



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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

July/August

2009

Volume XXII-No. 4



President's Column *by Cathy Wahren*

We're in the full throes of a hot Houston summer! The Board is in its traditional recess, presumably because so many of us are taking a break from the summer heat. I'm no exception and am, indeed, looking forward to a short visit to Stockholm later this month. One of my aunts lives in a retirement community, the Björnbo Seniorboende, nestled in the woods on Lidingö just 5 miles northwest of downtown. I haven't visited her there before, but I've heard it's very nice and I know my aunt loves it there, although she jokes that at the going rates she can only afford to live to be 80!

I wonder about the other Board and Club members' summer plans. If anyone would like to share their summer adventures by writing to me at president@swedishclub.org I'll see if I can come up with an article to include in the next newsletter. It could be helpful for those wanting to plan a trip somewhere new next year to know of someone who has been there recently—as opposed to depending on a travel book.

My own trip includes touring Prague and travel on a night train through Germany, so I can report on that as well. Till then, I'm busy gathering and refining my favorite recipes for Karen's cookbook effort, working, taking care of my wilting garden, and wishing everyone a lovely summer!

Cathy

Wanted — genuine Swedish recipes

Karen Wolz is collecting recipes for a Swedish Club cookbook. Please send your favorite tried and true authentic Swedish recipes via email to kswolz@sbcglobal.net.

Swedish Club Lucia 2009

Applications for The Swedish Club's 2009 Lucia are now being accepted. She will be presented at the annual Swedish Christmas Traditions and Lucia Procession, which will be held this year on Saturday, December 12, 4:00 p.m., at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

Candidates must be young women between the ages of 16 and 24, and members of the Club (either individual or as part of a family membership, including granddaughters). They must also be able to attend the *Luciadagen* celebration, and be able to represent the club at the Texas Day Celebration in Barkeryd, Sweden, in early August 2010. Round-trip airfare will be provided for our 2009 Lucia from Chicago to Sweden. As the Houston Swedish Club's Ambassador to Barkeryd, Lucia will be in a parade and take greetings to the people of Barkeryd on behalf of the club. On her return, she must write an article on her Swedish experience for publication in the newsletter.

Interested candidates should complete the enclosed application and send it to: The Swedish Club of Houston, c/o Margaret St.Clair, 13831 Queensbury, Houston, TX 77079.

BITS & PIECES

 The Swedish Club's 2008 Lucia, Eden Shapiro, will be in Barkeryd, Sweden, on Sunday, August 2, 2009, 1:00-6:00 p.m., for the annual Texas/Sweden Celebration and Parade. If you will be in Sweden at that time, you are definitely invited to attend!

 The Swedish tribute band Arrival will perform the music of ABBA at Jones Hall on Saturday, July 25, with original ABBA drummer Roger Palm and the Houston Symphony. Hits like "Dancing Queen" and "Mamma Mia" come to life with groovy lighting, stage sets and exact duplicates of ABBA's fantastic costumes, which the members of Arrival have exclusive rights to wear. For more information, go to www.houstonsymphony.org. Also check out the group's website at www.arrival.se.

 IKEA Houston extends a warm welcome to all Swedish Club members for a crayfish party on Friday, August 21, in the upstairs cafeteria of IKEA. Enjoy all the crayfish you can eat for a very reasonable price. The menu also includes Swedish meatballs, potatoes, lingonberry sauce, assorted cheeses and *knäckebröd*.

Check the IKEA website at <http://www.ikea.com/us/en/store/houston> for more details, which should be available mid-July. Margaret St.Clair attended last year and says it was a very nice event!



Mark your calendar 2009 SCH Events

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

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

Knut Gezelius resigns from Board

In the following letter, written May 12, 2009, Director Knut Gezelius submitted his resignation from the SCH Board. We are grateful to Knut for his time on the Board and wish him well in his continued studies.

Dear SCH Colleagues:

I am leaving Texas to pursue full-time MBA studies and thus I will no longer be able to participate in the Swedish Club of Houston. Effective immediately, I am resigning from the Board.

It has been a privilege to be part of this great organization and I wish you continued success.

