



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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

PEA SOUP AND PANCAKES ANNUAL MEETING January 25th

The **Annual Meeting** this year will be held at Inwood Forrest Country Club on Saturday, January 25th. The meeting will be held in conjunction with a pea soup and pancake supper. Please see menu below and reservation form/map on page 9 to **RSVP** for this event by January 17th.

AGENDA:

- Treasurer's Report
- Membership Report
- Nomination & Election of Officers & Directors
- Tentative Calendar of Events for 2003
- Open Forum on this years Club Activities and Fundraisers.
 - ideas
 - feasibility
 - volunteers
 - action items/deadlines

PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING. It is only **ONCE** a year that we have a business meeting and bring up issues directly related to the viability of the club. And this is the TIME.. **We need your input.**

MENU as prepared by Chef John Stanley of Smörgåsbord fame:

- Pea soup with sides of mustard, thyme and marjoram
- Knackebrod, Limpa Bread, and cheeses
- Swedish Pancakes with fresh berry sauces (blueberries, strawberries and red raspberries) plus powdered sugar and syrup.
- Coffee and Swedish Punch, (A cash bar will be available.)

When : Saturday, January 25th 2003, Cash bar will be open at 6:15 P.M. Dinner at 7:00 P.M.

Please send in your reservation form on page 9 to arrive by January 17th.

NEW DUES YEAR BEGAN JANUARY 1st: Please send in your dues and data with your reservation or otherwise by 31 January. See included Yellow Membership Form.

Swedish Christmas Traditions – Houston Style - 2002

Since 1986, the Swedish Club of Houston has held a Christmas Traditions party including the crowning of their own Lucia. Each Lucia is given assistance from the Club and SAS Airline to attend the "Texas Day" in Barkeryd Smaland on the first Sunday in August.

The 2002 event was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in the Heights Section of Houston on December 14th. Cathy St.Clair was the chosen Lucia. She is a Senior Elementary Education major at Texas A&M University. Cathy is shown below with some of her young attendants.



Cathy St. Clair plus 4 little attendants at the Swedish Jul tree

Coordinating the Lucia event was Ingrid Melrose and Liz Cadwallader. Liz is shown below with a portion of the court.



Liz Cadwallader, Cathy and just some of the court in Church

The Homily was presented by Rev. Donn Paul Williams connecting the Swedish Lucia to the Italian Saint Lucia and the need for

all to bring light into our world. Not shown is his anchor shaped cross necklace that was to remind us that many seamen recognized the cross that was on their anchor.



Rev. Don Paul Williams giving the Homily

Sally Hoffeecker was accompanied by Charlotte Hatley in the presentation of hymns and the traditional Sankta Lucia.



The Honorable Jan Dryselius-Swedish Consul General of Houston - and Leif Mauritzson - Swedish Club President - shared in the presentation for the Gulf Coast Scandinavian Dancers more than 30 years of preserving and sharing the dance culture.

Swedish Christmas Traditions – Houston Style - 2002



Jan Dryselius at podium reading the citation before presenting the awards



3 Star Boys

and the presence of a young Jul Tomte passing out candy canes.

As always the GC Scandinavian Dancers performed and involved the guest in their wonderful renditions of Swedish and other Scandinavian folk dances.



Gulf Coast Scandinavian Dancer showing us folk dances



Jul Tomte

Increased publicity effort - including a listing in the Texas Highways Magazine (a Texas Tourism promotion) - helped produce a crowd of over 200 people.

WANTED: YOUR recipes for the Swedish Club Recipe Book. Mary Lynn Koenig is putting together the book as a club fund raiser. English or Svensk is OK. (Her husband, Pelle, will translate.) Email to MaryLynnKoenig@bigfoot.com or 26951 Crown Haven Ct., Kingwood TX 77339.

An added treat this year were the large number of Star Boys in the Lucia event

Remember you can see and download the newsletter and most of the pictures in full color on the Club website www.swedishclub.org

Scandinavian Folkdancers Update

November and December were tough months for the folkdancers. Injuries and other circumstances reduced our ranks for the final two performances of 2002.

