



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

Club Updates



- The Smörgåsbord is almost here! Reserve your place online for the October 19 event at 6:30 PM. Go to <http://bit.ly/OctoberEvent> for all the event details.
- Thank you to Lauren Garde, our 2011 Lucia, for representing the club in Barkeryd this year! Read all about Lauren's summer trip on pages 2-7.
- We need a new Lucia, attendants, and Star Boys for our Christmas Traditions gathering on December 8. See page 7 to sign up. The deadline is October 5, so don't delay!

In the News



- Sweden is #1 , US #2 in inaugural Web Index report ranking the state of the internet in different countries. More info: <http://bit.ly/Swefirst>
- Will surströmming be given special protection from the EU? Some Swedes hope so: <http://bit.ly/smellyfish>
- Wallander returns to PBS for a third season. Read why actor Kenneth Branagh decided against using a Swedish accent for his lead role in the series based on Henning Mankell's books: <http://bit.ly/branaghwallander>

Image from flickr user Stewf

My Travels to Sweden
by Lauren Garde
Lucia 2011

My adventures in Sweden began in Stockholm. My parents, Tim & Jill Garde; my sister Sarah; my mormor Sally Anderson; my farbror Ken Garde and I arrived on a Friday morning to Arlanda airport where we boarded the Arlanda Express train to Stockholm's Central Station. After a crazy taxi ride through Gamla Stan, our cabbie finally was able to point us in the right direction to our hostel where we dropped our bags and began our walking tour of Gamla Stan. We began with a walk around the Royal Palace. We toured the Royal Apartments and were amazed by the grandeur and beauty of the Palace. We then headed to a small café in Gamla Stan for lunch before returning to our hostel to meet up with our friends John, Edie, Maren and James Stavino. John and Edie, who lived in Sweden for more than a year, served as our tour guides for our trip through Sweden.



The Vasa ship in Stockholm

We spent 3 days in Stockholm enjoying the sights. We ate ice cream in Kings Park, took the ferry to Gröna Lund and the Vasa ship museum, had lunch in the Saluhall Market, and shopped in Gamla Stan and in the Gallerian shopping mall. We even had time to have fish pedicures...something that is not typically available in the US. Our time in Stockholm was wonderful. We enjoyed the look and feel of the city, and it was hard to leave knowing there was so much more to do and see. But we traveled on...

On Monday we drove to Linköping. Driving in the countryside of Sweden is beautiful. The forest reminded me of the forest in Pennsylvania, and all of the red and yellow farmhouses were picturesque. In Linköping, we toured the Cathedral and walked through the city's beautiful gardens. We enjoyed time shopping and relaxing in the city's main square.

We also paid an unexpected visit to Inga Lisa Calissendorff. Inga Lisa was very happy to see the group from Texas and to see the Lucia tradition continue. The following day we shopped and learned how to make rope in Gamla Linköping; visited the locks of Berg on the Göta Canal; and toured the Air Force Museum and its exhibit of the DC-3 that disappeared.

On Wednesday we traveled south of Jönköping to the summer home of John's college roommate, Håkan Svensson. Håkan and his family treated us to a wonderful brunch, which included homemade Kanelbullar. Håkan was instrumental in helping me write my Lucia speech, so I took this opportunity to practice my pronunciation and made some last minute changes. We were then off to drop our bags at our next logging before heading to Varberg to meet my mormor's second cousin Ingrid. We found Ingrid through some relatives that live in California, and it was the first time meeting Ingrid and her family. That evening we walked along the coast of the North Sea and then later enjoyed dinner and a concert by the popular artist Miss Li. The concert was incredible and our visit with Ingrid helped me to feel more connected with Sweden and my ancestors.



My family with our Swedish relatives

We spent the next two days relaxing at a wonderful bed and breakfast, Lydde Gård Guest House, in Kinna. There we borrowed the guesthouse bikes and explored the quaint town and its surroundings. I played a round of golf with my father, Uncle Ken and James.

