



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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

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Texas Swedish Pioneers Association Elects Its First Woman President

The Board of Directors of the Texas Swedish Pioneers Association (TSPA) elected its first woman president in its 93-year history. Elizabeth "Liz" Jean Sellstrom Cadwallader, a former Swedish Club of Houston member whose ancestors include the Stark, Sellstrom, and Quist families of Round Rock and Austin, was named the new President at a board meeting in February, 2010.



President Cadwallader, who has a deep interest in Texas Swedish history and traditions, hopes to continue the vital work of the association. She states, "I have traveled twice to Sweden with my family. I have a special interest in Swedish folk dresses and Swedish

traditions. I am excited and honored to be the new President of the Texas Swedish Pioneer Association." Liz is pictured here in a traditional Swedish dress.

In 1917 the Texas Swedish Pioneers Association held its first celebration in honor of the 50th anniversary of the arrival of 100 Swedes who came to Texas in 1867. The first Swede to arrive in Texas was S. M. Swenson, who came to Texas in 1838. He was joined by his uncle, Sir Svante Palm, who played an important role in early Austin history.

The purpose of TSPA is to preserve and perpetuate the rich Swedish heritage and to honor the memory of Texas Swedish Pioneers. During the period 1870-1910, some 10,000 Swedes settled in Travis, Williamson, and Bastrop counties, where they built homes, churches, businesses and farms. Some 20 churches in the Austin area trace their origins to the Texas Swedish pioneers. Swedish place names today dot the Austin area landscape (such as Govalle, Palm, Berkman, Linder, and Widen public schools), facilities (such as Bergstrom Airport, Palmer Auditorium, and the Falk baseball field), roads (Anderson Lane, Rundberg Lane and Berkman Drive), commercial

ventures too many to mention, but including the Nelson store in Round Rock, the Seaholm Power plant, and communities (Palm Valley, New Sweden, and Lund to mention a few).

The TSPA through the years has been active in the preservation of Texas Swedish landmarks such as the Swedish Log Cabin and blacksmith shop at the Zilker Garden Center. In 1965, the association arranged for the log cabin, which had been located at Govalle and then moved to Round Rock, to be moved back to Austin.

In the early 1990s members of the TSPA participated in the monumental translation project that translated from Swedish into English the 1200-page book known as *Swedes in Texas In Words and Pictures*, published in 1918.

Drafted by: Jim Christianson
Edited and submitted by: David Borg



Scandinavian Folk Dancers headed to Denmark

by Kathy Bjork

Hej from the Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston. We are getting closer to our time in Denmark (providing the volcanoes don't stop us!). We are really excited about the whole experience, especially performing in Tivoli.

We have a web site (<http://sfdoh.org>) that is about to be unveiled. Our webmaster, Steen, is still putting some of the finishing touches on it. It is really looking good—lots of photos.

By the time this is published we will have performed in Danevang for one of our favorite festivals, the Queen's birthday. We really love visiting our friends in Danevang.

June 12 and 13 is the Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio. This is a terrific multicultural festival with a lot of music and dancing. If you go, please stop by and say 'hej'.

Introducing Devon Westerlund, new SCH board member . . .



My name is Devon Westerlund and I am a native Houstonian. I recently graduated from the University of Houston with my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology.

I also have a passion for animals and volunteer at a bird sanctuary. I am currently seeking a position in animal welfare.

My connection to Sweden is through my husband, Christopher, who is from Göteborg. He is also a board member.

I had the opportunity to live with him in Sweden where we both studied at the University of Skövde. I loved learning about the Swedish culture, experiencing their traditions and enjoying the beautiful landscape. It was truly an experience of a lifetime.

Now I can relive these Swedish traditions in the Swedish Club. I am very excited to become the secretary for the Swedish club.

In our free time my husband and I enjoy exercising, traveling and networking.

