



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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

July/August

2010

Volume XXIII-No. 4

Swedish Club Lucia 2010



Applications for The Swedish Club's 2010 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 11, 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 also must be able to represent the club at the Texas Day Celebration in Barkeryd, Sweden, the first weekend in August 2011. Round-trip airfare will be provided from Houston 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 application on page 6 and send it to: The Swedish Club of Houston, c/o Margaret St. Clair, 13831 Queensbury, Houston, TX 77079. Applications must be postmarked by September 24, 2010.

"A Last Farewell" to Gusten Calissendorff

When August Calissendorff died in March, he left clear instructions for his funeral.

"Since we lived in the USA for almost 50 years, Gusten wanted to follow the American tradition of a 'get together to say goodbye' on the evening before the funeral," said his wife, Inga-Lisa Calissendorff. (The Calissendorffs were charter members of SCH.)

Because American-style funeral homes with special gathering places for friends and family do not exist in Sweden, more than 30 of their closest friends met

instead in the Calissendorffs' home to eat, drink a glass of wine, share memories and sing. In the center of the gathering lay Gusten himself in an open casket.

Although visitation/viewing is a common tradition in the U.S., it is very unusual in Sweden. So *Östgöta Correspondenten* (a newspaper in Linköping, Sweden) ran a feature article entitled "A Last Farewell: Our Changed Burial Customs," complete with a four-page photo display.

"We sang all the songs Gusten liked," said Inga-Lisa. "It was a fine evening, and I think no one who was there is afraid of death anymore."

Magnus Forss, the funeral director, said of the gathering, "I am convinced that the guests experienced the event as something positive, even if they were somewhat nervous before they came."

Following Gusten's funeral in *Domkyrkan* (the cathedral) in Linköping, his body was cremated, and the ashes were placed into an urn which was later dropped into Östersjön (also known as the Baltic Sea), according to Gusten's wish to rest on the bottom of the sea.



BITS & PIECES

 *Midsommar* has passed and so has the deadline for 2010 dues. If you have not yet paid your dues, please send them ASAP in order to stay on the list of active members. Annual dues are \$35 for a family membership, \$25 for an individual or \$10 for students.

Renew your membership now either *online* at www.swedishclub.org or *by mail* by sending your check payable to "Swedish Club of Houston," c/o John Stavino, 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, TX 77401.

 The Swedish Club's 2009 Lucia, Athena Flusche, will be in Barkeryd, Sweden, on Sunday, August 1, 2010, 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!

News from Sweden (from Swedish Council of America's June 2010 eUPDATE)

→ American broadcaster ABC has purchased the U.S. rights to the Swedish TV show, "*Blomstertid*." Broadcast by Sweden's TV4, "*Blomstertid*" is about three 34-year-old men from Bromma with various problems. All roles are played by Peter Magnusson, who along with director and producer Martin Persson wrote the screenplay for the miniseries. Earlier this year, ABC bought the rights to produce an American version pilot episode of "*Blomstertid*." ABC has now decided to go ahead and produce an entire season of the series, renamed "My Generation," with 13 episodes. The U.S. version is recorded in Austin, Texas. The characters will have the same names as in "*Blomstertid*"—John, Kenneth and Steven. Says Magnusson, "We have written TV history. No other Swedish television series has become a U.S. remake."

→ Camilla Läckberg has written seven blockbuster novels (including *The Stone Cutter*, *The Preacher*, and *The Ice Princess*) in her native Swedish but, until now, no one bothered to translate and publish any of them in the United States. And she has a tattooed, secretive, bisexual computer hacker named Lisbeth Salander to thank for paving the way. Publishers and booksellers are in a rush to find more Nordic noir to follow Stieg Larsson's Millennium trilogy, known for the indelible characters of Ms. Salander and the investigative journalist Mikael Blomkvist. The books have become a publishing phenomenon, selling 6 million copies in the United States and 35 million copies worldwide—nearly four times the population of Sweden.

→ Police, politicians and church leaders, along with the general public, remained enthralled in the aftermath of the recent emotional royal wedding day of Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel. Over half a million people filled the streets of Stockholm amid joyous scenes along the route for the bridal couple's carriage procession. Minister for Culture Lena Adelsohn summed up her feelings about the wedding celebrations in a single word: "Magical! It was a day when everybody was happy, almost like in a fairytale." Cathedral dean Åke Bonnier was still filled with emotion a day after the moving church ceremony: "I've conducted weddings for 25 years but I have never

before wed a couple who expressed their love so strongly."

Commemorating Hugo Alfvén

2010 commemorates the fifty-year anniversary of the death of Swedish music conductor and composer Hugo Alfvén. Alfvén was born May 1, 1872, in Stockholm, the fourth of six children. His father, a highly regarded tailor, was also a church choir director. Alfvén's childhood summers were usually spent with relatives in the Stockholm archipelago, a common place for nature-loving Swedes. His memories of these times in the archipelago would be a source of inspiration for some of his later works.



