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## Quotes from Kamprad

- "I am very proud to follow the rules of our company."
- "How the hell can I ask people who work for me to travel cheaply if I travel in luxury? It's a question of good leadership."
- "We ought to have more women in various management positions, because women are the ones who decide almost everything in the home."
- "If there is such a thing as good leadership, it is to give a good example. I have to do so for all the Ikea employees."

1926-2018



IKEA founder Ingvar Kamprad dies at 91. Sweden's Kamprad turned a small-scale mail-order business into a global furniture empire. Feodor Ingvar Kamprad was a Swedish Business magnate. He was the founder of **IKEA**, a multinational retail company specializing in furniture. His surname was a variant of "comrade". Kamprad's paternal grandfather emigrated from Germany to Sweden in 1896. Kamprad began to develop a business as a young boy. In 1943 when he was 17, his father gave him a cash reward for succeeding in his studies. That same year Kamprad founded **IKEA** selling replicas of his uncle's kitchen table.

## *IKEA Stores and INGKA Foundation*



His business was mostly mail order. The acronym **IKEA** is made up of the initials of his name, Ingvar Kamprad plus those of Elmtaryd, the family farm where he was born, and the nearby village Agunnaryd where he was raised. The Dutch-registered Stichting **INGKA** Foundation is named after Ingvar Kamprad, i.e., **ING** + **KA**, which owns

**INGKA** Holdings, the parent company for all **IKEA** stores. In May 2006, the charitable foundation was reported by *The Economist* to be the world's wealthiest charity, however the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has since become larger. Prior to his death Kamprad was chairman of the foundation. In June 2015, Kamprad was listed as the

eighth wealthiest person in the world by Bloomberg, estimated net worth of \$58.7 billion. He first detailed his philosophies of frugality and simplicity in a manifesto entitled "A Testament of a Furniture Dealer" in 1976.

Kamprad died in his sleep of pneumonia at his home in Småland, Sweden, on 27 January 2018.

## *Trip to Barkeryd, Sweden, by Lisa Swank, 2016 Club Lucia*



**Barkeryd, Sweden**, is not a big town, technically speaking, don't even know if it qualifies as a town anymore. The majority of the people who participate in the historical society there actually live in smaller villages outside of the "town." However, there is a church, which is beautiful and pink on the outside. And every year on the first Sunday of August, they have a festival called the "Texas Day Celebration," where hundreds of people from the area and around Sweden come to visit and partake in the festivities and love on all things Texas.

As a native Texan, and Houstonian, I was amazed to find that a small little "town" in south-central Sweden was so connected to my home here in Texas. This past year I was chosen to be

the Lucia for the Swedish Club of Houston. If this sounds completely foreign to you, I'll paint you a picture. Think Kirsten the American Girl Doll that was extremely popular in the 90s, the little blonde girl with a white dress and candles on her head, then just blow that image up and change the doll out with a real person and there you go. The Santa Lucia celebration happens every year in mid-December and is a cultural tradition practiced in many Scandinavian countries, most popularly in Sweden and Finland. St. Lucia was said, and the story always changes depending on which culture it is, that a young girl with candles on her head helped the downtrodden by bringing food and drink during dark times. In modern times, the Lucia is chosen in different communities across Swe-

den to partake in the candle procession as a figurehead for the season. As the Lucia, I had to opportunity to travel to Sweden this past August to represent the Swedish Club of Houston at the annual Texas Day Celebration in Barkeryd. It exceeded my expectations. **First**, the countryside of Sweden is gorgeous and verdant. Not to mention, the weather is a nice 60ish degrees F compare that to Houston summer weather and you have no completion as to the winner. **Second**, this festival is quite big and very important to the community in this country. **Third**, my host family was incredibly sweet and generous for sharing their time and their house that weekend. I never knew how delicious freshly made peppermints and candy canes could really taste. To get to these amazing treats, we drove up to Gränna by Jönköping Lake through the countryside. The town was incredible, with fantastic treats and great souvenir shopping.



