

SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON



First Quarter 2022

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Swedish Club of Houston
www.swedishclub.org



Newsletter By:
Madelyn Mauritz Bossé
3rd Generation Swede



Calendar Events For 2022

| Date | Event | Location |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday Jan 22nd | Semmel Fika / Annual Meeting | First Lutheran Church |
| Sunday | Conversation Club | Home of Göran Runfeld |
| Sunday | Conversation Club | Home of Göran Runfeld |
| Saturday April 2nd | Kräftskiva | Monument Inn LaPort TX |
| Saturday | Valborgsmässoafton | Winstrom's Ranch, |
| Sunday June 5th | Sweden's National Day | Christ the King Lutheran |
| Sunday Aug 7th | Texas Day | Barkeryd, Sweden |
| Sunday Aug 14th | Summer Fika | First Lutheran Church |
| September | Swedish Movie Night | TBD |
| Saturday Oct 15th | Sailing | Kemah, TX |
| Friday Oct 21st | Smörgåsbord | Braeburn Country Club Houston, TX |
| Sunday Nov 13th | Julgrans Karamell | Teahen Home |
| Saturday Dec 10th | Christmas Traditions & Lucia Celebration | Bellaire UMC Bellaire, TX |

CONGRATULATIONS ON OUR NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS



From Left to Right:

Karen Wolz (Secretary), Louis-Philippe Bossé (Treasurer), Madelyn Mauritz Bossé, Kim Hart, John Stavinoha, Kelley Mauritzson Moore, Mark Bankston, LezLee Bushfield, Erich Wolz (President), Dina Jo Colburn, Marie Teahen, and Paulina Engfors.

Not Pictured: Göran Runfeldt (Vice President)



A big thank you to Jill Garde and Louis Bossé for making the Semlar buns for this event!

CONGRATULATIONS ON OUR NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS



LezLee is a Texas native, born in the Dallas area and having spent the past 27 years in Houston. She currently resides in League City where she loves swimming and sailing. She also enjoys reading, gardening, photography, traveling and watching tennis. LezLee has 4 adult children and a cat named Matilda. She holds a Master of Science in Psychology from the University of North Texas and has worked as a program administrator, therapist, psychology instructor and marketing director for non-profit organizations. Well-known in the sustainability arena, she is a strong advocate for

the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the use of Mobile Technology to progress them. She recently discovered she was part Swedish and is excited to be studying the language and culture.



Mark Bankston was born on May 29, 1970 in Waxahachie, Texas. He is a 6th generation native Texan and an 11th generation New Sweden descendant along his direct paternal line. Through Y-DNA testing with Family Tree DNA and genealogy research, Mark established his relationship to his paternal ancestors Anders Bengtsson (1640-1705) and Gertrude Rambo (b. 1650), the eldest daughter of Peter Gunnarson Rambo (1612-1698) from Ramberget on Hisingen Island. Anders came to America from Gothenburg in 1656. The Duke of York's laws were in effect when Anders and Gertrude married, so Bengtsson became their family's surname. The English misspelled the name as Bankson, which evolved into Bankston among

grandchildren who left Philadelphia to move south. Mark's 3x great-grandparents James & Lavis Bankston moved to the Republic of Texas in 1837. Since discovering his Swedish heritage, Mark has committed to learning about Sweden, its people, language, culture, history, food, and music. He believes the Swedish Club of Houston is a perfect way for him to further connect and learn more. Mark is a civil trial lawyer and lives in Sienna with his wife, Zyria ("Zee"), stepsons Austin and Vince, and their 3 huskies and 2 cats. He also plays lead guitar in a local rock band.

CONGRATULATIONS ON OUR NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

My name is Kelley Mauritzson Moore. I'm honored to serve on the board of the Swedish Club! I'm first generation American from my Swedish born father! I've been a part of the Swedish Club of Houston since I was 8 years old. I was selected to represent the Swedish Club of Houston as the 1997 Lucia. Sweden has been a part of my entire life and enjoy being a part of my heritage!



MUCH ANTICIPATED CRAWFISH PARTY

Monument Inn didn't disappoint as 49 members, 14 guest & 11 youngsters vowed to eat Swedish prepared crawfish and extras! Wearing inspiring hats always brings good cheer! The fun festivities include prizes for the largest and smallest crawfish!



KÅNKEN, THE BACKPACK

For a second year in a row, the Sustainable Brand Index™ has rated Fjällräven Sweden's most sustainable brand 2021 in the "Clothes & Fashion – Brand" industry.



The first Fjällräven backpack—(pronounced “Fyall-RAAH-ven”) is Swedish for “Arctic Fox”. This backpack, made in Sweden in 1960, was created by Åke Nordin, a former soldier who began crafting wooden-framed backpacks with his mother’s sewing machine in his family’s cellar. Nordin lived in Örnsköldsvik, a coastal town 300 miles north of Stockholm. Nordin swapped the wooden parts for lighter and more durable aluminum, and after a while, design improvements resulted in frameless backpacks. His company began producing high-end winter jackets and other accessories.

Today, the company's sturdy backpacks can be spotted in downtown Amsterdam or on hiking trails in Zion National Park, a resurgence that's padding profits and fueling a solid stock market rally in Stockholm.