Hugo Alfvén
(d. May 8, 1960)

Alfvén's impressive body of compositions includes two ballets, an oratorio, several cantatas for choir and instruments, close to seventy songs for solo voice, and over one hundred original songs and folk-song arrangements for unaccompanied choir. Through his use of Swedish folk melodies, both in choral arrangements and in instrumental works, and through his skill in orchestration, he became the embodiment of Swedish national romanticism in the first part of the 20th century.

Alfvén's legacy lives on in the choirs that he directed and in the music that these choirs sing. Several of his folk-song arrangements are still a part of the standard repertoire for Swedish choirs. To hear the sounds of Hugo Alfvén's work, visit alfvensallskapet.se. (For English, click on the small British flag icon near the top right of the web page.)

(from SCA May 2010 eUPDATE)



Mark your calendar Upcoming SCH Events

Saturday, October 23 - Smörgåsbord

**Saturday, December 11 - Christmas Traditions
and Luciadagen**

Places to go and things to see . . .

Minneapolis, MN - Founded in 1929 by Swedish immigrant newspaper publisher Swan Turnblad, the **American Swedish Institute** is an historic house, museum, and cultural center offering a variety of programs designed to celebrate Swedish culture. It serves as a gathering place for people to share stories and experiences around universal themes of tradition, migration, craft and the arts, all informed by enduring ties to Sweden.

The American Swedish Institute, a museum and cultural center of distinguished history and international reputation, exists to:

- ▶ Preserve and share the landmark 1908 Turnblad mansion;
- ▶ Celebrate and teach about Sweden and Swedish-America; and,
- ▶ Promote and practice the values of respect for all peoples and the environment that are exemplified in the Nordic countries.

The Institute is located at 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55407. Museum hours are: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 12-4 p.m.; Wednesday 12-8 p.m.; Sunday 1-5 p.m. (Closed Mondays and most holidays.) Admission is \$6; \$5 ages 62+; \$4 ages 6-18 and students with valid ID. Free for children under six and ASI members.

For more information, contact the Institute at info@americanswedishinst.org or 612-871-4907, or visit www.americanswedishinst.org.

Karlstad, Sweden - The **Swedish American Center** (Sverige Amerika Centret) in Karlstad, Sweden, recently opened the exhibit "Svenska Amerikaliniern." The exhibit highlights emigrant and tourist journeys through displays, video, sound, and images and will be on display throughout this year during museum hours (during the summer - daily 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) For more information about the Swedish American Center, visit swedenamerica.se.

The Swedish American Line (Svenska Amerika Linien, or SAL) was founded in late 1914. In the early years, SAL mainly earned its income from conveying emigrants to America. SAL played an important role connecting Scandinavia and America before the days of air travel. Up to the mid-1960s, the passengers on the company's ships included emigrants, business persons, and tourists from Denmark, Finland, Norway and

Sweden. The ports of call were Göteborg, Copenhagen, Oslo, Halifax, and New York.

As cruise liners, the ships were renowned for their beauty, luxurious comfort, and the highest quality service provided by the Swedish crew. During the 1960s and 70s, as the number of emigrants declined, pleasure cruise sailings, which began in the 1920s, became more predominant. After 60 successful years, the company's passenger ship operations were dissolved in 1975.

If you have personal memories of trips (whether emigrant or tourist) on one of the Swedish American Line ships, the Swedish Council of America (SCA) would love to hear from you. Send your story to swedcoun@swedishcouncil.org or to the SCA office (2600 Park Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55407). To view a slideshow about the Swedish American Line visit the SCA home page, www.swedishcouncil.org.

First two films of "Millennium Trilogy" now showing in Houston

The first two of Stieg Larsson's best-selling thrillers are now mesmerizing films, and both are currently showing in Houston!

Swedish star Michael Nyqvist plays disgraced financial journalist Mikael Blomkvist, hired by Henrik Vanger to solve the murder of his niece, teen heiress Harriet Vanger. Teaming up with Blomkvist to solve the murder is the pierced and tattooed Lisbeth Salander, a ruthless punk-rock heroine portrayed by up-and-coming actress Noomi Rapace in an amazing performance. As the pair link Harriet's disappearance to a number of grotesque murders, they begin to unravel a dark and appalling family history, as Blomkvist and Salander discover just how far the Vanger family will go to protect their secrets.

"The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," which won Sweden's Oscar, the Guldbagge, for Best Picture, Best Actress and Audience Award, is now showing at the Landmark River Oaks Theatre on W. Gray St. and is also available on video. Second in the series, "The Girl Who Played with Fire" is currently showing at the Angelika Houston, Texas St. at Smith St. Both movies are in Swedish with English subtitles. To watch the trailers and get complete theater listings, visit DragonTattooFilm.com.

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



Photo: Laura Millikan

Summer Greetings from the Consulate General of Sweden in Houston

Passport application procedures changed in 2007 to increase the security of travel documents. As of December 12, 2007 all passport applicants at the Embassy of Sweden in Washington, DC, must be digitally photographed on site at the time of the application.

Applications may no longer be submitted at the honorary consulates in the U.S. Applicants must apply in person at the Embassy in Washington DC.

