



Swedish Center News

Issue No. 494

April 2007

Our Mission

To promote better understanding between the United States and the Nordic countries, with emphasis on Sweden, and to perpetuate Nordic culture and traditions through the teaching, observance, practice and celebration of this culture and its traditions.

The SCC Calendar:

Looking for the monthly calendar of events? Check out the calendar found on the back page of the newsletter.

Each month we'll tell you who is meeting when, as well as bring to your attention special events.

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, April 1, 2007
8:00 am - 1:30 pm

**LIVE SCANDINAVIAN
FOLK MUSIC**

*Speldosan, Folk Voice Band,
NW Pelimannit*

Adults \$7.00
Children 5-12 \$4.00
Children under 4 free

Recognition Dinner & Tribute for the Founders of Swedish Hospital Saturday, April 21

The Swedish Cultural Center is pleased to honor the founders of Swedish Hospital, and their descendants, with a special Recognition Dinner and Tribute on Saturday evening, April 21.

In 1908 a courageous group of 11 visionaries founded Swedish Hospital. Eight in this group were also presidents of *Svenska Klubben* (or the Swedish Club, which is now the Swedish Cultural Center). These giants in Seattle's early Swedish history include: Nils A. Johanson, M.D.; Andrew Chilberg; P. A. Hallberg; J. A. Soderberg; John Kalberg; Godfrey Chealander; N. J. Nyquist; Emil Lovegren; Israel Nelson; Gustaf Axel Edelsvard and H. E. Turner.

Swedish immigrants participated in the young and growing city of Seattle in many ways, but one of the greatest marks belongs to these pioneers who set a high standard for Seattle's health care 100 years ago.

This gala event starts at 6 p.m. and will feature a lavish, traditional Swedish dinner catered by *Kaspar's* and include music by Swedish opera singer Marie Birve and pianist Lisa Bergman.

In addition, a number of prominent guests will attend and speak at this once-in-a-century event, including: the Swedish Consul General from Los Angeles, Tomas Rosander; outgoing Executive Director of the Nordic Heritage Museum, Marianne Forssblad (one of her last official tasks before retiring to Sweden); Swedish Medical Center Trustee, Ned Turner (whose grandfather H. E. Turner was a hospital founder) and the new CEO of Swedish Medical Center, Rodney Hochman, M.D. Co-chairs for the event are former SCC Board President Bert Lundh and Board member Susan Ramstead.

The Recognition Dinner and Tribute will be \$100 per person. Space is limited, so **please respond by April 13**. For more information or to make your reservations, please contact the Swedish Cultural Center at 206-283-1090.



SWEDISH

Swedish Cultural Center

1920 Dexter Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98109

206-283-1090 Telephone
206-283-2970 FAX

e-mail:swedishcc@gmail.com
www.swedishculturalcenter.org

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Monday and Saturday by appointment

Board of Directors

President	Brandon Benson
VP/Properties	Karl Larsson
Secretary	Kristine Leander
Treasurer	Don Wahlquist
Directors	Anna Anderson
	Jeremy Holt
	Eileen Little
	Randy Nelson
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Swedish Center News

Editor Jeff Christensen

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Deadline for material for the next issue is the date of the next dinner meeting (see calendar). Bring in or fax (206-283-2970) typewritten articles to the Swedish Center Office.

President's message

In last month's President's Message, I wrote about the Swedish Cultural Center's Auction held on the 10th of February. My best estimate, from discussing with R. W. Clay the expenses and money received at the auction, is that the Swedish Cultural Center raised approximately \$15,000 at the auction. I appreciate the hard work of the Auction Committee and the support of the Swedish Cultural Center members. The members contributed over 150 items for the auction, and made generous bids for the items at the event.



Last month's *Swedish Center News* included an article about the Strategic Planning Committee. SCC Secretary Kristine Leander is leading this committee. The members of the Strategic Planning Committee and the Board of Directors have identified programs that need to be supported at the Cultural Center. Several committees have been identified and are now being populated. Karl Larsson and Tim Andersen lead the Building Committee; Anna Anderson leads the Exhibits and Decorations Committee; Eileen Little leads the Education/Library/Scholarship Committee; Kristine Leander leads the Marketing/Membership/Public Relations Committee; Paul Norlen leads the Programs/Events/Travel Committee; Don Wahlquist leads the Commercial Committee. Two committees, Fundraising and Personnel/Volunteers, are the responsibility of the Executive Committee until leaders are found for each. The Strategic Planning Committee recognizes that there are many Swedish Cultural Center members who could contribute as members of these committees. Please contact Executive Director R. W. Clay at 206.283.1090 if you are interested in volunteering to serve on one of these eight committees.

Brandon Benson
President

Nordic Exchange April 7

Dear members, once again it is our turn to host the annual Nordic Exchange. On Saturday, April 7, the Swedish Cultural Center will welcome members of several Nordic organizations (not just our counterparts at the Sons of Norway) are being invited to this special once-a-year gathering.

The doors of the Stockholm Hall will open at 5:00 p.m. with a no-host bar offering Happy Hour prices. A buffet featuring a Swedish Meatball dinner with all the trimmings will follow at 6:00 p.m. Dancing to the music of the Pickled Herring Band begins at 7:00 p.m. and concludes by 10:00 p.m.

The cost for the entire evening is a mere \$12.00 if you reserve in advance - simply call in your reservation and then send your check to the Center by April 4, 2007. Reservations made after April 4 will be \$15.00 (and reservations are a must! This should be a very festive event, so pick up your phone and dial 283-1090 NOW!

Director's notes

By the time you get to read this, spring will officially be here; I'm looking forward to the warmer and longer days.

Don't forget this month's membership meeting is the election of Officers and Directors. The by-laws require a quorum of 50 members for this to take place, so please make a reservation for Wednesday, April 11 — the Membership Dinner & Election Meeting.

I have mentioned before that we could save the Center some money if those of you interested were to receive the newsletter by e-mail; unfortunately for one reason or another that never came together as planned. This also holds true for our web site: it never seems to reach the desired level. Well I'm happy to say there is web site work in progress that will hopefully solve these problems.

Another reminder that the Nordic Exchange will be held on Saturday April 7, here at the Center. Doors open at 5:00 pm — come on out and have fun while supporting your organization. Two years ago, we celebrated the Svea Male Chorus' 100th Anniversary. Now, it is time to pay tribute to the founders of Swedish Hospital, which will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2008. This honorarium dinner for the founders will take place here at the Center on the 21st of this month, giving you another opportunity to visit your Center. We are also planning a Garage Sale for next month: check out the article in this issue.

Through the Travel Club, many of you have been provided wonderful travel experiences. Right now, the Travel Club needs rejuvenation — anyone interested in joining the rejuvenating committee is invited to please call me ASAP, as we need to start planning. Perhaps all this means a trip to Sweden in September — what do you think?

The Happy Hour schedule is still the same: the first and third Fridays from 5:00-7:00 pm. I must say, the crowds have been good at these events. Thanks to Bob Carter for sharing his piano styles with us from time to time at these fun events. We never know who is going to drop in and entertain us, so make plans to attend — it's fun!

Next month, on May 3, we will be hosting a book signing for 4 Swedish authors. This should be another fun event — see that article in this issue.

Last month's Pancake Breakfast was a busy one, with attendance somewhere in the 1,000+ customer neighborhood. My thanks to all the volunteers, as well as to all of the customers! We always need volunteers, so if you can — help your organization — please call the Office (even if you can only spare a few hours, every little bit helps!). Let's take the burden off the same people that are volunteering over and over again.

If you are curious about ways you can help at the Center well:

- Volunteer your time.
- Donate money or stock.
- Make a planned gift through your will.

For more information about our groups and activities or to donate items or volunteer your time, call us at (206) 283 1078.

That's it for now. I hope to see you in the Center this month.

R.W.

Membership Dinner



WEDNESDAY,
April 11, 2007

Social 6:00 pm
Dinner 6:30 pm
Cost: \$15.00

PROGRAM:

Katherine McDermott will show slides from her travels in Iraqi Kurdistan, and tell about her encounters with Swedish-speaking Kurds"

DINNER MENU:

Celery Salad
Sellerisallad

Caraway Pork Chops
and apples
*Kumminkryddade
Lammkotletter
med äpplen*

Potato Cakes
Potatiskakor

Sauteed Red Cabbage
with lingonberries
*Sauterad Rödkål
med lingonsylt*

Flaming bananas
with Rum sauce
*Flamberade bananer
med Romsås*

For reservations, please call:
206-283-1090

Calling all Swedes!

The Leif Erikson project to honor Scandinavian immigration is looking for names of immigrants from Sweden.

There are still spaces for additional names at the new plaza at Shilshole Bay Marina in Seattle. If you'd like to honor a family member from Scandinavia, you're invited to donate \$125 for each immigrant's name to be engraved on plaques at the base of the Leif Erikson statue. Call 206-778-1081 or visit www.leiferikson.org for more information.

It's Always a Good Time to Learn Swedish

Another session of Swedish language classes starts up the week of April 2. There's still time to learn some of the basics, or brush up on your vocabulary, before that summer trip to Sweden.

Class sizes are small, and usually meet on weekday evenings. Instructors are Randy Nelson and Anna Anderson. The cost for the nine-week session is \$95 plus materials.

For more information, please contact Randy Nelson at 206-768-6405, 206-937-0441 or by email at rnelson900@aol.com.

SCC Film Series Features Finland April 1

On Sunday, April 1, the Swedish Cultural Center Film Series will feature "Mother of Mine", a 2005 film set in World War II-era Sweden and Finland. Directed by Klaus Härö, the film is based on a novel by Heikki Hietamies.

"Mother of Mine" — whose title in Swedish is "Den bästa av mödrar" and in Finnish is "Äideistä parhain" — tells the story of nine-year-old Eero. The boy is one of more than 70,000 Finnish citizens evacuated from their war-torn country to neutral Sweden during the Second World War. While Eero feels more and more abandoned by his biological Finnish mother, he is not yet attached to his Swedish surrogate mom. When he is returned to Finland, his confusion only intensifies.

The film will be shown at 1:00 p.m. in Swedish and Finnish with English subtitles.

The suggested donation is \$5, and refreshments will be served. Contact Randy Nelson at 206-768-6405 for more information.

Each month, the SCC Film Series is pleased to spotlight the cinematic accomplishments of current and past Nordic (especially Swedish) filmmakers.

Apartments Starting at \$1395



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Great Retirement.**

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Just 4 blocks from the Swedish Club!

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Learn About Scandinavian Culture at SSCC

If you're interested in learning more about Scandinavian culture from the Viking Age to the present day, a course called "Introduction to Scandinavian Culture" will be offered at South Seattle Community College spring quarter (April 2 - June 15, 2007).

The course will be team-taught by SCC member Randy Nelson (MA in Scandinavian Languages & Literature from the University of Washington) and Esther Sunde (graduate student in Scandinavian Studies at the UW).

Please note that Washington state residents age 60 and older can take community college courses for \$5.

For more information, contact Randy via telephone at 206-768-6405 or by sending email to rnelson@sccd.ctc.edu. You may also contact Esther at 206-768-6663 or by emailing esunde@sccd.ctc.edu.

Join the Svea Male Chorus!

Anyone who has an interest in singing or in Scandinavian heritage (or both) is invited to join the Svea Male Chorus. You don't need to read music if you can carry a tune, and you don't need to speak Swedish. We will help you with both the music and the language.

We are now rehearsing on Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Swedish Cultural Center. This avoids the problems of night driving, commuter traffic and conflicts with the dinner hour.

If you are at all interested, please give us a call and talk with us. You are invited to join us for a rehearsal as well. Contact Jim Erickson at 206-546-1364 or Charlie Anderson at 206-909-8723, email us at Sveachorus@earthlink.net or leave us a note at the Center. We would love to hear from you.

Finnish Folkdance at the Center, April 14

On Saturday, April 14, the Swedish Cultural Center will host an evening of Finnish folkdance from 8:00 to 11:00 PM.

Come dance to live music by Northwest Pelimannit. NW Pelimannit plays lots of old time-y Waltzes, Schottisches, Polkas, Mazurkas and One Steps, though they call them Valsi, Jenkka, Polkka, Masurka and Humppa. The band includes the only musician ever honored by one of Finland's leading folk music magazines as the musician of the month, who was neither of Finnish descent nor residence.

Cost for this evening of dance is \$9.00. A special lesson, "The Waltz", will be offered 7:30 to 8:00 PM, just prior to the evening's main dancing. For more info: pat@folkdancing.com.



CROWN ROOM

food service by
As You Like It Catering

Eric DuBois, Owner

Visit the Crown Room Lounge

HAPPY HOURS

Held the first and third Friday
of each month
5:00 and 7:00 pm

Come join your friends
for discount drinks, snacks,
games and more.

Happy Hour dates for this month:

April 6
April 20

SCANDINAVIAN HOUR



KKNW 1150 AM

Hosts Ron Olson & Doug Warne

Saturday mornings
9:00-10:00 a.m.

**Music & other
programming from
the homeland**

News about, or in the interest of, our members...

The Swedish Cultural Center announces

New Members

Debbie Pettersson and Karl Feret, Martin and Diana Ng, Patricia and Landis Smaaladen.

Deceased

Astrid Carlson, Louise Larson.

Memorials

None reported.

Donations

Carolyn and Robert Purser, Frank Spalding, James and Anna Suttle, Ted and Catherine Williams

Auction Donors

Paul and Barbara Heneghan.

We continue to receive donations following our recent Auction. Thank you so much for your support!

Moving or changing address?

Want to let us know about a recent or upcoming move or change of address? Simply send your address changes or corrections to: Swedish Cultural Center, Attn: Address Change, 1920 Dexter Ave N, Seattle, WA, 98119.

Academy Award Nominee Is April "Film From Finland"

In 2006, Finland's entry became one of the five nominees for Best Foreign Film. While *Äideistä parhain* (Mother of Mine) did not win the Oscar, it won legions of fans in the United States and elsewhere. It is the April 25 selection in the "Films from Finland" series at the Swedish Cultural Center.

While the story of the 70,000 "war children" who left Finland during its Winter and Continuation Wars is not well known internationally, it obviously resonates with audiences everywhere as they follow one homesick Finnish boy as he joins a Swedish family, the mother of whom is reluctant to accept him. For her powerful portrayal of the Swedish mother, Maria Lundqvist, won a Jussi – the Finnish equivalent of the Oscar, but all the performances in the film are strong, as are the excellent production values. Set design, costumes, and cinematography all successfully recreate the period, while the musical score makes its own significant contribution.

Like other fourth Wednesday films in this series, "Mother of Mine" begins as 7:30 PM. It is 104 minutes in length and is suitable for adults and teens. In Finnish and Swedish, the movie has English subtitles. A \$5.00 suggested donation is accepted at the door.

"Films from Finland" is sponsored by Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter, with the cooperation of the SCC. For a complete schedule of films in the series, contact FFSC@finns.org.

Leading Swedish Crime Writers to Visit SCC May 3

If you like to read mysteries or crime fiction, you may have noticed that the work of more and more Nordic authors in this genre is being published in English. On Thursday, May 3, Swedish Cultural Center will host an appearance by not just one, but four of Sweden's leading crime writers.

The four writers – Håkan Nesser, Helene Turstén, Kjell Eriksson, and Inger Frimansson – will be on a North American tour that includes New York, Toronto, Los Angeles and San Francisco, and which concludes right here in Seattle, at the SCC. Each of the four authors has a new book appearing in English translation this spring. (The first book by Inger Frimansson to be published in English, *Goodnight My Darling*, has been translated by SCC member Laura Wideburg.)

At this free event (which starts at 7:00 p.m.), the authors will discuss their books and be available to sign copies. Seattle Mystery Bookshop will make the authors' books available for purchase, and several other Swedish organizations – SWEA, Swedish Cultural Society (*Svenska Kulturförbundet*), the Swedish Program at the University of Washington, and STiNA (Swedish Translators in North America) – will provide refreshments for the occasion.

Mark your calendars now for this very interesting evening!

Hemlandsnytt

News from the homeland

A column of current Swedish news topics, taken from Swedish news media. They do not reflect the opinions of the Swedish Cultural Center.

Fuel: Volvo and Saab are skeptical when it comes to methanol as an alternative automobile fuel. Methanol is poisonous, dangerous to handle and gives shorter driving distance per gallon of fuel. The car makers are now focusing solely on Ethanol, which is a more eco-friendly than Methanol.

Smart lights: Göteborg is converting to more intelligent street lights which – depending on the different seasons, weather and traffic situations – will be operated automatically, using sensors and network techniques.

Grants: Swedish researchers will receive SEK 20 million (about \$ 3 million) from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to be used to find a vaccine against HIV. The Gates Foundation currently gives money to 16 worldwide vaccine projects for a total of \$ 300 mil. The Swedish recipients are Rigmor Thorstensson, docent of immunology, and Gunnel Biberfeld, Professor Emeritus in clinical immunology.

Champeen of the World: The Swede's scored their biggest victory ever for a Swedish male golfer, as Henrik Stenson won the World Golf Championship in Arizona, recently. Stenson played the final against the title holder Geoff Ogilvy of Australia, winning the match on the 35th hole.

Longevity: A study by the EU Commission shows that Swedish men live, on average, longer than their European brothers. They also are able to work longer, age-wise. Sweden is the country where men have the longest expected average length of life, about 78 years, compared to Latvia's and Lithuania's 65-66 years.

Vacation spots: During 2006, the most popular place for Swedes to visit was the Canary Islands, according to the Swedish CAA. The most popular cities outside of Europe were New York, with 122,429 visitors, and Bangkok, with 76,538 visitors.

More studies: According to a British-American study, Swedes are the people in Europe who feel best, thanks to low blood pressure. Sweden ended up highest ranked on the list measuring so-called "blood pressure-related well being", followed by Denmark and England. A total of 15,000 randomly selected people from 15 west and central European countries were asked questions regarding lifestyle, quality of life, mental health and blood pressure levels. This study will soon be published by The National Bureau of Economic Research, USA.

Submitted by,
Gunnar Wallin

Vännerna



NEXT MEETING

Vännerna Business and
Sewing Meeting

Tuesday,
April 3, 2007
10:00 a.m.

COMING EVENTS

Vännerna Business and
Sewing Meeting
Tuesday, May 1, 2007
10:00 a.m.

Vännerna is open to
both men and women

The purpose of Vännerna
is to promote fellowship
among members of the
Swedish Cultural Center.

We also seek to provide
a format of varied programs
encouraging discussions
and sharing of ideas and
work with and support the
Center through service and
financial support.

Swedish Center Calendar - April 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 Pancake Breakfast SCC Film Series
2	3 Swedish Women's Chorus Rehearsal	4 SCC Board Meeting	5 Svea Male Chorus Rehearsal	6 Happy Hour, Crown Room Lounge 5:00-7:00 pm	7 Nordic Exchange	8
9	10 Swedish Women's Chorus Rehearsal	11 SCC Membership Dinner Meeting	12 Svea Male Chorus Rehearsal	13	14	15 AYLI Sunday Brunch, 3 Crowns Dining Room
16	17 Swedish Women's Chorus Rehearsal	18	19 Svea Male Chorus Rehearsal	20 Happy Hour, Crown Room Lounge 5:00-7:00 pm	21 Honorarium Dinner for Swedish Hospital Founders	22
23	24 Swedish Women's Chorus Rehearsal	25 Finnish Film Series	26 Svea Male Chorus Rehearsal	27	28	29
30						

Swedish Center Calendar - May 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 Vännerna Meeting Swedish Women's Chorus Rehearsal	2 SCC Board Meeting	3 Svea Male Chorus Rehearsal	4 Happy Hour, Crown Room Lounge 5:00-7:00 pm	5	6 Pancake Breakfast SCC Film Series
7	8 Swedish Women's Chorus Rehearsal	9	10 Arts & Craft Club Meeting Svea Male Chorus Rehearsal	11	12 Swedish Women's Chorus & Svea Male Chorus Concert (tentative)	13 AYLI Sunday Brunch, 3 Crowns Dining Room
14	15 Swedish Women's Chorus Rehearsal	16	17 Svea Male Chorus Rehearsal 17 Mai Dinner (tentative)	18 Happy Hour, Crown Room Lounge 5:00-7:00 pm	19 SCC Garage Sale	20 AYLI Sunday Brunch, 3 Crowns Dining Room
21	22 Swedish Women's Chorus Rehearsal	23 Finnish Film Series	24 Svea Male Chorus Rehearsal	25	26	27 AYLI Sunday Brunch, 3 Crowns Dining Room
28	29	30 SCC Board Meeting	31 Svea Male Chorus Rehearsal			