



# THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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

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January/February

2008

Volume XXI-No. 1

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## PEA SOUP AND PANCAKES/ ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 27, 2008**

**6:15 p.m - Cash Bar**

**7:00 p.m. - Dinner**

The Annual Meeting of the Swedish Club of Houston will be held on **Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**, in conjunction with a pea soup and pancake supper, at **The Buffalo Grille**, 3116 Bissonnet St., Houston. Cash bar will open at 6:15 p.m., and the meal will begin at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children (ages 3-12).



The agenda for the meeting will include the Treasurer's, Membership and State of the Club reports, as well as the nomination and election of officers and directors for 2008.

Come hungry, enjoy the food and fellowship, and share your ideas for making our club all it can be in 2008!

**RSVP** for dinner by **Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**, by mail using the form on page 7, online on the SCH website ([www.swedishclub.org](http://www.swedishclub.org)); or by phone to Diana Rodionov, (281-636-8153).

## Volunteer! Serve on the Board!

At our Annual Meeting on January 27, the Club will install the Board of Directors for 2008. Anyone interested in sharing their time and talents by serving on the Board should contact any member of the Nominating Committee:

John Stavinoha: 713-661-0159 or

[John.Stavinoha@memorialhermann.org](mailto:John.Stavinoha@memorialhermann.org)

Mark Swanson: 281-538-0854 or

[mark.swanson@lr.org](mailto:mark.swanson@lr.org)

Ingrid Philipson: 832-423-8884 or

[yourdreamhomewithingrid@yahoo.com](mailto:yourdreamhomewithingrid@yahoo.com)

Meetings are generally held the second Wednesday evening of every month, except for June and July, at IKEA. The May meeting is a social at a Board member's home.

## Looking for Lost Lucias

In recent newsletters we have asked for help contacting former Lucias, so that we may invite them to attend the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lucias to Barkeryd. The celebration will occur August 3, 2008, in Barkeryd, Sweden.

Many thanks to those who have responded! We are down to just two girls for whom we need to know their whereabouts:

Desiree Gay - 1990 Lucia

Kristin Klatt - 1998 Lucia

If you have information as to their home and/or e-mail addresses, please contact Margaret St.Clair ([margestclair@hotmail.com](mailto:margestclair@hotmail.com) or 281-493-4978).



**President's Column**  
*by Margaret St. Clair*

Nyårshälsningar!  
New Year's greetings—to  
all members and  
friends of The Swedish  
Club!

2008 is well underway and, if you are like most folks, you've probably evaluated the old year and have made resolutions for changes and improvements in the new one. The same is true with The Swedish Club. We have just completed an excellent year in which the Club hosted the following events: in January we hosted a reception at Christ the King Lutheran Church for Swedish organist Magnus Kjellson. The end of the month was our *Pea Soup & Pancake Supper*, held in conjunction with our *Annual Meeting*. March brought the *Crayfish Party* and May our *Bonfire*. Our fall event was the *Smörgåsbord* and in December we hosted our *Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration*.

These were exceptionally fine events which, I might add, were made possible by some exceptionally hard-working Club members. However, we must not "rest on our laurels." We must strive to improve everything we do. At our Annual Meeting, held every January, we gather to evaluate and discuss the activities of the previous year and to elect the new Board of Directors. The Annual Meeting is an important event, and I hope you can attend. In addition to our business meeting, we will also enjoy a delicious meal of Pea Soup and Pancakes (prepared by our current Board!) and get to visit with old friends and meet new ones.

So let's start the year off right! Make it your New Year's resolution to attend the Pea Soup and Pancake Supper/Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 27, 6:15 p.m., at The Buffalo Grille near Rice Village. Come with your ideas and resolve to seek positive changes and improvements in our Club in 2008!

Vi ses!

*Margaret*

*Tusen tack (Thousand thanks)...!!*

to Nancy Webb for all she did to make our December 8<sup>th</sup> "Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration" so successful! It was a beautiful event enjoyed by about 200 guests, many of whom were children. Just to watch the youngsters' enthusiasm and joy made everything worthwhile! Think the adults had as much fun too!

