



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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

January/February

2011

Volume XXIV-No. 1



Pea Soup and Pancakes/ Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 22, 2011

6:15 p.m. - Social; 7:00 p.m. - Dinner

Christ the King Lutheran Church

2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston

(NOTE: Bring your own beer and/or wine,
as there will be no cash bar)

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children (ages 3-12). Reservations must be received by **Wednesday, January 19**, and may be made *online* at www.swedishclub.org or *by mail* using the form on page 5.

The annual business meeting will follow dinner, with reports on the year just past and the election of officers and directors for the year ahead. Come hungry, enjoy the food and fellowship, and help chart the course for 2011!

Job Title: Newsletter Editor
Commitment: 6 issues per year
Start Date: March/April 2011 issue

If you are interested or have questions about what is involved, please contact Laura Millikan at ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net or 281-412-9377.

BITS & PIECES

Did you know? Coca-Cola's iconic, rosy-cheeked Santa Claus has a Swedish connection. Illustrator Haddon Sundblom (1899–1976) was the Michigan-born son of immigrants from Sweden and the Åland Islands, an autonomous, Swedish-speaking territory of Finland. In the 1920s, The Coca-Cola Company began experimenting with adopting Santa as a salesman for the idea that “thirst knows no season.” A number of artists tried their hand at illustrating Santa, but in 1931 Sundblom's version became etched in people's minds worldwide as the definitive characterization of Santa. Between 1931 and 1964, Sundblom produced one or more Santa Claus paintings each year for The Coca-Cola Company.

SCH member Gudrun Sundquist sent a link for another Texas-Sweden connection, <http://www.nrk.no/nett-tv/indeks/241685/> (in Norwegian and Swedish). Björn Herlin has opened a Jim Reeves Museum in Voxna, Hälsingland, in Sweden. Reeves (1923-1964) was from Panola County, Texas, and was a very popular country and pop music singer/songwriter in the 1950s and 1960s. He also gained a wide international following before he died at age 40 in a private airplane crash. Herlin's museum stores unique pictures, documents, interesting readings and private belongings of Reeves. For more information (primarily in Swedish), see jimreeves.se. (About halfway down the page is a picture taken by Gudrun of the Jim Reeves memorial in Carthage, TX.)

Membership renewals due

A new dues year began January 1st. 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 completing the enclosed form and sending it, with your check payable to “Swedish Club of Houston,” to John Stavinoha, 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, TX 77401.

Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen 2010

by Margaret St.Clair

Once again, The Swedish Club hosted a wonderful Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration. The event was held Saturday, December 11, at Christ the King Lutheran Church with about 150 guests in attendance.

The Service of the Word began with a beautiful prelude of Swedish Christmas songs and carols played by organist, Howard Maple. After Club president, Cathy Wahren, welcomed the guests and narrated The Legend of Lucia, The Reverend Dr. Charles Millikan officiated. Vocalists, Veronica Butler and Howard Phillips, led the audience in singing traditional Swedish



2010 Lucia, Carrie Anderson

Christmas songs, *När juldagsmorgon glimmar*, *Nu tändas tusen juleljus* and *Gläns över sjö och strand*.

Then the sanctuary lights dimmed, and Lucia Carrie Anderson led the candle-lit procession down the aisle as everyone sang *Sankta Lucia*. Carrie was accompanied by 16 starboys and attendants, one of whom was her sister, Claire. After the procession



gathered at the front of the sanctuary, Lucia co-chair, Margaret St.Clair, introduced Carrie while co-chair Linda Andersson placed a

pewter Lucia necklace around her neck. Then, with candles still lit, all sang *Stilla natt* before recessing.

After the service, everyone adjourned to Parish Hall for the Reception which was chaired by Jo Anna Harlan and Devon Westerlund. The Hall was beautifully decorated. There were poinsettias in the windows. The tables were festively decorated with red tablecloths,

topped with candle-lit centerpieces made from fresh greenery. The fresh evergreen Christmas tree was decorated Swedish-style with lights, small Swedish flags, straw ornaments and *julgranskarameller* (colorful tissue-covered tubes containing candy).

As guests entered the Hall, various shopping venues awaited them. The bazaar sold traditional Swedish items. The Bake Sale offered Swedish breads and cookies. At another table, gently used Swedish books were sold. Also offered for sale was Scandinavian *rosmåling* made by local artist, Joyce Calderon. And to complete the shopping extravaganza, The Swedish Club sold club t-shirts.



Two Lucias—Eden Shapiro (2008) and Carrie Anderson (2010)

Guests also had the opportunity to participate in another type of “shopping” opportunity: they were invited to purchase raffle tickets. Several lovely items



were raffled, with the most popular being a lighted gingerbread house and a gift basket donated by IKEA.