Nevertheless, we had a wonderful time dancing at the Norwegian Seamen's Church's Christmas Bazaar and at the Swedish Club's Lucia program.

The Norwegian Seamen's Church Christmas Bazaar was on Saturday, November 16th. The day was absolutely beautiful. Lots of the church members were wearing their Norwegian folk dress. I did a lot of Christmas shopping. A little bit of shopping... a little bit of dancing... it was a good way to spend a lovely Saturday afternoon.

Saturday December 14th was the Lucia program at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Folkdancing was just one component of a very enjoyable Lucia program.



Scandinavian Dancer's Pres. Allan Albedor receiving Plaque from SCH Pres Leif Mauritzson honoring the Dancers 30+ years service to Scandinavian Culture.

We are about to begin practicing for the Spring festivals (Houston International Festival, San Antonio's Folklife Festival, Danevang's Museum Day) and for our upcoming trip to Europe.

As always, if you have an interest in dancing, please contact our dance director Howard Phillips at 713.661.5619. We would love to have you join us.

THANK YOU

Shown below are the Huge Gift Basket donated by IKEA for the raffle. Say your THANKS to owner Harold Witt and daughter Carolina who prepared the basket.



**Say Thanks to IKEA at 7810 Katy Freeway
(The Blue & Gold Building at Antoine & IH10)**

Our chief Baker Lynn Mauritzson donated a festive ginger Bread House for the raffle as well as the Lucia Buns.



**Please give your thanks to Lynn at her business:
Cookies Boxes Etc – 1672 FM 1960 West
Houston TX 77090 Phone 281.44.5060**

**And thanks to Liz Cadwallader for her
donations to the raffle and guiding the Lucia.**

APPLY or RENEW *your* Membership NOW
Rediscover YOUR Swedish ROOTS
By becoming a MEMBER of the Swedish Club of Houston

The Swedish Club of Houston is an organization dedicated to developing a sense of community and fellowship among people interested in Swedish heritage. The Club is open to anyone with an interest in Sweden or things Swedish. The Club sponsors Swedish cultural and social events and provides educational opportunities in the Swedish language, folk dress, folk dance and folk music.

TYPICAL SOCIAL/CULTURAL EVENTS ARE:

Pea Soup and Pancake Dinner (Jan 25th 2003)

The Crawfish party (April 5th 2003)

The Summer Picnic (August 2003)

The Smorgasbord (~October 25th 2003)

The Christmas Traditions/Lucia program (Dec 13th 2003)

TYPICAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Learn Swedish by taking a weekly class offered in the Fall and Spring semesters. The club sponsors the Swedish Language School. Four class levels are offered, ranging from Beginning to Very Advanced. The classes-have-both a written and conversational focus.

Learn how to folk dance. The Gulf Coast Scandinavian Folkdancers (of Greater Houston Area) is an independent organization associated with the Swedish and other Scandinavian Clubs. Many of our members participate. You can learn dances from Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, and Sweden. The folk dancers perform at cultural events throughout the state and at the Club's Christmas Traditions.

Learn about Swedish or Scandinavian Events or Opportunities happening nearby.

There is Always Something Going On With The Swedish Club !

Check it out on www.swedishclub.org or

The Club Event Line at 713.774.273

Swedish Club News www.swedishclub.org	Page 5	JAN-FEB 2003 EventsLine = 713.774.2739
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APPLY or RENEW *your* Membership NOW

The Swedish Club of Houston

Membership Application Form

January 2003 to January 2004

Annual dues are \$35 for family membership, \$25 for individual memberships, and \$10 for Student Memberships.

Please make check payable to Swedish Club and mail to:

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

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street: _____ Home Phone: _____

City: _____ Work Phone: _____

State: _____ Fax: _____

ZIP: _____ Home E-mail: _____

Work E-mail: _____

Single ☐ Married ☐ Spouse's Name: _____

Name(s) and year(s) of birth of children living at home:

Occupation: _____ Spouse's Occupation: _____

Hobbies: _____ Spouse's Hobbies: _____

Spouse's E-mail: _____

How would YOU like to be involved in preserving and sharing Swedish Heritage?

