday, December 12 - Christmas Traditions and *Luciadagen* at Christ the King Lutheran Church

News from Sweden

(from Swedish Council of America's
January and February 2009 "eUPDATES")

→ Hostels in Sweden house guests in traditional manor homes, converted school and hotel facilities, lighthouses, and ships. And now, you can even spend a night in a converted jumbo jet near Arlanda, Sweden's major airport between Uppsala and Stockholm. Reported by Associated Press, the "Jumbo Hostel" opened for business on January 15, 2009, and visitors can enjoy a meal in the café or stay overnight in accommodations ranging from \$40 to \$420 per night. To book your stay or see photos online visit <http://www.jumbohostel.com>. For more information, see <http://www.ajc.com/services/content/printedition/2009/01/11/hostel.html>.

→ The Dutch organization Sustainable Society Foundation ranked 151 countries' work on sustainable development in 2008, and Sweden tops the list of countries that have the best sustainable development. All of the Nordic countries placed in the top 15, with Norway coming in third, Finland fourth, Iceland sixth, and Denmark fourteenth. The survey is based on 22 indicators, including air and water quality, health, renewable energy, gender and education.

→ Sweden's center-right governing Alliance recently revealed their new energy policy, reversing a prior goal of phasing out the country's remaining 10 nuclear reactors by 2010. The nuclear reactors provide half of Sweden's electricity. Polls reveal that seven out of ten voters support the reversal. Additionally, under the new plan, the use of fossil fuels as a heating source would be abolished by 2020, and Sweden's entire vehicle fleet would be independent of fossil fuels by 2030.

→ Sweden's northernmost city must move. Kiruna, founded around the world's largest known single piece of iron ore 145 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle, now finds itself endangered by cracks from the mine that employs many of its inhabitants. The city has begun to relocate its utilities and railroad. A commission is studying the feasibility of moving city hall and its red wooden church, once voted the most beautiful building in Sweden.

Reading Corner

Zorn in America: A Swedish Impressionist of the Gilded Age, by William and Willow Hagans

Between the years 1893 and 1911, the influential Swedish artist Anders Zorn made seven trips to the United States, traveling widely and crafting portraits of some of America's most prominent figures, including Grover Cleveland, William Taft, Theodore Roosevelt, and Andrew Carnegie. These sojourns helped solidify Zorn's standing at the time as one of the era's greatest and most in-demand artists. Yet very little has been written about these important visits, until now.

With *Zorn in America*, William and Willow Hagans present for the first time in English the definitive chronicle of Anders Zorn's travels to the United States. The book is the result of twenty years of research and is enriched with over 120 paintings, etchings, and photographs— including many rarely seen artworks drawn from private collections. *Zorn in America* delivers a compelling and overdue chapter in the life of an artist who, in his time and beyond, was as well known to the American public as any other in the world.

Books are available from the Swedish-American Historical Society for \$29.95, plus \$4 shipping and handling, online at www.swedishamericanhist.org or by writing to: Swedish-American Historical Society, 3225 West Foster Avenue, Box 48, Chicago, IL 60625-4895.

Source: Swedish Council of America "eUPDATE," February 2009

Sonata for Miriam, by Linda Olsson

Swedish author Linda Olsson was born in Stockholm, and now lives in Auckland, New Zealand. Her acclaimed debut novel, *Astrid & Veronika*, was published in 2007.

In *Sonata for Miriam*, two events occur that will change composer Adam Anker's life forever. Embarking on a journey that ranges from New Zealand to Poland, and then Sweden, Anker not only uncovers his parents' true fate during World War II, but he also finally faces the consequences of an impossible choice he was forced to make twenty years before—a choice that changed the trajectory of his life.

Linda Olsson will be in Houston to sign and discuss her latest novel on Tuesday, March 24, 7:00 p.m., at Blue Willow Books, 14532 Memorial Dr.