Live entertainment was provided by accordionist, Joyce Calderon. Guests also enjoyed watching the talented Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston perform. Afterward, the Dancers invited everyone (especially the children) to join them in traditional Swedish dances around the Christmas tree.

In addition to all of the above activities, guests sampled traditional Lucia refreshments of *Lussekatte* (Lucia saffron buns), *pepparkakor* (spice cookies) and other types of Swedish Christmas cookies. Beverages included *glögg*, *kaffe*, and lingonberry drink.

During the reception, Lucia Carrie and her family were introduced. In attendance were her parents, Rod

and Jackie, her sister Claire and her grandparents. Carrie's Swedish roots are on her father's side, with her great-grandparents emigrating from Sweden about a



Lucia Carrie with her parents, Rod and Jackie Anderson, and sister, Claire.

hundred years ago and settling in South Dakota.

Carrie is well-deserving of the honor to represent the Club next August 7 in Barkeryd, Sweden, at their Texas-Swedish Festival. She will be the 23rd Lucia to



Event co-chairs Margaret St.Clair and Linda Andersson with Lucia Carrie and her mother, Jackie

go to Barkeryd. Her transportation from Houston to Scandinavia will once again be provided by Continental Airlines. The Swedish Club thanks Continental for their support in sending our Lucia to Sweden for the past two years.

In closing, The Swedish club also thanks the staff of Christ the King Lutheran Church for hosting the Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration.

Margaret extends a special thank you to her co-chairs, Linda Andersson, Jo Anna Harlan and Devon Westerlund and the many unnamed others who made this event such a glorious celebration.



Save these Dates!

Saturday, March 26 - Kräftskiva (Crayfish Boil) at Monument Inn

Saturday, April 30 - Valborgsmässoafton Bonfire/Barbecue near Brenham

Swedish Council of America

Slide shows on the SCA web site

Swedish Council of America promotes its affiliate organizations in several ways on its web site: through "spotlight" articles, affiliate pages, the events calendar, and in slide shows on the home page and "About" page. Currently, the home page (swedishcouncil.org) features celebrations and holidays around Swedish America and the "About" page (swedishcouncil.org/about.aspx) highlights SCA affiliate Scandinavian Studies Program of Jamestown, New York. Check them out!

Sweden & America Magazine



The Sweden & America magazine, a joint quarterly publication of The Swedish American Center in Karlstad, Sweden, and the Swedish Council of America, is the perfect gift for anyone (including yourself!) who is interested in the Swedish heritage or Swedish America.

The most recent issue featured articles on:

- Songs and Hymns That Unite
- U.S. Politics in Focus at the Swedish American Center
- Experiences During the Great Depression
- Postcards with a History

The annual subscription rate is \$16. To subscribe, send your name and address, along with a check made out to "Swedish Council of America," to Swedish Council of America, 2600 Park Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55407. For more information, see www.swedishcouncil.org.



Winter cottage in the Swedish mountains

Photo: imagebank.sweden.se © Bo Lind/Visit Sweden

News from Sweden
(from Swedish Council of America's
November and December 2010
eUPDATES)

→ For the second straight year, Sweden has topped the rankings of a study evaluating the countries with the world's best policies that benefit the developing world. The CDI (Commitment to Development Index) measures national efforts in different areas that are important to developing countries such as aid, trade, investment, migration, environment, security and technology. Sweden has even improved since last year's first place finish, scoring particularly highly in the aid, migration, trade and environment categories.

→ Crown Princess Victoria and her husband Prince Daniel have finally moved into their new home in Haga Castle, located just outside of Stockholm. The castle had been under renovation for several months, and was finished last summer. The move was delayed until November due to the Crown Princess's many travels and tight working schedule. The cost of the renovation of Haga Castle came to a total of 7 million dollars.

→ On Sunday, the 14th of November, after a meeting with district chairs, Mona Sahlin told reporters that she will not run for re-election as party chair at the special congress in March. Mona Sahlin has led the Social Democrats since 2007, when she became their first female leader, and will continue to lead until spring. There have been no predictions of who will succeed her. "It's time for others to have a chance," she said.

→ Swedish actor Mikael Persbrandt has landed a role in the film version of J.R.R. Tolkien's book "The Hobbit," a prequel to the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. 47-year-old Persbrandt, perhaps best known for his role as Gunvald Larsson in the Martin Beck detective films, will be the latest of a string of Swedish actors making the step to Hollywood. "The Hobbit" is set to have its U.S. premiere in December 2012.

→ Stockholm is forecast to experience its coldest temperatures in over 100 years as winter weather takes hold of the country, according to the Swedish Meteorological Institute. Temperatures across the country were expected to drop to record lows (with

the exception of the far north), with averages coming in 7-10 degrees Celsius (13-18 degrees F.) below normal. "It is far below average temperatures, which usually oscillate around freezing at this time of the year," said Alexandra Ohlsson, a meteorologist with SMHI.