• More information is available on the Web at www.swedishclub.org
or via the events telephone lines 713.774.2739.

One of Our Members Promoted to Colonel + Swedish Opportunity

Regina Curtis who has been a Swedish Club member since 1993 is currently serving in Washington DC finishing up a mobilization in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle. She was called up from her private practice of Occupational, Aerospace and Diving Medicine in Houston.



An official announcement stated in part:

"The Surgeon General, U.S. Army, promoted Lieutenant Colonel Regina M. Curtis to the rank of Colonel this past week. COL Curtis is currently assigned to the Office of the Surgeon General at the Pentagon. She is the daughter of Robert and Miriam Curtis of Lawrenceville, NJ, who attended the ceremony and who were recognized by The Surgeon General as World War II veterans in the US Marine Corps and the US Navy, respectively.

COL Curtis attended Red Bank Catholic High School, holds a B.S.L. degree in Russian from Georgetown University, an M.D. degree from Case Western Reserve University, and an M.P.H. from the University of Hawaii. Dr. Curtis is board certified in the specialties of Preventive, Occupational, Aerospace, and Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine. She currently serves as a Preventive Medicine Staff Officer and Senior Flight Surgeon at the Army Surgeon General's Office.

Her military awards include: Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star.

She has accomplished a number of notable achievements: first woman track coach at Red Bank

Catholic High School, first woman Command Surgeon at Special Operations Command, and first woman to earn the US Army Senior Flight Surgeon Badge."

In her own words the story is a much more interesting :

On Swedish Connections: "When my paternal great-grandmother, Emelia Anderson, came from Sweden, she arrived at New York and then came directly over to the Jersey shore where she worked, married and raised her family. The Curtis family has always lived in Monmouth County until the Viking sense of adventure and exploration took me to Europe and then to Texas. I have visited Sweden regularly, speak Swedish, have done extensive family history research in Leksand, Orebro and Goteborg. I still have a few cousins over there. And, I was lucky enough to spend a month there one winter - from Lucia through 12th night. It is very beautiful in Sweden at that time of year. I wish I had my Swedish Christmas tree ornaments with me right now. Writing this is making me a little nostalgic and homesick. Once I am demobilized, I hope to get back to Sweden. I used to go about once a year."

On trips to Sweden: "On several occasions while I was been visiting in Stockholm, I spoke to classes at the Militarshogskolan regarding the US military and that very specific form of English called American military terminology. The conversations were always very lively."

What I am doing now: "Providing oversight at the highest medical level of force protection medical policy, helping determine policy re: immunizations and preventive medicine measures, investigating and answering inquiries from government agencies and Congress, serving as a senior flight surgeon, acting as the lead of several programs: heat injury prevention program, survey of health related behaviors and generally responding to whatever the requests of The Surgeon General are. Recently, I served as one of two Army observers to a NATO - Russia exercise outside Moscow. Its purpose was to exercise a multinational cooperative response to a simulated terrorist attack on a chemical factory. And, Sweden (Raddnings Verket) was an active participant in the exercise, fielding some

One of Our Members Promoted to Colonel + Swedish Opportunity

impressive decontamination methods. I spoke at length with their doctor and hope to eventually go for some training over there.”

On Women in the Military:

“I have lots of good things to say about the military and women in the military. It's like anything else: the rewards you get or the advancement you make pretty much reflect your professional effort and determination. The Army has been good to me and I have been generous with my time and expertise to the Army. The military is not a common place for women to be, although it has been transforming itself markedly over the past 15 -20 years. Like any non-traditional workplace, women need to know what the requirements, especially physical requirements, are so that they optimize their chance for success. You don't have to be an Olympian, but it just is logical that you need to be in good physical shape. And special programs may have even more stringent requirements. It's all achievable - you simply need to really want it. The flip side is that there are opportunities here not available in the civilian sector and state of the art technology. There are great educational opportunities - including tuition programs for medical school, etc.”