Source: Consulate General of Sweden New York, "Fresh from Sweden," March 2009

Recap: Annual Meeting/Pea Soup and Pancake Supper 2009

It was a cool, overcast evening on January 24, a perfect night for the Swedish Club's annual meeting combined with a pea soup and pancake supper. About 60 gathered at Christ the King Lutheran Church to enjoy a meal of Swedish yellow pea soup, with sides of cheese and *knäckebröd*, followed by dessert of Swedish pancakes served with the traditional fruit preserves. Toppings of syrup and whipped cream were also offered as a nod to American tastes! Beverages served included Swedish *punsch*, lingondrink, soda, iced tea and coffee.

This delicious home-cooked meal was made possible by the huge efforts of your Swedish Club board! Kudos to pancake makers Ingrid Philipson and



Annett Philipson helped make the pancakes.

her daughter Annett, Cathy Wahren, Erich Wolz and Margit Winstrom. Margaret St.Clair prepared the tasty soup. Karen and Erich Wolz handled the set up in Parish Hall and had everything arranged efficiently to handle our large group. Dina Jo Colburn put on the

finishing touches with centerpieces of Swedish flags and votive candles. Diana Rodionov took reservations, while Laura Millikan and Christopher Westerlund handled check-in. Ken Nilsson and Dave St. Clair provided the slide show of 2008 Swedish Club activities, and Ken displayed the albums he had compiled pertaining to club history.

As her last official duty as president, Margaret St. Clair opened the annual meeting by having Treasurer Ken Nilsson review the 2008/2009 budget. The beginning and ending balance for 2008 remained at about \$14,000. In general our language programs and membership dues helped support some of the activities where admission charges didn't cover all the expenses. Membership chairman John Stavinocha reported that we had about 130 members in 2008. Currently the 2009 membership campaign is underway. John also reported that about 18 students were enrolled in our language school which is held at IKEA. Webmaster Erich Wolz reviewed the improvements made to the club's website in 2008 including having a "Sponsors" page, installing on the "Contacts" page generic email

addresses for board officers, installing links to Facebook, LinkedIn and SVIV (*Svenskar i Världen*) He also made it possible for membership registration to be submitted to board officers. In 2009 we will be adding the ability to pay for events online through PayPal.

In Margaret's State of the Club address, she reviewed progress on our goals for 2008. Through the efforts of publicity director Ingrid Philipson, we had a 10% increase in event attendance for 2008. We continued to promote communication between our club and other Scandinavian groups.

Next, the slate of officers and directors for 2009 were introduced and duly elected as follows:

President:	Cathy Wahren
Vice President:	Karen Wolz
Secretary:	Diana Rodionov
Treasurer:	David Bash
Membership/ Language School:	John Stavinocha
Newsletter Editor:	Laura Millikan
Publicity:	Ingrid Philipson
Webmaster:	Erich Wolz
Director:	Dina Jo Colburn
Director:	Mark Swanson
Director:	Christopher Westerlund
Director:	Knut Gezelius
Director:	Elisse Karlsson
Director:	Fredrik Rehnmark
Director:	Margaret St. Clair

We said farewell to two board members, Nancy Webb and Ken Nilsson, and thanked them for their years of dedicated service to The Swedish Club. Nancy served on the board for four years, during which she was Vice President and also Lucia chairman. Even though she will not be on the board, she plans to continue helping with Lucia. Ken also served on the board for four years, during which he was treasurer and historian. Off the board, Ken will continue his historian duties. We also welcomed two new directors, Elisse Karlsson and Fredrik Rehnmark. We look forward to their input and fresh ideas.

Outgoing president Margaret St.Clair stated that she was honored to have served as Club president and expressed appreciation to all who helped make her tenure as president so enjoyable. She then turned the meeting over to new president Cathy Wahren, who introduced herself, saying that she will endeavor to continue guiding the Swedish Club in "Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast."

Introducing New SCH Board Members . . .