Mark Swanson resigns from Board



Mark Swanson, Swedish Club Board member since 2006, has resigned from the Board. He and his family have moved to Valdez, Alaska, where, as of April 15, Mark assumed the position of Executive Director of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory

Council. The Council, with offices in Anchorage and Valdez, is an independent non-profit corporation whose mission is to promote environmentally safe operation of the Valdez Marine Terminal and the oil tankers that use it.

We are grateful to Mark for his time on the Board, and we wish him all the best in this new endeavor. Mark, Emmie and their son, Benjamin, will be greatly missed.

With sincere sympathy . . .

In Memoriam

Gusten Calissendorff

The Swedish Club mourns the passing of Gusten Calissendorff who died March 24, 2010, in Sweden. He was 90 years old and is survived by his wife, Inga Lisa.

Gusten was a charter member of The Swedish Club and served the Club in various capacities until he and Inga Lisa returned to Sweden in the mid-1990s. Gusten will also be remembered for helping to create the youth program in which our Swedish Club Lucia travels to Barkeryd, Sweden, every August to participate in the Texas-Swedish Festival.

In Memoriam

Gudrun Merrill

Former Swedish Club member Gudrun Wallgren Merrill died April 6, 2010, at the age of 86. She is survived by her husband Dr. Joe Merrill, daughters Maria Merrill and Caroline Cooley, son-in-law Smith Cooley and grandchildren, Annabelle and Holden Cooley.

In addition to many other volunteer and civic positions, Gudrun served as the first President of SWEA of Texas. She was also a Board member of the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce and Linneas of Texas. In 1996 Gudrun worked with the committee that established an Endowment for Swedish Studies at the University of Texas in Austin. In 1998 she received the Swedish Council of America's Award of Merit in recognition 'of service toward preservation and promotion of Swedish heritage in America.'



Swedish team 0-1-1 against Norwegians and Danes



Several Swedish Club members recently attended Activity Day at the Norwegian Seaman's Church on April 17th. The day started with a worship service in Norwegian and Swedish, followed by lunch of fajitas and potato salad, prepared by church members.

After lunch, there was a soccer match between Swedish, Norwegian and Danish teams. The Swedish team, totaling 14 players and including Swedish Club members Christopher Westerlund, Fredrik Rehnmark, Erich Wolz and his son, Christian, tied the Norwegians and lost to the Danish. They were rewarded with medals as the Swedish national anthem was sung. The day was a great success and everyone reported that they had a wonderful time.

Tim Riley to play with Team Sweden in Lacrosse World Championships

Tim Riley, son of SCH members Drs. Margit Winstrom and Bill Riley, will play for Team Sweden as they compete in the World Championships in Lacrosse in July in Manchester, England. The team, which will play in the B Division, will not play the United States, which competes in the higher A Division.

Tim has played Lacrosse since high school. He made All-American in college and has been coaching part time for UT, when he is not doing commercial real estate in Austin. He loves the sport and wants to do what he can to help it grow here and in Sweden. His mother says Tim will make his grandfather, Bertil G. Winstrom, very proud as he follows in his footsteps to further Swedish-American relationships.

The team is currently trying to raise money to defray the costs of the National uniform kit, the tournament entry fees, and at least some of the lodging and travel. Your help is needed now to support this truly Swedish-American venture.

Be a part of Team Sweden Lacrosse. Go to www.swelax.com (click on the British flag icon for English text) to buy a Swedish Lacrosse t-shirt (all proceeds benefit the team), become a supporting member of Swedish Lacrosse, or make a donation directly to the team.



Traditional Midsummer Celebration, which will be celebrated on Saturday, June 26, this year. Photo: www.imagebank.sweden.se © Bo Lind / VisitSweden

Heja Sverige! (Go, Sweden!)

Places to go and things to see . . .

New York, NY (through August 21, 2010) - "Eco Chic - Towards Sustainable Swedish Fashion" is an exhibition at Scandinavia House (58 Park Ave. at 38th Street) showcasing Swedish fashion designers who take an environmentally-friendly and ethical approach to their work without sacrificing style.