MVH,
Knut Gezelius



Scandinavian Folk Dancers take summer break

by Kathy Bjork

As I write this, the Scandinavian Folk Dancers are having a great time in San Antonio at Texas Folklife Festival. This is one of our favorite events, because there are so many performing groups sharing their heritage.

We are now on a one year countdown until our trip to Denmark! Plans are underway and include a performance at Tivoli!!!!!! Needless to say, we are very excited!

We are off for the summer and will resume in September. We would love to welcome new members. We meet Monday nights from 7-9 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Rice Village. If you have questions, contact Kathy at 713-870-3543, or sfdofh@yahoo.com. Have a great summer!

From the Consulate General . . .

2909 Hillcroft Street, Suite 515

Houston, TX 77057

Phone: 713-953-1417

Web site: <http://www.swedishconsulate.org/>

Email: houston@consulateofsweden.org



*Summer 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.swedenabroad.com/Page_13535.aspx

Regional Disaster Preparedness

A 15-minute DVD is available to prepare you and your family on how to respond to and recover from the effects of any disaster. You can order a free copy from this website: <http://www.readyhouston.tx.gov>.

Hitta dina rötter/Find your roots

Embassy of Sweden in Washington

www.swedenabroad.com/Page_14345.aspx has the following internet addresses of genealogical interest to Swedish Americans:

The Swedish National Archives:

<http://www.statensarkiv.se/>

The Swedish Emigrant Institute:

<http://www.swemi.nu/eng/>

Swedish Church Records:

<http://www.genline.com>

Släktforskningsportalen Rötter (in Swedish only):

<http://www.genealogi.se/>

Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center:

<http://www.augustana.edu/>

Indiko - parish registers on the net (Skellefteå region, Sundsvall region, Linköping region):

http://www.ddb.umu.se/nya_indiko/index.html

Swedish Parishes:

<http://www.skatteverket.se/>

Maps of Swedish towns (in Swedish):

<http://www.stadskartan.se/start/>

Swedish-English Dictionary:

www.lexikon.nada.kth.se/skolverket/swe-eng.html

Swedes in Texas

www.swedesintexas.com

Swedish Council of America:

www.swedishcouncil.org

Sweden & America is a joint quarterly publication of The Swedish American Center in Karlstad, Sweden, and the Swedish Council of America. The first issue (March 2009) featured articles on genealogy research tips at <http://www.ancestry.se> (in Swedish).

"Fresh from Sweden, May 2009" from the Consulate General of Sweden, New York

www.swedennewyork.com

❖ The city of Stockholm was named Intelligent Community of the Year 2009 by the Intelligent Community Forum (ICF), a New York think tank that studies economic and social development and identifies best practices in today's global broadband economy.

Stockholm has an extensive open-access fiber network that connects more than 90 competing service providers to government and business customers. The city has a 98 % broadband penetration rate and is now in the final year of a three-year project to bring fiber to 100% of public housing, which is expected to add 95,000 households to the network.

Read more about the award at www.intelligentcommunity.org.

❖ As of July 1, the Swedish Presidency of the European Union (EU) is launched. Sweden is now in the driver's seat of the world's largest integrated economy with nearly half a billion citizens. "It's going to be a very exciting six months, but the task before us is not an easy one. I'm looking forward to tackling the autumn's challenges together," says Sweden's Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt. Read more about the Swedish EU Presidency at www.se2009.eu.

World-renowned Swedish researcher comes to Houston

Swedish researcher Jan-Åke Gustafsson, M.D., Ph.D., a renowned hormones expert, recently joined the faculty of the University of Houston (UH) as director of the new Center for Nuclear Receptors and Cell Signaling, a collaborative research effort of The Methodist Hospital Research Institute (TMHRI) and UH. Gustafsson was formerly a professor at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. As a member of TMHRI, he and his team of 15 researchers from the Karolinska Institute will join other Methodist physician-scientists to research and create next-generation pharmaceuticals and medical technologies.

According to Ronald G. Giroto, President and CEO of The Methodist Hospital System, “Dr. Gustafsson is known worldwide for his translational research on nuclear receptors, a class of proteins found in cell nuclei that capture hormone molecules and interact with and control the expression of genes. This research is vital to the development of treatments for diseases such as cancer and diabetes, and may also lend itself to new treatments for metabolic syndrome, Parkinson’s disease, Lou Gehrig’s disease, and depression and other mood disorders.”