In 1977, Fjällräven’s trajectory came changed as a study that Swedish children had an unusually high incidence of lower back pain due to book bags slung over their shoulders. After the study was released, Åke Nordin decided to adapt the backpacks so they could be used by students, spreading the weight evenly across the shoulders and leaving both hands free.

Since then, Fjällräven Kånken has remained almost unchanged since it was introduced just ahead of the 1978 school year. The first year, the company sold 400 backpacks; a year later the number jumped to 30,000.

CELEBRATING OUR LUCIA

FRIENDS OF LUCIA

The Swedish Club of Houston is soliciting donors to its Friends of Lucia fund in order to continue the tradition of sending our Lucia to Sweden.

The Swedish Club of Houston has been represented by its Lucia at the Texas Day celebration in Barkeryd, Sweden every year since 1988. The Lucia program has provided a wonderful way for the members involved to travel and learn about our Swedish ancestry and our Texas connection with Barkeryd; a complete list of the Swedish Club of Houston's Lucias is available at <http://swedishclub.org/lucia>.

Why is Barkeryd (a small parish near Nässjö in Småland) important to Texans? This small parish had half of its the population emigrate to Texas between 1836 and 1927! The conditions were bad and the opportunity of settling in America was given to the people of Barkeryd. Around 1867 many young people left Barkeryd; S.M. Swenson and Svante Palm paid for their passage to come to work for them in Texas, where workers were needed to help on the farms. The immigrants worked off their passage in about 2 years. After the debt was paid off they were free to live and work for themselves. There are many Swedish communities around Central Texas which were settled by the Barkeryd immigrants. In their honor, the people of Barkeryd Sweden were proclaimed honorary citizens of Texas on May 27, 1975 by Gov. Dolph Briscoe.

If you would like to become a member of the Friends of Lucia and help support this long-standing tradition of the Club, you can either mail a check along with this form, or donate online via the link at <http://swedishclub.org>.

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Sponsorship Level: | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 – Speaker of the Riksdag | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 – Cabinet Minister |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 – Prime Minister | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 – Governor |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 – Deputy Prime Minister | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 – County Councilor |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 – Municipal Commissioner |

☐ Yes, please list my name as a Friend of Lucia

☐ No, I wish to remain anonymous

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Make check payable to: **The Swedish Club of Houston**

Mail to: Swedish Club of Houston, c/o Karen Wolz, 4526 Waynesboro Dr., Houston, TX 77035

Member News & Updates

In Loving Memory



MONA KRISTINA BERGMAN RASPLER

1937-2022

Mona passed away peacefully on February 7, 2022 in Thousand Oaks, CA.

She was born in Burträsk, Sweden, on September 22, 1937, and raised in Stockholm, Sweden. At age 13, Mona attended theatre school and began acting and modeling while also working in her mother's beauty salon.

In her late teens, Mona spent time in Hamburg, Zurich, and London, working as a hair & fashion model.

At 19, she was runner-up for Miss Sweden and was selected to represent Sweden in the Miss World pageant in London.

In 1961, Mona moved to New York City where she had a successful career as an international high-fashion model and actress, working in cities such as New York, London, Moscow, Toronto and Los Angeles.

Mona was featured in advertising campaigns for Clairol, Folgers, Sweet & Low and other national brands.

She acted in Broadway's "Boeing-Boeing" and on television shows such as Hullabaloo and The Les Crain Show.

In New York, she studied film acting at Lee Strasberg Studio, jazz dance at Carnegie Hall, and theater at H.B. Studios. She was a member of the Screen Actors Guild, American Federation of Television & Radio Artists, and Stage Performers Guild.

In 1966, Mona married David Raspler on the roof of the St. Moritz hotel, overlooking Central Park.

They had two sons, Peter Erik Raspler and Adam Ian Raspler, and Mona happily retired from her modeling career to dedicate her time to her family.

In 1976, the family moved to Houston, Texas, where Mona was a founding member of SWEA Houston, President of The Swedish Club, and a member of the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, she was active in The Woman's Fund, the Houston Motion Picture Academy, the Kinkaid School, American Field Service, Art & Artists Combine, the University Club, and the U.S. Tennis Association.

Mona enjoyed playing tennis, snow skiing, traveling, gardening, the arts and photography, but more than anything, she enjoyed spending time with her sons. She was an ever-loving and supportive mom, and she couldn't have been more proud of her boys.

In 2014, Mona moved to Thousand Oaks, CA, to be closer to her sons, who live in Los Angeles.

She received excellent care in her final years at the University Village & Oakview senior living community.

Friends and family will lovingly remember Mona for her vibrancy, warmth, and energy.

She lit up the room with her beauty and engaging personality, and she shared enduring relationships with friends worldwide. She touched so many and will be greatly missed by all.

Mona is survived by her sons, Peter and Adam Raspler, and her extended family in the US and Sweden.

She is preceded in death by her mother Britt Lundebergh, her step-father Nils Lundebergh, and her father Herbert Bergman.

The family will host a celebration of life gathering at a later date and time.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Alzheimer's/Dementia research, www.alz.org.