Staying in Kinna allowed my family to visit nearby Hajom Parish and its church where my mormor's farmor was baptized. The Church of Hajom dates back to the end of the 12th century. It features beautiful ceiling paintings that date back to 1775 and a baptismal font from the 1100s. There is also a freestanding bell tower just outside of the church. We were lucky enough to run into the grounds-keeper, and he opened both the bell tower and the church so that we could see all of the unique features.



The Church at Hajom



My mormor, mother, sister, and me at Hajom Church

On Friday we took a day-trip to Göteborg to visit the Stavinoha's former au pair Joanna. We spent the afternoon walking in Göteborg and having lunch with Joanna and her daughter.

On Saturday it was off to Barkeryd. We met Anita and Pelle Johansson at the church in Barkeryd and then followed them to their home for a tasty lunch. Anita explained the Barkeryd-Texas connection and the history of the Barkeryd candlestick. We all enjoyed eating fresh strawberries straight from Anita's garden and cherries from their tree. We walked down the road to pick elder flowers...Edie is going to try to use them in a snaps recipe! Later that evening we joined a group of locals at the home of Benny & Marianne Westerholm for a delicious bar-b-que. After dinner we all took part in a game of Kubb. Kubb is a traditional lawn game where the object is to knock over wooden blocks by throwing wooden sticks at them. Kubb can be simply described as a combination of bowling and horseshoes. Playing Kubb was fun for everyone.



Anita and Pelle Johansson

The following day was the day of the festival. We began our day by picking up Inga Lisa at the local train station and then heading to Anita's for a quick lunch before the parade. My parents, my sister and I all walked with Anita and Pelle in the parade. The parade was full of music and antique farm equipment. Alf Carlsson introduced everyone in the parade and then offered the crowd a toast with a cider before the program started. I was one of the first to be called on stage. Anita introduced me, and I was able to give a somewhat understandable speech in Swedish. After my speech I was presented with a certificate from the Vasa Order of Jönköping for upholding Swedish traditions in the US and the symbolic Barkeryd candlestick. We spent the remainder of the day enjoying all of the food and festivities. The people of Barkeryd were wonderful, and they made us all feel welcome.



The festival parade

Our next and last stop was Malmö. While in Malmö, we took the train to Lund where we visited the University of Lund, runestones and the cathedral's grand astrological clock, which puts on quite a show when it chimes once a day.

Our trip concluded with a train ride to the Copenhagen airport over the incredible Öresund Bridge.

My trip to Sweden was my first trip ever to Europe. It was amazing! I enjoyed everything about Sweden...the people, food, country, shopping and friends. I have been introduced to a new culture. This trip has brought me closer to my Swedish roots and has sparked a new interest in exploring Swedish traditions. I hope one day to return to Sweden to discover more of what it has to offer.

I would like to thank the Swedish Club of Houston and Margaret St. Clair for supporting the Lucia program. I would also like to thank Anita & Pelle Johansson and Benny & Marianne Westerholm for their hospitality during our stay in Barkeryd, and many thanks to the people of Barkeryd for making my trip so special. Finally I would like to thank John and Edie Stavinoha for teaching me so much about Sweden. We literally would have been lost if it were not for their guidance. I will remember my trip to Sweden fondly for the rest of my life.



The Lucia entourage: Mormor Sally Anderson, Maren Stavinoha, mother Jill Garde, sister Sarah Garde, Edie Stavinoha, John Stavinoha, James Stavinoha, father Tim Garde, Lucia Lauren Garde and Uncle Ken Garde.

We need our 2012 Lucia, Attendants and Star Boys!

Do you want to go to Sweden after reading about Lauren's adventures? If you are picked to be our 2012 Lucia, you too can represent Texas next year in Barkeryd. Young women between ages 16-24 who are also SCH members can send in an application by October 5, 2012.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

Date of Birth: _____

For Lucia applicants only: All Lucia applicants must also:

- Write an essay describing their Swedish heritage, special interests & why they want to represent SCH in Sweden. Applicants must also include a current photograph with the application.