*Tack igen (thanks again), Nancy!!*



*Save the Date!*

**What:** *Kräftskiva* (Swedish Crawfish Party)  
**When:** Saturday, April 5, 2008  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Monument Inn, 4406 Battleground Road (TX 134), La Porte

**Watch for details in the next issue of the newsletter!**

**PLEASE NOTE:** A new dues year began January 1<sup>st</sup>. You may renew your membership either *online* at [www.swedishclub.org](http://www.swedishclub.org) or *by mail* by completing the form on page 7 and sending it with your check payable to "Swedish Club of Houston" to John Stavinoha, 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, TX 77401.

## From the Consulate . . .

2909 Hillcroft St., Ste. 515, Houston, TX 77057  
713-953-1417

**Season Greetings** from the Swedish Consulates in Houston and Dallas!

Before you apply to renew your Swedish passport, you have to know . . .

- ▶ The Swedish Consulates in Houston and Dallas can no longer handle applications to renew regular Swedish passports or first-time applications for Swedish passports. You can apply in person at the Consulates General in New York and Los Angeles and at the Swedish Embassy in Washington.
- ▶ Child applicants who were born abroad and have never before had a Swedish passport **must first be added to the Swedish population register** by applying for a coordination number. This application can be filed at all Swedish consulates in the U.S.
- ▶ If you have **changed your last name—ever:** before you apply for a new passport, you need to update the registration at Folkbokföringsenheten, Skatteverket, in Sweden! This is necessary, even if you have received new Swedish passports in your new name. Contact your Tax Office and check how you are registered: <http://skatteverket.se/4.18e1b10334ebe8bc800026.html> or [www.skatteverket.se](http://www.skatteverket.se).

### Web sites with information:

<http://www.swedenabroad.com/newyork>  
<http://www.swedenabroad.com/losangeles>  
<http://www.swedenabroad.com/washington>

### To contact the consulates in Texas:

#### **Houston**

Britta Tenghamn  
Phone: 713-953-1417  
[Houston@consulateofsweden.org](mailto:Houston@consulateofsweden.org)

#### **Dallas**

Tina Klintmalm  
Phone: 214-521-0148  
[viceconsul.dallas@gmail.com](mailto:viceconsul.dallas@gmail.com)  
[Dallas@consulateofsweden.org](mailto:Dallas@consulateofsweden.org)

## Swedish Immigration History at Williamson County Historical Museum

What did the first Swedish Texans experience when they set foot on Texas and Williamson County soil? Why did they come to Texas? What hardships did they face? How did they handle the "mild" Texas climate?

Assisted by The Texas Swedish Pioneers Association (TSPA), the Williamson County Historical Museum in Georgetown, Texas, will answer these and many more questions with its newest exhibit, *From Småland, Sweden, to Big Land Texas*. The exhibit will open in late January 2008 and will run for one year. Find more information at <http://www.wchm-tx.org>.

## News from Sweden (from Swedish Council of America's December 2007 eUPDATE)

→ **The Swedish Travel and Tourist Industry Federation** (*Rese- och Turistnäringsen i Sverige*) and public players are cooperating on a new venture. The parties have agreed to develop Sweden Door-to-Door (<http://www.doortodoor.se/>), the world's first national travel service for the general public, making Swedish tourism more accessible by ensuring that all travel can be booked through a single channel.

→ **World's largest moose to be built in northern Sweden.** When completed, the 148 foot tall, 155 foot long moose will have a restaurant in its belly, as well as a concert hall, conference rooms and a shop. Work on the \$9.4 million project is expected to be completed by the end of 2009. Until then take a virtual tour of "the King of the Forest" at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6P8Tuls-KA>.

→ **Sweden's parliament** has voted in favor of abolishing the country's wealth and property taxes in 2008 following proposals presented by the center-right government earlier this year. Read more at <http://www.thelocal.se/9438/20071218/>.