Different instructions and requirements apply for:

- ▶ Renewal of passport for adults over 18 years old
- ▶ Renewal of passport for children under 18
- ▶ Children with no previous Swedish passport
- ▶ Lost or missing passports
- ▶ Torn or damaged passports

The application fee is \$200 and may be paid in cash, or with a money order or certified bank check, payable to the Embassy of Sweden or by Visa and MasterCard.

The new passport may be picked up at any Swedish consulate in the United States.

For pickup of the new passport at a consular location other than the one at which the application was submitted, there is a shipping fee of \$10 (payable at time of application) and an additional processing fee of \$20 (payable at pickup).

The quickest and cheapest way is to apply while visiting Sweden. You can contact any passport office. (See the website of the Swedish police:

www.polisen.se.)

Normally, you can pick up a new passport or identity card within a week. It is also possible to pick

up your new passport or identity card at an embassy or consulate, although this takes longer and costs more.

For a lost, missing or damaged passport:

If you are traveling in the next few days and need a passport immediately, you may apply for an emergency (temporary) passport at any of the following consular locations:

- * Atlanta
- * Boston
- * Chicago
- * Ft. Lauderdale
- * Houston
- * Las Vegas
- * Los Angeles
- * Minneapolis
- * New York
- * Raleigh
- * San Diego
- * San Francisco
- * Tampa
- * Washington DC

The fee for an emergency passport is \$230.

Always contact the consulates directly to confirm open hours, especially during the summer months.

Mobile Photo Station for Regular Swedish Passports

During the spring of 2010, the Embassy in Washington conducted a pilot project using a mobile photo station. Due to the success of the project it will continue during the fall of 2010.

This will enable Swedish citizens to apply for regular passports at a number of Swedish Honorary Consulates. The number of applications is limited, however.

Please contact your nearest Honorary Consulate to make an appointment and to obtain payment information.

Schedule for the mobile photo station during Fall 2010:

Wednesday, September 15	Boston
Thursday, September 16	Boston
Monday, September 20	New York
Tuesday, September 21	New York
Tuesday, October 12	San Francisco
Wednesday, October 13	San Francisco
Thursday, October 14	San Francisco

Friday, October 15	San Francisco
Monday, October 18	Los Angeles*
Tuesday, October 19	Los Angeles*
Thursday, October 21	San Diego
Friday, October 22	San Diego
Friday, October 29	New York
Monday, November 8	Dallas
Tuesday, November 9	Dallas
Thursday, November 11	Houston
Friday, November 12	Houston
Wednesday, November 17	New York
Monday, December 6	New York

* (Location: Swedish Church in Los Angeles, appointments through the Consulate in San Diego)

For more information, see http://www.swedenabroad.com/Page_102373.aspx

Swedish Election 2010

The general election to the Swedish Riksdag, municipal assemblies and county council assemblies will be held on September 19, 2010. If you live in the U.S., you may vote by mail, or cast an advance vote at the Embassy of Sweden in Washington DC, at one of the Consulates of Sweden, (see the **Consulate General in Houston's schedule below**) or the Swedish Church in New York.

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.

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

**Skatteverkets inläsningscentral
FE 2001
205 76 Malmö
SWEDEN**

Please note that even if the notification has not been received by the Tax Agency 30 days before the election date, Swedes abroad who are not in the electoral register may still vote in the election. 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.

To vote by mail, you need specific documents that can be ordered or picked up from the Embassy in Washington, DC, the Swedish Consulates or directly from the Election Authority in Sweden. Keep in mind that your vote at the earliest can be mailed on August 5th, must be in Sweden by September 20th, and has to be mailed from abroad.

To cast an advance vote at the Embassy or any of the Consulates or Church, bring a valid identity document, such as a Swedish or U.S. passport or driver's license. If possible, please also bring your voting card to facilitate the processing of the votes.

If you wish to cast a vote for a specific candidate, you must also personally obtain and bring ballot papers that show the candidate's name. The ballot papers can be ordered from the respective parties.

Houston, konsulatet							
2909 Hillcroft Street, Suite 515,							
Houston, TX 77057-5852							
Telefon: +1-7139531417; Fax: +1-7139537776							
houston@consulateofsweden.org							
Datum	Mån	Tis	Ons	Tor	Fre	Lör	Sön
23/8-29/8	stängt	stängt	stängt	stängt	10-14	stängt	stängt
30/8-5/9	10-14	stängt	10-14	stängt	10-14	10-14	stängt
6/9-12/9	stängt	stängt	10-14	stängt	10-14	stängt	stängt
13/9-19/9	stängt						



2010 SWEDISH CLUB LUCIA

Applications for The Swedish Club of Houston's 2010 Lucia are now being accepted. Our 2010 Lucia will be presented at the annual Swedish Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration scheduled for Saturday, December 11, 2010, 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 11;
- ▶ Able to represent the club at the Texas Day Celebration and Parade in Barkeryd, Sweden, on the first weekend of August, 2011 (round-trip airfare provided from Houston 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-one 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 24, 2010**.

For questions or further information, contact Margaret St.Clair (by phone at 281-493-4978 or 818-620-8573 or by e-mail, margestclair@hotmail.com).

**THE SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON
APPLICATION FOR 2010 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 24, 2010**.

Mail applications and enclosures to:

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



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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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.

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