Embassy in DC named Best Embassy

The Embassy of Sweden has been named Best Embassy of 2010 in Washington, DC, by the 300,000 readers of the Washington Post Express. Of the 180 other embassies, Brazil was awarded second place, while the Embassy of France came in third.

The annual "Best of" competition allows the general public to vote for their favorites in a number of categories. The readers' reasons for choosing Sweden were that it is a fantastic, unusual and accessible embassy building but, most of all, because the embassy offers a very active and diverse program which is open to the public. The embassy is now in the midst of the 11th in a series of public diplomacy programs which encompass politics, culture, trade and research/science.

"Getting this award is extra special just now as we recently passed the 250,000 mark with visitors to the embassy programs. It also provides a confirmation that we have put Sweden on the map among Washingtonians," says proud Ambassador Jonas Hafström. "The work of my fantastic team continues to reap success following 2008 when the embassy and House of Sweden were declared Venue of the Year by the Washington Post."

(Source: www.swedenabroad.com.)

From the Editor . . .

It's hard to believe that I've been producing this newsletter for five years! I hope you have enjoyed reading it as much as I have enjoyed putting it together. *Tack så väldigt mycket* for giving me the opportunity to serve the club in this way.

See you at the annual meeting, and *Kräftskiva*, and *Valborgsmässoafton*, and . . . !

Laura Millikan

From the Consulate General of Sweden in Houston . . .

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

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



Photo: imagebank.sweden.se ©
Anders Johansson/Ölands
Turist AB

*Winter greetings
from the Consulate!*

Mobile photo station for regular passports

The Embassy in Washington DC offers a consular service by using a mobile photo station that enables Swedish citizens to apply for regular passports at a number of Swedish Consulates in the U.S. The number of applications is limited, however.

Please contact your nearest Honorary Consulate to make an appointment and to obtain payment information. Read more at www.swedenabroad.com/Page_102373.aspx.

Swedish driver's license renewal

If you need to renew your Swedish Driver's Licence, please contact the consulate for more information. New rules apply as of December 1, 2010.

"Du kan i vissa fall förnya ditt svenska körkort även om du är bosatt i utlandet. Om du är permanent bosatt i en stat utanför EES kan du förnya ditt svenska körkort.

Tillsammans med ansökan ska du skicka med en handling som visar att du är permanent bosatt i en stat utanför EES. Du får inte några ansökningshandlingar automatiskt till din utländska adress.

Ansökningshandlingar finns på svenska ambassader och konsulat.

Tillsammans med din ansökan om förnyelse ska du skicka med ett intyg om permanent bosättning. Intyget hittar du på blankettsidan.

Skicka ansökan om att förnya det svenska körkortet till:

*Transportstyrelsen
Trafikregistret
SE-701 88 Örebro
SWEDEN"*

Read more at www.korkortsportalen.se.

Reservation Form

PEA SOUP AND PANCAKE SUPPER

Saturday, January 22, 2011

Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston
(Reservation must be received by Wednesday, January 19th)

Mail this form, with your check made payable to "Swedish Club of Houston," to:

Swedish Club of Houston
c/o Devon Westerlund
7202 Cobbs Oak Lane
Rosharon, TX 77583

Name(s) _____

Telephone _____

Number of Member and Guest tickets _____ x \$15 = \$ _____

Number of Children (3-12 years) _____ x \$ 5 = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

Membership Application/Renewal

Membership Type:

- Application
- Renewal

Annual Dues:

- \$35 Family Membership
- \$25 Individual Membership
- \$10 Student Membership

Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Name(s) and birth year(s) of child(ren) living at home: _____

Street: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone Number: Home (____) _____

Work (____) _____

E-mail Address: Home _____

Work _____

Please e-mail my newsletters to:

- Home
- Work
- Both
- Neither; I prefer hard copy

The following optional information would help us plan club activities:

Occupation: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Hobbies: _____

Spouse's Occupation: _____

- Single
- Married

Spouse's Hobbies: _____

Yes! I would like to serve on the Board:

- Officer
- Newsletter
- Membership
- Finance
- Swedish School
- Programs
- Publicity
- Sponsor Relations
- Webmaster

Yes! I can help chair/co-chair an event:

- Pea Soup/Pancake Supper
- Kräftskiva* (Crayfish)
- Valborgsmässoafton* (Bonfire)
- Smörgåsbord*
- Lucia
- I have another idea!

I prefer to help "behind the scenes" with an event:

- Make baked goods
- Make craft items
- Take reservations
- Help with decorations
- Set up/clean up
- Greeter
- Reporter/Photographer
- Serve refreshments
- Sell raffle tickets

Mail this form, with your check made payable to "Swedish Club of Houston," to:

The Swedish Club of Houston
c/o John Stavinoha
807 Mulberry Lane
Bellaire, TX 77401



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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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