Swedish Club of Houston

Second-Fourth Quarters 2020

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Swedish Club of Houston
www.swedishclub.org

God Jul & Gott Nytt

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Newsletter By:
Madelyn Mauritz Bossé
3rd Generation Swede

Club Member Dues Notice

The Board of Directors voted at its November meeting that ALL membership dues payments made in 2020 will count towards 2021 dues since almost all of our 2020 events had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

Annual General Meeting

Annual Meeting will be held January 30, 2021 at the Bethany Christian Church, 3223 Westheimer Rd, Houston at 1pm.

Annual Meeting is quite important as the club elects new and existing executive officers and board members. Also, members will need to vote on an amendment to our by-laws.

Bylaws: Since state law is clear that alternative forms of meetings (e.g. teleconferences or video conferences) are allowed only if an organization's governing documents specifically authorize them -- and our by-laws currently do not. The board is proposing the following new/amended language authorizing future electronic meetings. This will be presented at the Annual Meeting for approval.

(shown in bold, italic and underlined)

Proposed Additions to the bylaws of the Swedish Club of Houston:
ARTICLE V
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 4. Notice and Waiver of Notice. Whenever any notice whatever is required to be given under the provisions of these Bylaws, such notice ***must state the date and time of the meeting, and the location of the meeting and/or the form of communications system to be used for the meeting and the means of accessing the communications system. Notice*** shall be deemed to be sufficient if given by depositing the same in a post office box in a sealed, postage prepaid wrapper, addressed to the person entitled thereto at his post office address as it appears on the books of the Club, ~~and~~ ***or transmitted by facsimile or electronic message to a facsimile number or an electronic message address provided by the person, or to which the person consents, for the purpose of receiving notice;*** such notice shall be deemed to have been given on the day of such mailing. A waiver of notice, signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to notice.

Section 7. Alternative Forms of Meetings. The Club, the Board of Directors, or a Committee may meet by any method of communication, including electronic and telephonic, provided that each participant may hear and be heard by every other participant, each person voting at the meeting by means of remote communications is sufficiently identified, and a record is kept of any vote or other action taken.

Celebrating Our Lucias

Applications for the Swedish Club of Houston's 2021 Lucia are now being accepted. Candidates must be young women between the ages of 16 and 24, and they must be members of the Club. In addition, they must be able to attend the Swedish Christmas Traditions program, and they must also be able to represent the Club at the Texas Day celebration in Barkeryd, Sweden usually held in August. A portion of the round-trip airfare from Houston to Sweden will be provided by the club.

As ambassador of the Swedish Club of Houston, our Lucia will be in a parade and send greetings to the people of Barkeryd on behalf of the Club.

Finally, our Lucia must be able to attend the following year's Annual Meeting (usually the last Saturday in January) to give a presentation about her adventures in Sweden.

The Lucia program has provided a wonderful way to travel and learn about our Swedish ancestry and our Texas connection with Barkeryd, Sweden since 1987.

2019 Lucia Nina Fisk with attendants and Star boys.

Lucia Ambassadors

1987: Barbara Wueggertz
1988: Katheryn De Witt
1989: Emily Dryselius
1990: Deserie Gay
1991: Jennifer Olson
1992: Amy Accord
1993: Rebecca Cadwallader
1994: Betsy Philen
1995: Elizabeth Webb
1996: Veronica Llanos
1997: Kelley Mauritzson
1998: Kristin Klatt
1999: Karolina Melrose
2000: Katie Armstrong
2001: Allana Clarke
2002: Cathy St. Clair
2003: Sjerrie Colburn
2004: Frida Sellman
2005: Maren Britt Stavinoha
2006: Morgan Leigh Halvorsen
2007: Jenny Panahi
2008: Eden Shapir
2009: Athena Flusche
2010: Carrie Anderson
2011: Lauren Garde
2012: Evan Wood
2013: Sarah Garde
2014: Sarah Archer
2015: Claire Anderson
2016: Lisa Swank
2017: Dagny Carlsson
2018: Anna Meikle
2019: Nina Fisk

Celebrating Our Lucias

Friends of Lucia

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

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 at http://swedishclub.org/lucia.

