

SWEDISH CLUB OF HOUSTON



Fourth Quarter 2021

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Swedish Club of Houston



www.swedishclub.org

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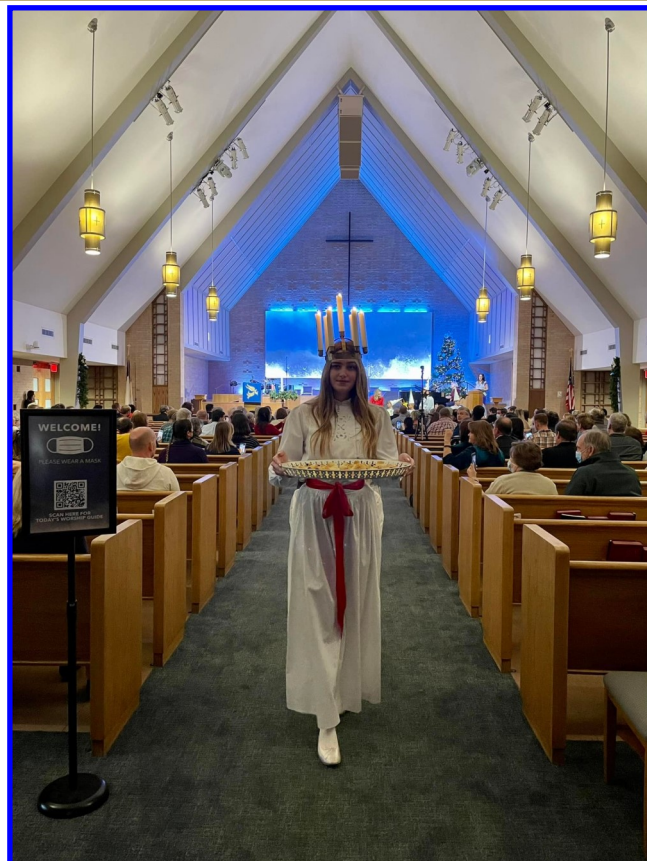
3rd Generation Swede



Club News Update

FIKA / Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 22nd, 2022 at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Members will be enjoying Semlor Buns with Swedish coffee while reviewing the previous year activities and electing board members and officers for 2022.

2021 Lucia Katarina Teahen



LUCIA TRADITION & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



Congratulations to our 2021 Lucia Katarina Teahen. It was a magical night with over 200 attendees celebrating our Swedish Traditions and Christmas held at the Bellaire United Methodist Church!!

A Special Thank You to our Sponsors, Contributors and all the helpers who made this Lucia so special!

LUCIA TRADITION & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



Thanks to the Scandinavian Dancers for their performance as our attendees got to sing Swedish songs lead by Jonas Arvidsson while dancing with the children around the Christmas tree. Karen Wolz's glögg was a huge success along with baked goods and raffle items! To conclude our evening, our beloved Tomte surprised the kids with treats.

FIRST CONVERSATION CLUB MEETING

On December 19th, one of our board members, Goran held at his home the First Conversation Club! There were 8 guests who attended with two other board members bringing delicious fikabröd.

Goran was the only native speaker with some guests having studied Swedish in different capacity, some having previously lived or studied in Sweden and one being half-Swedish raised in the US. Everyone seemed happy and requested more events. Please follow our facebook page and the Swedish Club's new Instagram page for the next Conversation Club date!

FIRST SEMLA BUNS BY BOARD MEMBER



Board member, Louis-Philippe, made his first batch of Smlor Buns!! The buns were very good, great texture and fluffy! Louis will be baking for the Annual Meeting! Before sharing his recipe, Louis wants to experiment with the filling!

SWEDISH BILLIONAIRE BUYS AMAZON ACRES



Johan Eliasch (born February 1962) is a Swedish billionaire. He has been the president of the International Ski Federation (FIS) since June 2021. He was the chief executive of Head, a sporting goods company, from 1995 to 2021, and is now its chairman. He is the former Special Representative of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

In 2005, Johan Eliasch purchased a plant owned by logging company Gethal Amazonas, and acquired titles to Amazon rainforest acreage. He owns an estimated 400,000 acres in the Amazon, claiming that his goal is environmental conservation. Rainforest conservation has played a big role in the fight against climate change. Both the Wall Street Journal and The Guardian confirmed the story. In an interview with The Guardian, Eliasch admitted to closing the plant down and laying off around 1,000 people. Sadly, there are around eight million people in the Amazon of which 7.999 million are poor. Former workers at the plant have struggled to find new jobs, though Eliasch said he gave them generous severance packages. Brazilians criticized the sale, with one op-ed written by a number of ministers stating, "The Amazon is not for sale."

When asked by The Wall Street Journal in 2007, Eliasch did not reveal the price of the purchase. The Guardian reported that the rumored price was around £8 million which amounts to around \$11 million today.

Eliasch estimated that his land purchases preserved around 80 million tons of carbon dioxide, the amount that would be released if those same lands were forested and burned.

CELEBRATING OUR LUCIAS

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:	☐ \$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: _____

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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

The Club received the news about one of our founding member, Gunhild Jansson passed away before pandemic at age 97 in Sweden on February 3, 2020.

Follow the Swedish Club of Houston on our facebook page and NOW our new Instagram Page!