



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

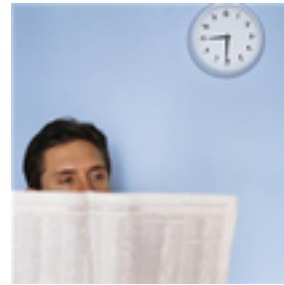
Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

Club Updates



- Wintry weather means pea soup, pancakes, and punsch! Join us during the Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 26 for good food and good company from 6:15 PM at Christ the King (2353 Rice Blvd.) Reserve your spot online by January 25th: <http://bit.ly/SCH2013> (Adults \$15/ Guests \$20 / Youth 12 and under \$5) Payment can also be sent by check to Karen Wolz. See page 2 for address.
- Sofia Talvik is again gracing us with her presence. If you missed the last concert, don't let your chance slip away! She will be at Stag's Head Pub (2128 Portsmouth St.) for a free show on January 24 at 7:30 PM. Register online: <http://bit.ly/Jan24event>

In the News



- What did Swedes read about in the online dictionary Wikipedia last year? Find out: <http://bit.ly/SweWiki12>
- A Soviet submarine wreck has been re-discovered off the Swedish coast: <http://bit.ly/SovietSub>
- Sweden is getting bigger and bigger every year. Find out why: <http://bit.ly/SweRising>
- Did you know Norway is shipping tons of trash to Sweden? Sounds like the start of a joke, but it's real. Read about it: <http://bit.ly/trashimport>

Membership Renewal

It is time again to send in yearly club dues. Thank you to everyone who has done so already. If you have not done so, there is still time. Members who have paid their dues are eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting on January 26th.

There are two ways to keep current on your dues: Online and by check.

Online: <http://bit.ly/SCHdues>

By check: (Address for both membership renewal and annual meeting payment)

The Swedish Club of Houston % Karen Wolz

4526 Waynesboro Dr.

Houston, TX 77035

Family \$35 / Individual \$25/Student & Au pair \$10

Thank you for supporting the Swedish Club of Houston!

Thank you to everyone who made our 2012 Christmas Traditions program a success! A few photos from the big day...



Evan Wood and her parents, Pam and Doug Wood



Lucia 2012

A Short History of the Semla



A semla, or semlor if more than one, is a sweet dessert bun filled with almond paste and whipped cream, and topped with powdered sugar. It is sometimes eaten with warm milk. The tasty dessert is served during Winter and especially on Fat Tuesday (aka Fettisdagen). Swedes eat about five a year. The tradition started as a way to clear the home of sweet foods before Lent. Fasting was a common observance during Lent, and getting rid of rich, sugary foods made it easier. Fasting is no longer connected to the season leading up to Easter in Sweden, but the tradition of eating semlor remains. If you are feeling adventurous, you can create your own semlor at home with this Americanized recipe: http://bit.ly/ar_semlor

Photo from Flickr user hepp

Did You Know?

If you have a Houston Public Library card, you can read daily digital editions of Swedish newspapers like Dagens Nyheter and Svenska Dagbladet for free - and from home! If you are a Texas resident, you can apply for a card.

Get a card at any Houston Public branch .

Once you have your card, go to houstonlibrary.org and click on **research**.

Click on the **Newspapers** database link.

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For complete itinerary contact: Cheri Carey
(928) 713-3299 or chericarey@msn.com
<http://www.facebook.com/touereurope>
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Historical Events *January and February*



Treaties of Nijmegen

On January 26, 1679, Sweden signed a peace treaty with the Holy Roman Empire in the Dutch city of Nijmegen. This was the beginning of several treaties Sweden would sign throughout the year to end the Scanian War, which was a part of the larger Franco-Dutch War. The Scanian War saw Sweden and Denmark battling it out in Skåne for control over land the Danes lost to Sweden in a previous skirmish. The Swedes were also battling in Northern Germany at the same time in the Northern Wars. The Scanian War ended as a stalemate. The land Denmark regained from Sweden in the war was returned to Swedish hands. In the end, there were no changes to the borders of either country. The *Te Deum*, a musical piece, was written to commemorate the end of the Franco-Dutch war. The prelude to the piece is well-known to modern European ears. It is also known as the Eurovision-tune.



Death of King Adolf Frederick

On February 12, 1771, King Adolf Frederick of Sweden passed away. He was buried twelve days later in Riddarholmen church in Stockholm. His spent much of his reign as a figurehead with little power, while the Riksdag held the real power. His rule was largely uneventful, and maybe this is why he is best remembered for the circumstances surrounding his death. On that fateful February day, King Adolf Frederick sat down to a luxurious dinner of lobster, caviar, sauerkraut and champagne. He capped off his gluttonous meal by devouring fourteen semlor. He died shortly thereafter. The following year, his son Gustav III, seized power in a coup d'etat reinstating absolute rule, which would last until World War I when the Riksdag regained power and reinstated absolute suffrage throughout the country.

Info summarized from wikipedia.org/ photo from Flickr user Per Ola Wiberg ~ powi

Study in Sweden

Studying in Sweden was free for all students prior to a 2011 change in law. The new law provides free education for Swedish citizens only, while all other nationalities are required to pay university fees. But don't let this fact keep you from pursuing your education abroad. Many universities are now offering scholarship opportunities for international students.

The *American Scandinavian Foundation (ASF)* provides grants and fellowships for both American and Scandinavian citizens: http://www.amscan.org/fellowships_grants.html

The *American Swedish Institute (ASI)* offers a scholarship to study in Sweden for both US students and scholars. <http://www.asimn.org/programs-education/scholarships>

The *American Women's Club in Stockholm* provides a travel grant from the Jessie Lokrantz Scholarship Foundation for an American (male or female) studying in Sweden. <http://awcstockholm.org/>

The *Bicentennial Swedish-American Exchange Fund* is strictly for professional enrichment. It is not open to students or anyone pursuing a work related degree. <http://www.studyinsweden.se/Scholarships/SI-scholarships/The-Bicentennial-Swedish-American-Exchange-Fund/>

The *Fullbright Program* is sponsored by the US government. The scholarships are merit-based and are divided into three categories: students, scholars, and teachers. <http://eca.state.gov/fulbright/>

The *Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS)* encourages doctoral dissertation research related to Scandinavian studies through fellowships and grants. <http://www.scandinavianstudy.org/site/>

Many universities in Sweden have their own scholarship programs for international students. <http://www.studyinsweden.se/Scholarships/University-scholarships/>

Each program has its own application deadline. A few program deadlines have passed, but several are still open. Check each website for specific due dates. For more information about studying in Sweden, visit www.studyinsweden.com



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*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

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4023 Sherwood West
Kingwood TX 77339-1037

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Club Events:

Sofia Talvik Concert
24 January 2013

Pea Soup & Pancakes
26 January 2013