Elisse Karlson, Director

My name is Elisse Hayes-Karlsson and I grew up right here in Houston. I am an educator in the Katy Independent School District where I teach third grade. I am also actively involved in the children's ministry at my church.



I am married to Fredrik Karlsson of Laxa, Sweden. We try to visit Fredrik's family and friends as often as possible. Fredrik and I recently returned from spending the Christmas holidays with his family. After experiencing the cold

winter, I can easily say that I prefer the beautiful summers in Sweden!

While in Sweden, I get to practice what I have learned in the Swedish language school. I have taken classes for the last two years at IKEA. I enjoy learning about the culture and traditions while studying the language.

Fredrik and I enjoy golfing on the weekends. When we are not traveling to Sweden, you can find us cruising on the high seas.

I am excited about joining the SCH board, and I look forward to the year ahead!

Christopher Westerlund, Director

Born and raised in Sweden, Christopher is married to Devon, a native Houstonian. Having completed his Master of Science in Advanced Finance from the School of Business Economics and Law at Göteborg University in Sweden and having supplemental degrees in Finance, Business Administration and Economics, Christopher is currently a Director of External Relations for



Energy. He is a member and officer of the Membership Committee of the Rotary Club of Houston Skyline.

Previous experience includes Nordea Bank, Stena Bulk, Medikus, founding and leading London Finance Group, President of the Business Club of the University of Skövde and accountant for the university's newspaper.

In his spare time Christopher is an avid tennis player.

Christopher adds, "Through The Swedish Club of Houston I have met many new friends. I have met Swedish immigrants, expatriates, Americans with Swedish heritage, Americans with Swedish spouses and Americans with a special place in their heart for Sweden.

"I think that it is important for us to always reach out to the Swedish community in Houston and increase our member base so more people can meet each other and take part in our great events. By continuously developing and updating our homepage we can ensure that we retain members by making it easier for them to communicate, pay their dues, sign up for volunteer work and register for our events.

"My vision is for The Swedish Club of Houston to develop the Swedish language school so that we can educate the children in Houston in their native Swedish tongue. This will help expatriates and immigrants to maintain their heritage and roots to Sweden."

(Editor's note: New SCH Director Fredrik Rehnmark will be featured in a later edition of the newsletter.)



2009 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS: *Back, l. to r.:* Fredrik Rehnmark, Karen Wolz, Erich Wolz, Christopher Westerlund, John Stavinoha, Cathy Wahren; *Front:* Margaret St.Clair, Dina Colburn, Laura Millikan, Ingrid Philipson, David Bash, Mark Swanson, Elisse Karlsson; *(Not pictured:* Knut Gezelius, Diana Rodionov)

From the Consulate General . . .

2909 Hillcroft Street, Suite 515
Houston, TX 77057
713-953-1417

<http://www.swedishconsulate.org/>
Email: houston@consulateofsweden.org



Spring Greetings from the Consulate General of Sweden in Houston !

Passport reminder

Remember to check that you have a valid passport when planning to travel abroad!

The Consulate General in Houston can help you with a temporary passport, but you can no longer apply to renew your regular passport here.

For information about how to renew your Swedish passport, see: www.swedennewyork.com and www.swedenabroad.com/Page_13535.aspx

Expecting visitors from Sweden? Read this:

Swedish Travelers Need Advance
Authorization Before Traveling to USA

Effective January 12, 2009, all Swedish travelers will be required to obtain an electronic travel authorization prior to boarding a carrier to travel by air or sea to the U.S. The electronic application must be submitted online well in advance of the trip using the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).

Read more about ESTA and visa regulations on www.usemb.se, the website of the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm.



Val till Europaparlamentet

År 2009 äger det största transnationella valet någonsin rum - alla röstberättigade medborgare i EU:s 27 medlemsländer kan då utse ledamöter till Europaparlamentet. Europaparlamentet är världens största parlamentariska församling och EU:s enda direkt folkvalda institution.