**"As the Lucia, I had the opportunity to travel to Sweden this past August to represent the Swedish Club of Houston at the annual Texas Day Celebration in Barkeryd."**

**-Lisa Swank**



Not to mention, we ate in a restaurant on top of a cliff that overlooked the town and lake, only getting a small afternoon Swedish summer rain. During the evening, we spent time with our host family, watching the Track and Field World Cup, cheering on Sweden and the USA, of course, and baiting and catching crawfish in the small pond outside the Westerholm's house. We had a Swedish barbeque one night as well as the usual fare of Swedish tacos. Your typical Swedish gathering!



When we arrived at the festival, my family and I participated in the parade that starts off the day's event. Led by a band and carrying the USA and Texas flags, we followed the procession.

The celebration is held in Barkeryd's historical district with some old barns and houses that have been made into museums to explore and walk around. The celebration was spectacular. There were tons of people, festival games, such as darts and ball throwing, hayride pulled by a tractor, vendors, freshly made ice cream from down the road, and Swedish foods galore! This year the theme of the festival was old cars. We even saw the new 2018 Volvo next to one from most likely 1960.

The descendants of the original family that came over to America from Barkeryd were also in attendance from Austin, Texas. Midway through the festival, my family and I went up on stage where I gave my speech in Swedish to the assembly! I talked about my family history, who I am, and the trip that my family and I took to Sweden and then onward to visit other Nordic nations. I am eternally grateful for the of Marianne and her husband Ben as well as their daughter Sara. Tack så mycket! During the annual Swedish Club of Houston meeting, I gave a presentation on my trip and being a Lucia.

# SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON



## Member Spotlight



*Homebaked Hembakat – A Swedish Home Bakery in the Heart of Houston by Sarah R. Arvidsson*



[Homebaked Hembakat](#) is a Houston home bakery by Sarah Arvidsson offering custom orders of breads, pies, rustic cakes and Scandinavian specialties - as well as sourdough care and canning and pickling services. I am so happy to let you all know that your long departure from proper Swedish cakes, buns and cookies is over at last! This fall I opened [Homebaked Hembakat](#), a little tiny bakery from my home in the East End, and I am so excited to share my passion for baking and for Swedish treats with you.

I have enjoyed a lifetime passion for baking, and eating, delicious breads, cakes, pies and cookies. I met my husband Jonas, originally from a small town in Småland, in New York in 2007, and my love of baking coincided with his craving for sweets and treats from home. One of the very first gifts he gave me was a set of Swedish cookbooks. Only a few months after meeting each other, I spent the day my law school applications were due searching Manhattan for baker's ammonium to make drömmar (dreams) for our first Valentine's Day together. The following Christmas I rolled out what felt like hundreds and hundreds of pepparkakor (Ginger Bread Cookies) in our tiny Brooklyn apartment. I grew up in a Mexican-American family near the Texas Gulf Coast, and no one is more surprised than I that now my Swedish is better than my Spanish and I spend as much time as possible reading recipes, converting metric measurements and working to make my baked goods as close to those you'd get in Sweden as possible.

Now that we have two beautiful little Swedish babies, Flora and Celeste, I feel an even greater urgency to fill our home with flavors of Sweden. I love helping connect my husband and my children to their home in Sweden and filling our house with the beautiful, exotic aromas of cardamom, cinnamon, ginger, chocolate, and coffee. We've been bringing the fika tradition to our Houston home for years – loving so much to put out coffee and fresh baked treats for friends and neighbors popping in. It is such a beautiful tradition and one that I am so happy to have in my life!

I've also been so astounded that the 4th largest – and most diverse – city in America has been without a dedicated Swedish bakery all this time. Somewhat on a whim, I decided a few months ago to share my baking beyond my friends and family and open my home kitchen to our community as [Homebaked Hembakat](#). It has been so tremendously satisfying, and I am so grateful to be able to put my heart into baking for new friends and clients and families.

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