Thoughts on Washington vs. Houston:

“DC is the cultural center of our nation and of its military. It is a privilege and challenge to be serving here at Headquarters, Department of the Army, at The Office of the Surgeon General. The city of DC itself and its environs are rich with history, cultural activities, and beautiful natural settings for all sorts of outdoor activities. Among my favorites are the many branches of the Smithsonian Institution, of course revisiting my Alma Mater Georgetown University, and enjoying the truly international atmosphere here: languages, cuisines, cultural festivals, etc”

Houston – “I miss my evening jogs around Memorial Park and tennis and golf. Also miss my friends and acquaintances there. And, I have heard very little Swedish since I arrived here. Thank goodness for my copies of Colin Nutley and Lasse Håliström films and my cassettes of Lisa Nilsson and Peter LeMarc etc. I was TDY down at Ft Rucker at the time of Lucia, so I regrettably missed

that yearly event. I will be here through Christmas and New Year's. Hope to be able to make a short visit to Houston sometime early in 2003 (FEB, MAR?) as my duties are presently scheduled go until JAN 04.”



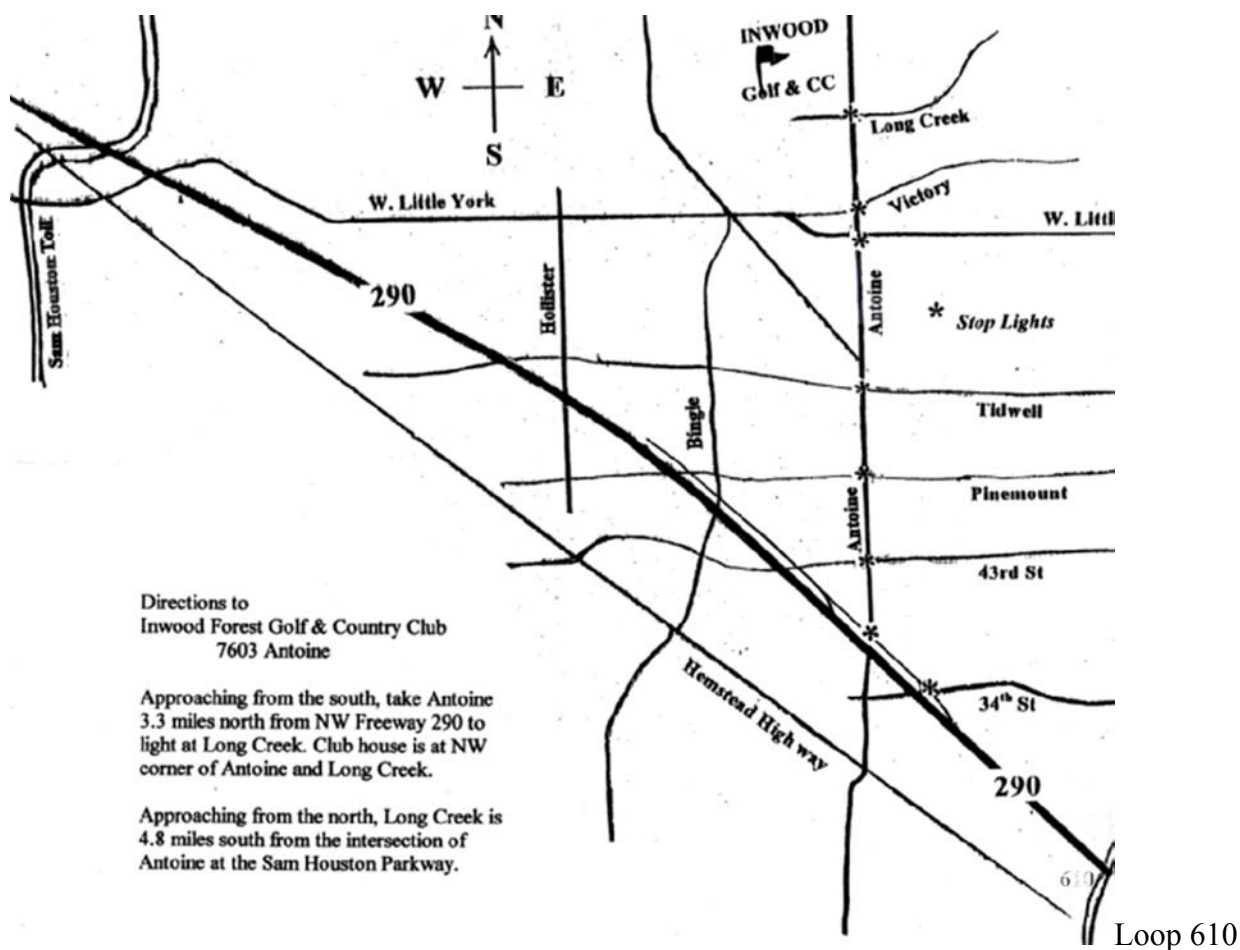
COL Regina Curtis is shown with her parents and her supervisor COL DeFraites.