Applications must be postmarked by October 5, 2012 and sent to: **The Swedish Club of Houston**
c/o Karen Wolz
4526 Waynesboro Dr
Houston, Texas 77035

Don't forget! Star boys and attendants are also needed for our Lucia gathering! Fill out the above form and send it in to join the festivities on December 8!

For more information, please visit the website, <http://swedishclub.org/lucia>

The Game of Kubb

“Viking Chess”



Kubb, sometimes called “Viking chess” is an outdoor lawn game popular in Sweden with a long running history. The game is said to have been invented during Viking times, but no one can officially confirm the history. Regardless, it can be played by different age groups on a variety of playing surfaces. The game is played by two teams (1-6 people each) throwing wooden sticks underhanded at the opponent’s blocks that are lined up on the opposite side of the field. Once you have properly knocked down your opponent’s pieces, you must hit the king that resides in the center of the field. The first team to knock down all opposing blocks and the king wins.

Sounds simple right? Well, it’s a bit more complicated than that. Watch this online video for a visual explanation of the game: <http://bit.ly/rulesforkubb> or go here for an illustrated example of the game: <http://yardgames.us/kubb-rules.html>

Kubb has become incredibly popular in the Midwestern United States over the past five years. Some universities have their own clubs and the city of Eau Claire, Wisconsin hosts the US championships each year. It is the biggest tournament outside of the yearly World Championships in Gotland, Sweden. Want to know more? Visit <http://www.usakubb.org/>

If you would like to start playing but don’t have a Kubb set, you can purchase one online from one of many retailers. Or, you can make your own set. Check out this website for instructions on how to make a Kubb set: <http://bit.ly/kubbdy>

Start playing and watch as curious onlookers ask you about this unique game. Don’t be surprised if they want to join in on the fun!

Letter Regarding Changes at the Consulate of Sweden in Houston

During the summer there have been several changes at the Swedish Consulate in Houston. First I would like to thank Jan and Mary Dryselius who have served Sweden and the Swedish colony since 1992. They have graciously promoted Sweden both culturally and diplomatically and we wish them a great time in North Carolina, their new home.

Early May I was appointed by the Swedish Foreign Ministry to the position as Honorary Consul General of Sweden in Houston, replacing Jan Dryselius. Thanks to Jan who has been generous in sharing his insight and knowledge of what the position has in store. I have for many years enjoyed the friendship in Swedish organizations such as SWEA, the Swedish Club and the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce (SACC) where I have held various positions. In SACC Texas I served as their President for four years and in SACC USA I was a long time Board member and responsible for four of their annual trade conferences, E-Days.

I also would like to thank Britta Tengan who has been the Assistant at the Consulate for seven years. She has helped and guided many of us with passports, driver's licenses and much more. Thanks Britta and good luck with your plans for the future.

We are grateful that Pernilla Berkenstam has accepted to assume Britta's responsibilities and we wish her a special welcome. Pernilla has lived in Houston for two years together with her husband Anders Berkenstam who works as a researcher at the Medical Center. In Sweden Pernilla worked at Svenska Dagbladet, one of the largest newspapers.

The Consulate has also moved during the summer. The new address is as follows:

River Oaks Tower

3730 Kirby Drive, Suite 805

Houston, TX 77098

Phone: [713-953-1417](tel:713-953-1417)

Fax: [713-953-6667](tel:713-953-6667)

Houston@consulateofsweden.org

We hope you will have time to stop by and see us.

We are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am - 2.00pm.

Sincerely

Astrid Marklund

Honorary Consul General



THE 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 your news to newsletter@swedishclub.org or by post to the return address
below.

THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

c/o Sara West
4023 Sherwood West
Kingwood TX 77339-1037

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Club Events:

Smörgåsbord

October 19, 2012

Christmas Traditions

December 8, 2012