Sustainable clothing has typically been distinguishable by its appearance. Now, as Eco Chic illustrates, ethical fashion looks no different from conventionally-produced clothing; it is possible to construct high fashion garments with sustainable and ecological practices. Eco Chic presents garments and footwear by various Swedish fashion designers such as Swedish Hasbeens, Camilla Norrback and Dem Collective.

Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 12 - 6 p.m., and admission is free. For more information, see www.scandinaviahouse.org/events_exhibitions_current.html.

News from Sweden (from Swedish Council of America's March, April and May 2010 *eUPDATES*)

- Swedish researchers, together with their Lao colleagues, have discovered a previously unknown bird species in southeast Asia. The new species, named *Phylloscopus calciatilis*, is related to the willow warbler, but lives only in areas of limestone rock.
- Swedish top flight football club, Brommapojkarna (BP), has introduced a language policy requiring all players to speak Swedish to each other in order to be eligible for selection. BP chairperson Ola Danhard confirmed that the club's board had voted to establish a policy for the exclusive use of Swedish within the club, both in its changing rooms and on the pitch. "It is important for the collective that everyone in the team speaks the same language," he said.
- Two Swedes have been named among the richest people in the world, according to the latest Forbes ranking which ranks Mexican Carlos Slim in first place. Slim is worth a purported \$53.5 billion while Bill Gates has to make do with \$53 billion, followed by U.S. investor Warren Buffet on \$47 billion. The first Swede on the list is Ikea founder Ingvar Kamprad in 11th place. The Kamprad family fortune amounts to \$23 billion. The richest Swedish resident is Stefan Persson of clothing chain H&M, in 13th place with \$22.4 billion.
- A number of maritime treasures off Sweden's southern coast are under threat from the shipworm, which is gaining a foothold in the Baltic Sea due to climate change, according to researchers at the University of Göteborg. Traditionally, shipworms have avoided the Baltic Sea due to its lower salt content. The Baltic therefore holds a number of archaeological finds featuring wrecks of wooden ships and structures which would not likely have survived were it not for the mild salinity levels of Baltic waters.
- Stockholm-Arlanda airport is considering the introduction of a 100 kronor (\$14) toll for cars entering the terminal area in a bid to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, Stockholm daily *Dagens Nyheter* reports. The move comes as the airport struggles to meet its current emissions targets. Since flight

emissions are almost impossible for a single airport to limit, the airport is instead mulling over the option of trimming its emissions through a reduction in car traffic.

- The head of the Swedish Work Environment Authority (Arbetsmiljöverket) has raised the prospect of a ban on cash in Sweden's retail stores to help tackle the growing problem of robbery. The authority's director-general, Mikael Sjöberg, refused to rule out the drastic measure in an interview recently.
- The Swedish postal service, Posten, and Sweden's central bank, the Riksbank, have unveiled new stamps and coins commemorating the wedding of Crown Princess Victoria and Daniel Westling on June 19th. The three stamps include portraits of both the princess alone and of the royal couple, as well as one with a crown and the royal couple's monogram. The Riksbank will issue two commemorative coins for the wedding: a 300 kronor (\$40) silver coin and a 4,000 kronor (\$525) gold coin.
- The June 19, 2010, wedding of Crown Princess Victoria and Daniel Westling is set to cost at least 20 million kronor (\$2.63 million), half of which will be met by the bride's father, King Carl XVI Gustaf, with the remainder funded by the Swedish taxpayers. "We get ten million kronor from the government and the rest will be paid for by the king personally," said Jan Lindman at the Royal Court. The Royal Court will receive a total of 125 million kronor from the Swedish taxpayers for 2010, eight million more than in 2009.



Photo: David St.Clair

From the Consulate General . . .

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Email: houston@consulateofsweden.org



Trevlig sommar! (Happy summer!)

Upcoming elections – Riksdag election 2010

On September 19 elections to the riksdag, the municipalities and to the county councils will be held in Sweden. Read more (in English) at www.val.se/in_english/index.html.