Why is Barkeryd (a small parish near Nässjö in Småland) important to Texans? This small parish had half of 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:	❑ **$500** – Speaker of the Riksdag	❑ **$75** – Cabinet Minister
	❑ **$300** – Prime Minister	❑ **$50** – Governor
	❑ **$150** – Deputy Prime Minister	❑ **$30** – County Councilor
		❑ **$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**

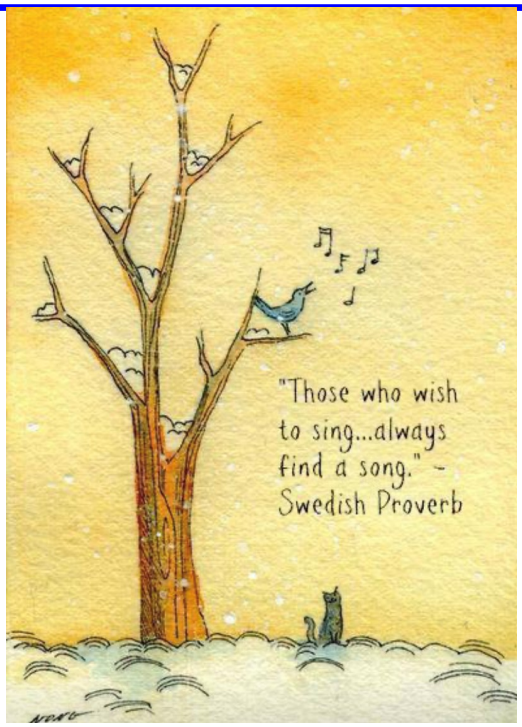
Mail to: Swedish Club of Houston, c/o Karen Wolz, 4526 Waynesboro Dr., Houston, TX 77035

Rumskulla Oak

The Rumskulla oak, also known as the Kvill oak, is an oak tree near Norra Kvill National Park in Rumskulla socken, Vimmerby, Kalmar County, Småland, Sweden. At more than 1000 years old, it is the oldest oak in Sweden and one of the largest trees in Scandinavia, and was first described in 1772.

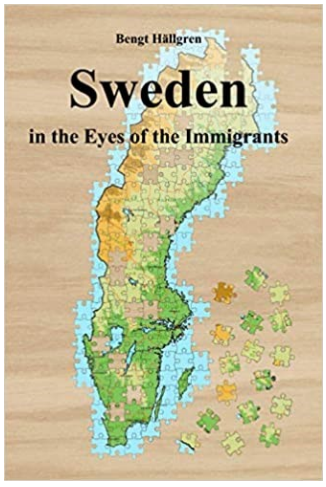
The Swedish tree is reported to have been additionally stressed by iron chains and bands that were fastened around it decades ago to hold it steady. This and its advanced age left it vulnerable to a caterpillar infestation and a fungal infection, says Jerry Svensson, manager of nature reserves at the Kalmar County administrative board. Judging by photos from recent years of the tree's sparse, denuded canopy, Garbelotto suspects that something is also going awry in the roots, which aren't absorbing enough water or nutrients. (It doesn't help that recent summers have been especially scorching by Scandinavian standards: In 2018, southern Sweden saw its highest temperatures in more than 40 years.) By the time symptoms start showing up in the branches, Garbelotto says, more than half of the roots might already be compromised. "It becomes really difficult, because you can't really do anything underground to restore the root system," Garbelotto says. According to Svensson, after convening a panel of experts from Sweden, England, and Germany in 2013, the county tried several interventions to nurse the tree back to health. They swapped the band for new wire supports, for one thing, and laid down layers of mulch to in an effort to nourish the roots.

Swedish Things...



Book:

Sweden in the Eyes of the Immigrants



By Bengt Hällgren

Based on stories provided by interviews with immigrants from 25 different countries who arrived in Sweden between 1950 and 2015. In their stories they present their backgrounds and reasons for moving to Sweden, their first surprises over their new environment and their observations of the cultural differences between Sweden and their countries of origin. All together, the chapters will give you a detailed view of modern Sweden.

The author Bengt Hällgren was born and raised in Sweden. He studied theology, languages, and later engineering. Before his retirement, he worked as an education and research coordinator at the University of Karlstad, Sweden.