Editor's Note: Regina would love to hear from our members in English or Swedish via email to: Regina.Curtis@otsg.amedd.army.mil or by mail to 4850 Leesburg Pike, Alexandria, VA 22302. or to her home phone 703-671-6500, extension 515.

SWEDISH OPPORTUNITY IN HOUSTON

On February 3, 2003, the Swedish Ambassador to the US, His Excellency Jan Eliasson, will be speaking at a luncheon in Houston. Several of us who were able to hear him last year when he spoke in Houston for the Nordic Trade Conference, would highly recommend listening to him. If you would like to attend or get more information contact SCH President Leif Mauritzson at 381.580.5923 or by email to lmauritzson@houston.rr.com.

MAP, DIRECTIONS, AND RESERVATION FORM FOR ANNUAL MEETING



RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY January 17th for the Peas Soup and Pancake Dinner at \$12 per person

**When : Saturday, January 25th 2003, Cash bar will be open at 6:15 P.M.
Dinner service starts at 7:00 P.M.**

**Make checks payable to the “Swedish Club of Houston” and mail this order form, plus payment to
The Swedish Club of Houston-Annual Meeting ,
C/O Jay Flusche, 8819 Concho, Houston TX 77036**

Name(s) _____

Telephone # _____

of Members & guest tickets _____ x \$12 = \$ _____

of Children (3-12 years) tickets _____ x \$ 6 = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

Information and Questions to the Event Line at 713.774.2739 anytime



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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 that is not in the general news, and your favorite Swedish shops, products, or resources.**

Please send the news by email to
arvid@johanson.net or
when necessary by post to
Arvid Johanson,
2010 Dowling Drive,
Richmond TX 77469-5114.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card	\$ 20.00
1/4 Page	\$ 40.00
1/2 Page	\$ 80.00
Full Page	\$120.00

PHOTOS

Pages 7 & 8 = US Army OTSG
Others = David & Arvid Johanson

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

(Subject to re-election or replacement at Jan 2003 Annual Meeting)

2002 Officers

President - Leif Mauritzson
Vice-President - Ingrid Melrose
Secretary - Jay Flusche
Treasurer - Rod Anderson

2002 Directors

Julie Bonomo	Liz Cadwallader
Pelle Fisk	Arvid Johanson
Donald Jansen	Chuck Nelson
Tracey Mingle	John Stavinoha
Marita Vilson	Lars Westerberg
Erich Wolz	

Advisors to the Board

Jan Dryselius, Finance Don Turbyfill, Legal

IN THE NEXT (MAR-APRIL) EDITION OF SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

- January General Meeting Wrap-Up
- New Officers and Directors
- Lead into Crayfish party
- **YOUR STORY**

Swedish Club News
www.swedishclub.org

Page 10

JAN-FEB 2003
EventsLine = 713.774.2739



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c/o Arvid Johanson
2010 Dowling Drive
Richmond TX 77469-5114