# Christmas Traditions and Luciadagen, 2007

by Nancy Webb, Lucia Co-Chair, 2007

Our annual *Luciadagen* celebration was held on Saturday, December 8, 2007, at Christ the King Lutheran Church. A beautiful and radiant Jenny Panahi, our 2007 Lucia, led the procession



Lucia 2007, Jenny Panahi, led her attendants and starboys

of attendants and starboys into the sanctuary for our Service of the Word, officiated by the Rev. Dr. Robert G. Moore, senior pastor at Christ the King. Swedish Club

President Margaret St.Clair greeted the crowd of approximately 200 and explained the origins of the Lucia legend and the significance of St. Lucia Day, December 13, in Sweden. Soloists Howard Phillips and Veronica Corell Butler sang beautiful



renditions of “*När juldagsmorgon glimmar*” and “*Gläns över sjö och strand*” in Swedish, accompanied by Sebastian Knebel on the church’s magnificent pipe organ.

The celebration then adjourned to the Parish Hall, which was beautifully decorated and arranged by Erich and Karen Wolz, Ken and Bertha Nilsson, Jay Flusche and Margaret and Dave St.Clair. Thank you, Jay and Athena Flusche, for providing and decorating a fresh evergreen



Swedish Christmas ornaments! Many thanks to Gunhild Jansson and Margaret St.Clair for making the lovely table

The Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston performed several dances.



The *jultomte* (a.k.a. Allan Clarke) handed out *julgranskarameller*.

centerpieces, which added a festive red and green touch!

Storyteller Sally Phillips entertained the children with a “show and tell” story about how Christmas is celebrated in Sweden. We all enjoyed the performance

by The Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston, accompanied by Joyce Calderon on the accordion. The children particularly enjoyed joining the dancers in several numbers, led by Howard Phillips.

Thanks to all who contributed baked goods for refreshments and the bake sale, including Bertha Nilsson, Kathy Bjork, Mary Dryselius, Veta

Johanson and Margaret St.Clair. We all enjoyed the delicious, authentic *glögg*, provided by Ingrid Llanos and Inger Turbyfill.

Carol Clarke once again did a fabulous job of organizing the kitchen and refreshment service, helped by Linda and Bill Wooten. Thanks also to our greeters,



Many items were available for purchase at the bazaar.

Laura and Charles Millikan, and our photographers, Ken Nilsson and Dave St.Clair. Also, thanks to Kelley Mauritzson Stapleton, a former Lucia,

and David Webb, who helped organize and arrange the Lucia procession.

We also held a very successful bazaar and bake sale. Thank you to the Rod Anderson family for offering so many wonderful bazaar items, and thanks to Sjerrie Colburn and Athena Flusche for



The children enjoyed hearing about Christmas in Sweden.

selling raffle tickets. Thanks also to the Calderon family for the rosemaling booth. We thank IKEA for providing a very large gift basket for the raffle.

We had a surprise guest—the Jultomte! We thank Allan Clarke for his role in facilitating this and to Diana Rodionov, Laura Millikan, and Margaret St.Clair for making the *julgranskarameller*.

Our Lucia, Jenny Panahi, will represent the Club next summer in Barkeryd, Sweden, the first



weekend in August. This will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Lucias attending the Texas-Swedish festival in Barkeryd. SAS is again providing financial assistance for Lucia's travel. We greatly appreciate their continued support.

On behalf of the Club, I want to express our grateful appreciation to all who helped make our 2007 *Luciadagen* a joyous, successful celebration and memorable event!

My special thanks to Diana Rodionov, Lucia Co-Chair and Club Secretary, for all her help in contributing to the success of every aspect of the event. Special

thanks, also, to President Margaret St.Clair, who is so dedicated to the Club and always willing to do whatever it takes to contribute to the success of our club!