The Swedish Wire now open for business

The Swedish Wire is a new independent news web site about Sweden’s business, politics and current affairs—in English. It is designed especially for people across the world with a special interest in Sweden, such as business people doing trade with Swedish and Nordic companies, investors and people interested in the Swedish political debate.

Founder and Editor-in-chief, Johan Nylander, has been covering Swedish and international news for more than ten years. His latest assignment was as the London correspondent for Sweden’s leading business daily, *Dagens Industri*.

Check it out at <http://www.swedishwire.com>. You can also follow The Swedish Wire on Twitter and get the latest updates as they are published at <http://twitter.com/swedishwire>.

Places to go and things to see . . .

New York, NY - *Kristina*, a musical from ABBA songwriters Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (with English lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer), will be presented in a concert event at Carnegie Hall on September 23-24. The musical is based on *The Emigrants*, a series of four novels by Swedish author Vilhelm Moberg, and is the story of one woman and her family’s struggles in Sweden and their subsequent emigration to America in search of a better life.

The show premiered in Sweden in 1995 and has since attracted major audiences and critical acclaim both in Sweden and abroad. The Carnegie Hall production will feature the original *Kristina*, Helen Sjöholm, as well as the English tenor Russell Watson in the role of Karl Oskar. They will be backed by the American Theatre Orchestra and choir, conducted by Paul Gemignani.

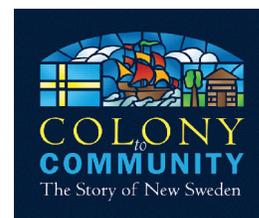
Tickets are on sale now, starting at \$40. For ticket information, call CarnegieCharge at 212-247-7800 or visit www.carnegiehall.org. For more information about the musical, visit www.KristinaTheMusical.com.

Philadelphia, PA and Delaware Valley - The Swedish Council of America’s 10th Conference of Swedish America will be held October 22-25, 2009, in Philadelphia, PA.

The conference will include a full-day of scholarly lectures as well as a visit to the American Swedish Historical Museum and study tours within Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley including the Kalmar Nyckel (Delaware), New Sweden History Centre (Delaware), and Christ Church Upper Merion (Pennsylvania).

This Conference of Swedish America is the tenth in a series of conferences presented across the United States and Sweden to educate interested persons and engage new generations in learning about Sweden and Swedish America. Prior locations include Karlstad, Sweden (2006), St. Paul, Minn. (2004), and San Francisco (2000).

For more information, see <http://www.swedishcouncil.org/conference.aspx>.



News from Sweden (from Swedish Council of America's May and June 2009 *eUPDATES*)

→ Thirty years after her breakthrough idea, Laila Ohlgren has been honored as the first woman to be awarded the Pohlem Prize in its 130-year history. The award is the most prestigious a Swedish engineer can receive. In 1979 Laila Ohlgren was an engineer at Televerket and project manager for signaling safety of the so-called Nordic Mobile Telephone (NMT) network. "It was almost impossible to get the connection to work, it took too long. The idea was that the cell phone would act as the regular phone; you pick up, get a tone and then enter the numbers." Laila Ohlgren started thinking about how cell phones hold a microchip that can store information. "So if you entered the numbers first and then sent the signal, connection should go much faster." After a meeting with people from the Nordic telecommunications plants in Kalmar, her solution became public, which made it impossible to claim a patent; "there was just no time." The world was gifted with a revolutionary idea, and Laila Ohlgren remained unknown.

→ Former Genesis star, Peter Gabriel, and Venezuelan composer, Jose Antonio Abreu, have been jointly awarded Sweden's prestigious Polar Music Prize. They will both win one million kronor (about \$127,000) from the Royal Swedish Academy Of Music. The prizes will be presented by King Carl XVI Gustaf at a gala ceremony at the Stockholm Concert Hall on August 31. The Polar Music Prize is the biggest of its kind in Sweden and is split between pop and classical musicians.