Voting in Swedish Elections

Swedes living abroad remain in the electoral register, and thereby maintain their right to vote, for ten years after their emigration is officially recorded in the national register.

After 10 years, a written notification must be submitted to the Swedish National Tax Board (Skatteverket) to retain the right to vote for an additional ten year period. See the form at www.val.se/det_svenska_valsystemet/rostratt/utlandssvenskar/index.html.

The completed notification form must be received by the National Tax Board at least 30 days before the election date. The form must be mailed to the National Tax Board at the following address:

Skatteverkets inläsningscentral
Enhet 2001
SE - 839 86 Östersund
SWEDEN

If the notification has not been received 30 days before the election date, Swedes abroad who are not in the electoral register may still have the opportunity to vote. A vote received from abroad by mail or by a Swedish foreign mission will still be counted, if it has reached the Election Authority by 12:00 pm on the day before the election. Read more at www.swedenabroad.com/Page_42185.aspx.

The Royal Wedding in Sweden – June 19, 2010

The wedding of Crown Princess Victoria and Mr. Daniel Westling on 19 June 2010 will put the spotlight on

Sweden in many countries around the world. For more information, see www.swedenabroad.com/Page_104671.aspx.

From the Embassy of Sweden in Washington

Web site: www.swedenabroad.com/washington

In the event of a catastrophe

If a catastrophe has occurred, call the Embassy of Sweden in Washington, DC at (202) 467-2600. A recorded message will provide you with all available information. The message will be updated as needed. The Embassy website will also provide information when possible.

Please note that the Embassy of Sweden has no role in evacuations or rescue operations. These matters are solely handled by American authorities.

Many catastrophic situations are caused by tropical storms and hurricanes. In the southern parts of the United States storms and hurricanes occur frequently during the autumn from September to November.

Regularly updated information can be found on the below websites.

For weather related crises, visit these websites first:

- National Hurricane Center (www.nhc.noaa.gov)
- State of Texas (www.texasonline.com/portal/tol)

There are also a number of websites which will help you prepare for emergencies:

Ready.Gov (www.ready.gov) - From the Department of Homeland Security, information on preparing for biological, chemical, and other types of threats.

American Red Cross (www.redcross.org) - Information on what to do, what could happen, what "shelter-in-place" means.

Please be advised that, depending upon where a catastrophe occurs, you might actually find yourself closer to one of the more than thirty Swedish consulates throughout the United States than to the Embassy itself. In such a case, please contact that consulate for information. This link, www.swedenabroad.com/Consulates_7492.aspx, will take you to a page where contact information is listed for all the consulates in the U.S., as well as their respective geographic jurisdictions.

To avoid unnecessary searches, and to reduce the worry among your family and friends in Sweden, the Embassy advises all Swedish travelers in the U.S. to immediately contact your loved ones back home and let them know what your situation is.

For more information, see www.swedenabroad.com/Page_34709.aspx.

Kräftskiva 2010



Adrian and Dianna Shapiro
and Marty Olson



Adrian and Mary Lynn Fisk, and Pam Wood



The Zydeco Dots provided music for the evening.



Doug, Evan and Eric Wood



Cathy Wahren and helpers judged the
"Largest and Smallest Crayfish" contest



The winners were Nina Fisk
(Largest Crayfish) and Eric
Wood (Smallest Crayfish)

Valborgsmässoafton 2010

On April 24th, 31 people gathered near Brenham to celebrate *Valborgsmässoafton* with a barbecue and bonfire. Margaret St.Clair reports that the "weather was beautiful as were the wildflowers." *Tusen tack* (thousand thanks) to Drs. Margit Winstrom and Bill Riley for again hosting the event at their ranch!



Gunhild Jansson and Lennart Nilsson



L.J. Anderson and Adrian Fisk



Vas Rodionov



The hayride is always a big hit!



Samson, Richard and Sulley Colburn



Allana Clarke Helland and Nina Fisk



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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, and your favorite Swedish shops, products or resources.

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

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