## Arn – The Knight Templar

*By: Knut Gezelius*



A historical drama featuring valiant knights and love intrigues hits Swedish movie theaters this winter. With an estimated budget of \$30 million, *Arn – The Knight Templar* (*Arn – Tempelriddaren*), is the most expensive film production ever in Swedish history. The movie is based on the controversial author and journalist Jan Guillou's much celebrated crusades trilogy about the Knight Templar Arn Magnusson.

In the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Arn Magnusson, the son of a local high-ranking nobleman, grows up in a monastery at which he receives stellar academic education and becomes a skilled swordsman. At the age of 17, Arn leaves the monks and returns home. In a time when religion and social classes dictate life, relationships between the aristocracy and the common people are unthinkable. As a classic example of forbidden love, Arn soon falls in love with a beautiful girl of simple descent (Cecilia). To complicate things further, he also has a brief love encounter with her sister Katarina after a night of heavy drinking. Upon discovering this misstep, the church deports Arn to the Knight Templars in the Holy Land to do 20 years of penance. Eventually, Arn returns to Sweden to accomplish two missions . . . .

While hardly unique, the plot quickly unfolds and effectively invokes feelings of both excitement and pity. Some critics argue that the combat scenes are too conventional and grumble on the lack of details, but enthusiasts praise the magnificent scenery and the romantic story. However, the average grade from the media appears to be a B-. The Internet Movie Database shows a user rating of 6.6/10 based on 850 cast votes.

In the list of actors, Stellan Skarsgård (*Good Will Hunting*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*) stands out as the one enjoying most international recognition. Other actors worth noting are Bibi Andersson (*I Never Promised You A Rose Garden*) playing the wicked Mother Rikissa and Sven-Bertil Taube (son of legendary songwriter Evert Taube) portraying a cryptic bishop.

Most of the Nordic scenes were recorded in the province of Västergötland (Arn's place of birth), whereas the foreign scenes were shot in Morocco and Scotland. Many of the Swedish villages and battlefields mentioned in the book (movie) can be visited in real life. In fact, several of the communities in Västergötland co-financed the production, hoping it would attract more tourists to the region. After the publication of the book trilogy, the region experienced an upswing in tourism (400,000 in 2002) and soon museums, guided tours and festivals on the Arn theme sprung up. These attractions have been further refined and expanded to capitalize on the expected increase in interest generated by the movie.

The book trilogy has been divided into two parts for the film production. Tentatively, the second part will be released in fall 2008. In addition, the Swedish Film Institute also plans a 6-hr DVD/TV release (in Swedish) with extended scenes. All American fans who are unable to travel to Sweden to witness Arn's adventures will have to wait until 2009 when the two Swedish parts will be combined into one English (international) version. This delay provides an opportunity to read Guillou's three novels. In Sweden, the trilogy has been immensely popular and sold over 2.2 million copies. English translations are available online.

Sources: Reference material accessed online

**Reservation Form**  
**Pea Soup and Pancake Supper**  
**Sunday, January 27, 2008**  
**Buffalo Grille, 3116 Bissonnet, Houston 77005**  
**(Reservation must be received by Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, for dinner)**  
**Please make check payable to "Swedish Club of Houston" and**  
**mail to Diana Rodionov, 11307 Willow Field Dr., Cypress, TX 77429**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Total** = \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Application/Renewal Form**

Please make check payable to "Swedish Club of Houston" and mail with this form to:  
The Swedish Club of Houston, c/o John Stavinoha, 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, TX 77401

Annual dues: \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 family membership  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 individual membership  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 student membership

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*Mailing Address:*

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

*Contact Information:*

Home phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Work email: \_\_\_\_\_

To which email address do you want the newsletter notice sent? Home \_\_\_\_\_ or Work \_\_\_\_\_ or Both \_\_\_\_\_



# THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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

## 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 **YOUR NEWS** to [ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net) or by post to the return address below.

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Full Page	\$120.00

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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[www.swedishclub.org](http://www.swedishclub.org)

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Events Line = 713.774.2739



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