→ Calle Enström has the most Swedish of jobs. All summer Enström is travelling around Sweden as a tourist and blogging about his experience, while making about \$3,262 monthly. It's Svenska Turistföreningen (the Swedish Tourist Association) that's behind the job. There were many applicants, but Calle's personality stood out and got him the job. He was sent out on June 6 and will travel for 60 days. The first stop was Trosa, and 19 other stops were planned. "It will be an experience traveling to Kebnekaise (the highest mountain in Sweden) and all these small towns. I will have a more complete picture of Sweden," says

Enström. To see where in Sweden Enström is and follow his blog (in Swedish) visit:
www.svenskaturistforeningen.se.

→ IKEA, the low-cost Swedish retailer that has furnished millions of homes around the globe, moved into the world of fine art with a Stockholm museum's retrospective of its 50 years of liveable design. From the first flat-pack table in the 1950's to the latest trendy home styles, the exhibition now showing at the capital's contemporary art museum Liljevalchs Konsthall traces a half-century of history as seen through IKEA's eyes. Founded in 1943 by Ingvar Kamprad when he was a teen, IKEA began developing its own furniture in the mid-1950's, popularizing renowned Scandinavian design—sleek and functional—on an industrial scale and conquering first Europe and then North America before taking on the rest of the world. "This is not a conventional design exhibition. It's more an exhibition about how we live our lives," curator Steffan Bengtsson told AFP.

Swedish TV via Satellite

It is the goal of SVT (Sveriges Television) to start satellite distribution to North America in late 2009, provided that the interest is big enough among Swedes in North and South America. SVT's global channel, SVT WORLD, broadcasts mainly Swedish-produced programs from the domestic SVT channels. The basic rule is that the programs have to be shown at the same time as they are broadcast in Sweden, which is in Central European Time (CET). Program schedules and information, as well as links to SVT pages can be found on svt.se/svtworld. Service is provided through a subscription.



Let SVT know you are interested in having the possibility to view SVT WORLD in North America by filling in the questionnaire found here:
<http://svt.se/svt/jsp/Crosslink.jsp?d=98562>. (NOTE: questionnaire available only in Swedish.)

—from SCA May 2009 *eUPDATE*



2009 SWEDISH CLUB LUCIA

Applications for The Swedish Club of Houston's 2009 Lucia are now being accepted. Our 2009 Lucia will be presented at the annual Swedish Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration scheduled for Saturday, December 12, 2009, 4:00 p.m., at Christ the King Lutheran Church, near Rice Village.

Candidates for Lucia must meet the following requirements:

- ▶ Single young woman, 16-24 years of age;
- ▶ Member of the club (either **individual** or as **part of a family membership, including granddaughters**);
- ▶ Able to attend the Swedish Traditions program on December 12;
- ▶ Able to represent the club at the Texas Day Celebration and Parade in Barkeryd, Sweden, on the first weekend of August, 2010;
- ▶ Responsible for own ground or air transportation to and from Chicago (round-trip airfare provided from Chicago to Sweden);
- ▶ On her return to Houston, 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, which is made up of female attendants, ages 5-20, and star boys, 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 twenty 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 take greetings to the people of Barkeryd from The Swedish Club of Houston.

NOTE: Lucia candidates, in addition to completing the application below, must also write a short *essay* about their Swedish heritage, their interests and why they would like to represent the Club in Sweden, and must provide a *current photo* of themselves. The application must be postmarked by **September 25, 2009**.

For questions or further information, contact Margaret St.Clair (by phone at 281-493-4978 or 281-731-1034 or by e-mail, margestclair@hotmail.com).

THE SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON APPLICATION FOR 2009 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, postmarked by **September 25, 2009**.

Mail applications and enclosures to:

The Swedish Club of Houston, c/o Margaret St.Clair, 13831 Queensbury, Houston, TX 77079.



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
Ingrid Philipson	Publicity	publicity @swedishclub.org
John Stavinoha	Membership & Language School	membership@swedishclub.org
Christopher Westerlund	Sponsor relations/svensk talande	svensk@swedishclub.org
Erich Wolz	Webmaster	webmaster@swedishclub.org
Dina Colburn	Director	djcolburn@yahoo.com
Elisse Karlsson	Director	ehayes38@aol.com
Fredrik Rehnmark	Director	fredrikr@sbcglobal.net
Margaret St.Clair	Director	margestclair@hotmail.com
Mark Swanson	Director	m.swanson@shell.com



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED