



# Swedish Center News

Issue No. 498

August 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.*

**SAVE THE DATE  
FEBRUARY 9, 2008**



**SWEDISH CULTURAL  
CENTER AUCTION**

## Pancake Breakfast

There will be no  
Pancake Breakfast  
in August

Look for a return  
of this monthly  
event on Sunday,  
September 9, 2007.

## Old-Time Swedish Vaudeville Act Visits Seattle

On Thursday, September 6, the "Olle i Skratthult" ensemble, a troupe of performers from Värmland, Sweden, will appear at the Swedish Cultural Center, recreating a form of music and comedy popular with Swedes and Swedish-Americans over a century ago.

The group hails from the Värmland's Munkfors area, which is the birthplace of two famous Swedish comedians: the actor Fridolf Rhudin and the vaudeville performer Hjalmar Peterson, who performed under the stage name "Olle i Skratthult" and toured the U.S. with his ensemble, "Skratthult's Luffarkapell." Peterson sold thousands of 78 RPM recordings of hits such as "Nicolina" and "Barndomshemmet" (The Childhood Home).



The show follows the life and career of Hjalmar Peterson from his birth in Munkfors to his death in Minneapolis, in 1960. Along the way, the audience will be treated to his songs and special brand of comedy.

The "Olle i Skratthult" ensemble includes Ove "Clapson" Carlsson, who portrays Peterson; Carina Ekman, an actor and director with a long stage and film career and musicians Peter Ingmarsson (bass), Robert Lunde (accordion), and Peter de Maré (fiddle). The performers have all been involved in annual productions of the classic Swedish play *Värmlänningarna*.

This is a unique opportunity to be entertained the way they did it a century ago. The show starts at 7:00 p.m. A free-will donation is requested to help cover expenses involved with the production.

## 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.

### Board of Directors

President	Brandon Benson
Vice President	Karl Larsson
Secretary	Kristine Leander
Treasurer	Don Wahlquist
VP/Properties	Paul Norlen
Directors	Tim Andersen
	Bob Blair
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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

The past few months have seen several transitions in the local Scandinavian community.

This past spring, Marianne Forssblad—a friend of the Swedish Cultural Center, strong supporter of this area's Nordic interests and longtime leader of the Nordic Heritage Museum—retired as director of the museum. Marianne has been the Nordic Heritage Museum's only executive director so far, since it opened in 1979 in the former Daniel Webster Elementary School in Ballard. Marianne guided the collection of artifacts and renovation of the building into a lively center of Nordic culture. A major expansion in 1985 gave the "Dream of America" exhibit a permanent home at the Museum.



In 1992 Marianne oversaw another major project, resulting in five galleries on the top floor, each featuring immigrants from a different Nordic country. Her most recent achievement has been leading the effort to purchase property on Market Street for a new museum building. Marianne has always been supportive of the Swedish Cultural Center, just as she has actively promoted the interests, and cooperation, of the Nordic community as a whole. We wish Marianne the best of luck with her future endeavors and thank her for all she has done for this area's Nordic community and for the Center.

On a sadder note, I regret to also report the passing of the president of the Leif Erikson Lodge of the Sons of Norway. Every year, the Swedish Cultural Center has a reciprocal social event with the Ballard lodge, and we send our condolences on the loss of their president, Wes Foss. A strong supporter of numerous Scandinavian organizations, Wes passed away on July 9. He practiced law with the firm Perkins Coie and generously offered legal help to local organizations such as the Scandinavian Language Institute and Leif Erikson International Foundation. He also served on boards of the Nordic Heritage Museum and the Norse Home in addition to his presidency of the Sons of Norway. His gifts will be missed.

Regardless of transitions in the community, your Swedish Cultural Center remains strong and the membership outlook is good. I look forward to seeing everyone at the general membership meeting and dinner on August 8.

Brandon Benson  
President

*Editor's note: The Sons of Norway have announced tentative arrangements for a celebration of the life of Wes Foss. The gathering is planned for Sunday, August 26, at Leif Erikson Hall, which is located at 2245 NW 57th Street, Seattle WA 98107. Please contact the Sons of Norway, Leif Erikson Lodge, for more details.*

## Director's notes

First, I want to apologize for omitting some of our fine volunteers from last month's article. It was an embarrassing oversight on my part. It is not too late to let me know if you didn't make the list. Now let me thank the following for their fine volunteer work here at the Center: Brenda Bard, Gary Folkestad, Bengt Hag, Barbara and Paul Heneghan.

I'm sorry if you missed the 4<sup>th</sup> of July here at the Center, it truly was a big bang and I think a good time was had by all; those fireworks seem to get better every year.

The decrease in traffic in August here at the Center gives us a good opportunity to tidy up the building and grounds. I'm officially accepting volunteers: operators are standing by and the first five callers get a pair of gloves! Just call (206) 283-1090 to volunteer and to have fun in the sun in August at the Center. I hope you are all enjoying the summer weather – that's it for now. I hope to see you in the Center soon.

R.W.

## SWC & SVEA chorus dinner Saturday, October 13

The Swedish Women's Chorus (SWC) and Svea Male Chorus are planning an evening of dinner and entertainment in October. The event will include a social hour, a delicious dinner, lots of fun and, of course, singing. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. for socializing, while dinner and entertainment will begin at 6:00 p.m. SWC and Svea are rich in Swedish song tradition and we would love to have you join us. Mark the date: October 13!

## SACC Crayfish Dinner & Dance September 7

The Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce (SACC) will host a crayfish dinner (*kräftskiva*) on Friday, September 7, at the Swedish Cultural Center. The event, which is being co-sponsored by the Swedish Cultural Center, starts at 6:30 p.m. and includes: a silent auction to benefit SACC; dinner and music for dancing (see flyer included in this month's newsletter).

Advance reservations are required. Please send your reservation by August 28 to: Swedish American Chamber of Commerce (SACC), 520 Pike Street, Suite 2200, Seattle, WA 98101. Tickets purchased by August 28 are \$45 for SACC and SCC members (\$50 for non-members) and \$30 for students (over the age of 21). Tickets purchased after that date will be \$60 and subject to availability.

Make your reservations now. This should be a great way to celebrate the final days of summer!

## Membership Dinner



WEDNESDAY,  
August 8, 2007

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

### PROGRAM:

Music by  
Folk Voice Band

### DINNER MENU:

Carrot Bisque  
*Morotsbisque*

Braised Lamb  
*Bresärad lamm*

Rosemary Potato cakes  
*Rosemarinkryddade  
potatiskakor*

Braised Red cabbage  
with lingonberry  
*Bräserad rödkål  
med lingon*

Dessert:  
Lingonberry parfait cake  
*Parfaitkaka med lingon*

For reservations, please call:  
**206-283-1090**

## FIUTS Seeks Hosts for UW International Students

Do you have space and time for a new friend? FIUTS is actively recruiting volunteer homestay hosts for this fall! We are expecting more than 800 international students from over 150 countries to join the University of Washington this fall, and many of them would love an opportunity to learn about American culture from a welcoming host family. There are many opportunities to get involved – if you can't join us this year, please pass this on to anyone you think might be interested.

Hosting opportunities include the Welcome Week Program, Weekend Hospitality Program, and Friendship Connection Program. To receive more information, please call (206) 616-7025 or e-mail [homestay@fiuts.org](mailto:homestay@fiuts.org).

## Hold your next event at the Swedish Center

Did you know that the Swedish Cultural Center and the services of its host caterer, As You Like It Catering, are available for hire for your special events? Contact the Center Office at 206-283-1090 for more information.

## Volunteer Opportunities Abound

There are many ways to get involved with *your* Swedish Cultural Center. Here are a few:

**Maintenance projects:** Especially in the month of August, there's a need for occasional help with clean-up and fix-up around the Center. Call R.W. Clay at (206) 283-1090 if you'd like to lend a hand.

**Event photographer(s):** Have a digital camera and like to shoot pictures? Come to SCC events and take photos! We have an ongoing need for pictures of what's going on at the Center, for use in the newsletter and on the website, and just to put it in the "scrapbook." Check the newsletter to see what's happening, and call the Center to let us know you'll be there.

**Committees:** There are many opportunities to work with board members and fellow SCC members on various committees. This would be a great way to get more involved with the Center and get to know other members. For more information about committees, contact any Board member

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## Finland Summer Festival 2007, August 25

On Saturday, August 25, the Finnish-American Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with a handful of other local Finnish organizations will co-host "Finland Summer Festival 2007". This one day event will feature musical performances, dancing, games and children's activities, as well as fine Finnish foods and delicacies.

Held between 10:00 am and 10:00 pm at the Vasa Park Ballroom and Playfield (3560 West Lake Sammamish Road SE, Bellevue), admission to the event is free. Along with vocal and instrumental musical performances, including a sing-along, expect several traditional and not-so-traditional activities, such as: MÖlkky, a wife carrying competition and a cell phone toss.

For more information about the festival, call 425-455-5969 or email [enormw@aol.com](mailto:enormw@aol.com).

## Nordic Heritage Museum opens Phillip Jacobson exhibit, August 10

Throughout his career as an architect and educator, Phillip Jacobson has continually engaged in another realm of design with his furniture, lighting fixtures, jewelry, and home accessories. On Friday, August 10, the Nordic Heritage Museum opens "Elegant Explorations: The Designs of Phillip Jacobson", a new exhibit featuring just some of the work produced by this prolific designer.

The exhibition, which runs through September 23, also marks the launch of a new book about Jacobson — also called "Elegant Explorations" — written by Grant Hildebrand.

Jacobson designed both for commercial production, as well as for friends and family. The "other" realm described in Hildebrand's book, is evidenced by Jacobson's use of timeless Structural and formal concepts.

Also on display at the museum at the same time are the photographic works of Bengt Nilsson & Johan Wedenström, two Swedish photographers working in two different fields of photography. Nilsson is a photojournalist for a Swedish local newspaper and Wedenström works mostly with advertising photography. Their differences come together in their images, where both utilize the human form to highlight the beauty in everything around us. The black and white photography is an important pictorial vehicle that moves the subject matter sharply to the foreground.

The Nordic Heritage Museum is located at 3014 NW 67th Street in Ballard. For more information about the exhibit, including exhibit hours, please call 206-789-5707.



### 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:**

August 3  
August 17

### 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

Garrett Benson, Thea Nyberg and Jeremy Burris, Stina Hultin, Amanda Larsson, Kirk Petersen, Virginia and Joe Phelan, Marian Proctor, Mark Safstrom, Per-Olof (Peter) Gunnar Smedberg and Eila (Smedberg) Akrel

### Deceased

Richard Anderson

### Memorials

Jack and Eleanor Cattin in memory of Bertha Mensch

### Donations

Brandon Benson

*Want to report a death, make a donation or help someone become a new member?*

*Contact RW Clay at the Center office at 206-283-1090.*

## 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.

## Spelmanslag music director retires, but group looks to future

Members of Seattle Skandia Spelmanslag publicly expressed their appreciation to Kris Johansson who just retired from his role of Music Director of the group. A recent statement issued by the group summed up their feelings: "Kris, thanks for your dedicated leadership, your easy smile, and your beautiful music!"



*Kris Johansson*

The Seattle Skandia Spelmanslag practices most Sunday evenings from September through June at the Swedish Cultural Center.

Anyone who shares the group's interest in playing traditional Scandinavian folkdance music is welcome to join. Fiddlers are in the majority, but players of other traditional, non-electronic instruments, such as guitar, accordion, bass, recorder and flute, are welcome. Spelmanslag members are asked to join the SCC.

A spelman in Swedish is a folk musician. Spelmanslag translates as "folk musicians team."

SCC Pancake Breakfast attendees have probably heard the Spelmanslag, which performs several times a year at the breakfasts and other SCC events.

The Spelmanslag takes a break during the summer months. Weekly playing sessions will resume on Sunday, September 9, 2007 under the leadership of Anna Abraham, daughter of members Dale and Karin Abraham, and granddaughter of member June Anderson Evanoff.

More information is available on the Spelmanslag's web site, [www.skandia-folkdance.org/spelmanslag](http://www.skandia-folkdance.org/spelmanslag). Inquiries may be directed to [a\\_lovisa@hotmail.com](mailto:a_lovisa@hotmail.com) or (206) 527-2982.

*Editor's note: A complete list of the performers scheduled for future Pancake Breakfast events will be published in a coming issue of Swedish Center News.*

## Extra Room for Performers?

The "Olle i Skratthult" ensemble, performing at the Swedish Cultural Center on Thursday, September 6, will actually be in Seattle from Wednesday, September 5 through Sunday, September 8. The group will also perform at the Nordic Heritage Museum and Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma before continuing on to San Francisco.

Three members of the group need a place to stay while they are in Seattle (a board member has already volunteered to put up two members of the group). If you have a guest room or can otherwise house a member or two of the group, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact the Center office at (206) 283-1090 or telephone board member Paul Norlen at (206) 784-2642 if you can help. *Tack!*

# 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.*

**Export:** The Danes would like to have moose exported from Sweden, according to Danish nature conservationists. Moose seems to be a popular Swedish export commodity recently, as a moose farm in Jämtland has been commissioned to return the “king of the forest” to Scotland. Moose in desolate areas in Denmark would become a rich experience for the Danes according to the Danish society for the preservation of the wildlife.

**Deep down:** A private search party has found a Russian submarine at 136 meters (446 feet) depth in Swedish territorial waters. The sub was sunk on November 5, 1942, in a spectacular sea battle with a Finnish submarine.

**Shrink:** Soon the computer will replace therapists. Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) via the internet really works according to a report, and this treatment will begin in Stockholm this fall. Sweden will thus be the first country in the world to provide CBT via the internet as routine healthcare treatment.

**New dad:** Tiger Woods’ Swedish wife, Elin, recently gave birth to a daughter named Sam Alexis. The world’s number one golfer stated that both he and his wife are very much excited and that the birth is more important than any golf tournament, by far.

**Champion:** Swede Andreas Larsson won the 2007 Sommelier World Championship held at the Greek island of Rhodos. The outcome of the event – which celebrates the art of wine and wine serving – means Larsson now owns the title of being the best in the world to combine wine and food.

**Costs:** The prices of food items in Sweden have dropped during recent years and are continuing to drop, according to a country-wide research effort. The study of 1,153 stores and supermarkets showed that Sweden’s west coast and southern regions have, on the average, lower prices than the rest of the country; Stockholm and vicinities and Norrland topped the high end.

**Culture:** The ABBA museum will be built close to the well known Slussen (the Locks) area in Stockholm. The site was selected with tourism in mind and is very close to where cruise ships visiting Stockholm are docked, among other tourist considerations. The museum is scheduled to open in 2009.

Submitted by  
Gunnar Wallin

## Vännerna



### NEXT MEETING

There will be no meetings of Vännerna in August

### COMING EVENTS

Vännerna Business and Sewing Meeting will return in September.

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.

Look for more information about Vännerna in future issues of *Swedish Center News*.

## Swedish Center Calendar - August 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 SCC Board Meeting 5:30 pm	2	3 Happy Hour, Crown Room Lounge 5:00-7:00 pm	4	5
6	7	8 Membership Dinner Meeting 6:00 pm	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Happy Hour, Crown Room Lounge 5:00-7:00 pm	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## Swedish Center Calendar - September 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4	5 SCC Board Meeting 5:30 pm	6 Olle I Skratthult Performance 7:00 pm	7 Happy Hour 5:00 pm SACC & SCC Crayfish Dinner 6:30 pm	8	9 Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am
10	11	12 Membership Dinner Meeting 6:00 pm	13 SCC Arts & Crafts Meeting 11:00 am	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Happy Hour, Crown Room Lounge 5:00-7:00 pm	22 SCC Folk Dance 7:00 pm	23
24	25	26 Finnish Film Series 7:30 pm	27	28	29 SCC Folk Dance 7:00 pm	30