I Sverige äger nästa val till Europaparlamentet rum söndagen den 7 juni 2009. Valet kommer att äga rum någon dag under perioden 4-7 juni 2009 i samtliga medlemsländer. (Valresultat tillkännages inte förrän den 7 juni på kvällen, när röstningen är genomförd i alla medlemsländer.)

Sverige får 18 ledamöter i Europaparlamentet, av de totala 736.

Brevröst får göras i ordning och skickas från utlandet fr.o.m. den 23 April. Svenska ambassader och konsulat får börja ta emot röster den 14 maj.

http://www.europarl.se/view/sv/val_till_europaparlamentet.html

Election for European Parliament



In 2009 the biggest transnational election ever will take place—all citizens entitled to vote in EU's 27 member states can then elect members to the European Parliament. The European Parliament is the world's biggest parliamentary parish and EU's only institution directly elected by the people.

In Sweden, the next election to the European Parliament will take place on Sunday June 7, 2009. The election will take place some day during the period June 4-7, 2009, in all member states. (The result of the election will not be announced before the evening of June 7, when voting is completed in all member states.)

Sweden will have 18 out of 736 members of the European Parliament.

Letter votes may be sent from abroad beginning April 23. Swedish embassies and consulates may begin to receive votes May 14.

For more information: http://www.europarl.se/view/sv/val_till_europaparlamentet.html.

Kräftskiva

Swedish Crawfish Party
Saturday, March 28 • 6:00 p.m.
Monument Inn,
4406 Battleground Road, La Porte

Adults: \$20; Children: \$10
Limited seating; reserve early!

Make reservations *online* at
www.swedishclub.org,
or *by mail* using the form below.
Reservations must be received
by Wednesday, March 25.

To get to Monument Inn:

- ▶ Take West Beltway 8 to TX 225
- ▶ Turn east on TX 225 toward Deer Park and La Porte
- ▶ Turn north on Battleground Road/TX 134 and go past the San Jacinto Monument
- ▶ The Inn will be on your right just before you get to the Lynchburg Ferry

Valborgsmässoafton

Saturday, April 25 • 3:00 p.m.
3383 Peters Lane, Brenham

Bring something to grill for yourself,
and one side dish (Swedish, if possible)
for everyone to share.

RSVP by Thursday, April 23, either
online at www.swedishclub.org,
or *by calling* Pelle Fisk at 281-348-2584.

Directions:

- ▶ US 290W towards Austin
- ▶ Turn left onto O'Malley Rd. (The turn off 290 comes up fast and is easy to miss. When 290W and 36N make the split with a sharp 270 degree right turn, drive 2.0 miles further on 290W, then make the left onto O'Malley Rd.)
- ▶ Turn left onto CR-29/Lange Lake Rd.
- ▶ Turn right onto CR-25/Old Mill Creek Rd.
- ▶ Turn left onto CR-2/Beckerman Rd.
- ▶ Turn right onto Peters Ln. and stop at 3383
- ▶ Drive through the gate and up to parking by the ranch.

KRÄFTSKIVA - SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2009

(Must be received by Wednesday, March 25)

**Please make check payable to "Swedish Club of Houston" and
mail to: John Stavinoha, 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire TX 77401**

Name:		Phone Number:	
Name(s) of other(s) Attending:			
_____ Adults attending Crayfish Party	@ \$20 each	_____	
_____ Children (12 and under) attending	@ \$10 each	_____	
CHECK TOTAL			_____



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, and your favorite Swedish shops, products or resources.

Please send news to newsletter@swedishclub.org or by post to the return address below.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Cathy Wahren	President	president@swedishclub.org
Karen Wolz	Vice President	vicepresident@swedishclub.org
David Bash	Treasurer & Historian	treasurer@swedishclub.org
Diana Rodionov	Secretary	secretary@swedishclub.org
Laura Millikan	Newsletter Editor	newsletter@swedishclub.org
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Knut Gezelius	Director	gezelius@alum.mit.edu
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THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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