



# Swedish Center News

Issue No. 496

June 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, June 3, 2007**  
**8:00 am - 1:30 pm**

### LIVE SCANDINAVIAN FOLK MUSIC

*Speldosan, Folk Voice Band, Nordic Reflections*

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

LAST BREAKFAST UNTIL 9/9/07

## Celebrate Sweden's National Day (June 6) at SCC

Join us on Wednesday, June 6 at the Center to celebrate Sweden's National Day (*Nationaldagen*). The event starts at 5:30 p.m., and will feature a Swedish-style buffet dinner (meatballs, potatoes, salad, Swedish *limpa* bread, coffee and cake) and a short program. Dinner is \$10; children under 12 are \$5.

The 6th of June became Sweden's National Day in 1983. It wasn't until 2005, however, that the National Day became a paid holiday!

Why June 6th? Gustav Vasa was crowned king of Sweden on that date in 1523. The constitution of 1809 was signed on that day as well. Organized celebrations of the sixth of June began in the 1890s at Skansen in Stockholm, as the culmination of a spring festival. In 1916 the date was established as Swedish Flag Day, which eventually led to the declaration by the Swedish *riksdag* (Parliament) of an official National Day in 1983.

### A Traditional Celebration of Summer!

## Midsommarfest, June 24

On Sunday, June 24, Skandia Folkdance Society presents its annual *Midsommarfest* at Saint Edward State Park (14445 Juanita Drive NE, Kenmore).

This day-long traditional Scandinavian celebration features music and dance performances, kids' activities (including raising a kid-sized pole), flower crowns, craft and food booths, special costume presentation, participatory dancing, mini-dance lessons for beginners and, of course, the traditional pole raising ceremony.



The event runs between 11:00 am and 6:00 pm, with the traditional pole-raising ceremony beginning at 2:30 pm. Admission is free, but donation boxes will be posted and the sale of buttons — available for a \$2 donation — will help defray the cost of putting on the festival.

For more information all about this special annual event, visit <http://www.skandia-folkdance.org/> and click on the button about the event or call 206-784-7470.

## 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
VP/Properties	Karl Larsson
Secretary	Kristine Leander
Treasurer	Don Wahlquist
Directors	Jeremy Holt Randy Nelson Paul Norlen Susan Ramstead

Immediate  
Past President Dr. Gene Nystrom

### Center Operations

Executive	
Director	R.W. Clay
Administrative	
Support	Desiree Miglino

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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

If you have visited the Swedish Cultural Center since the 21st of April, you may have noticed a few changes in the building. Executive Director R. W. Clay has worked with the Building Committee and the Exhibits and Decorations Committee to update the look of the building for the Recognition Dinner for the Founders of Swedish Hospital event in April. The improvements include new coats of paint for the exterior and interior and new light fixtures for the Stockholm Hall.

If you haven't been to the Center recently, opportunities this month for you to see what's changed include our monthly pancake breakfast on Sunday, June 3 and our celebration of Sweden's National Day on Wednesday, June 6. (The pancake breakfasts will not be held in July or August.)

Presently, R. W. Clay is working with the Building Committee and the Decorations and Exhibits Committee to plan projects to be completed while the Cultural Center is closed for part of August. Members interested in volunteering to help with these projects may contact R. W. by calling 206.283.1090.



Brandon Benson  
President

## Linnæus 2007 – Tour Scientific Sweden, Finland, and Åland

Sweden leads the world in science and innovation, according to an international survey by the United Nations Education, Science and Culture body UNESCO. The UNESCO Science Report 2005 ranked Sweden in first place for innovation in science and technology research, ahead of Japan and the United States. (Also among the top seven nations were Finland, Switzerland, the UK and Denmark.) The report, written by an international team of independent experts, noted that while countries such as Germany, the Netherlands and France are losing momentum, Sweden is not only the world leader in the field, but is moving ahead in innovation faster than any other nation.

Seattle's Pacific Science Center is inviting SCC members and friends to join their staff on a two-week tour to scientific sites and museums in September to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Carl Linnæus. The tour will explore the cultural and societal influences that enable a small country of 9 million people to become the world leader in science and innovation—and explore Linnæus's contributions as one of the first environmentalists. Sites in Sweden, Finland and Åland are included on the 11-day itinerary. For more information, contact Leah Hausman at 206-443-3642 or log onto [www.pacificsciencecenter.org](http://www.pacificsciencecenter.org).

## Director's notes

It seems the first half of '07 has passed us in a heart beat — I suppose that is, in part, because of the many activities we've had at the Center: our first Auction, our first Scandinavian Antique & Flea Market, the Nordic Exchange, the Honorarium Dinner for the Swedish Hospital Founders, the 17<sup>th</sup> of May Parade March, the Garage Sale and, of course, the monthly Pancake Breakfasts and Membership Dinner Meetings. By the way, the membership meetings have provided some very interesting and entertaining programs.

I think all of these events went very well: the last breakfast brought us over 800 guests. Please note that the breakfast this month will be the last one until September 9, so come out and have some pancakes. The Pancake Breakfast is one of our best fund-raising activities and we always need volunteers — over the summer, consider volunteering and signing up for fall. Next month we will hold the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration and it's never too early to make your reservations at (206) 523-9570. Happy hours in the Crown Room Lounge will continue throughout the summer on the first and third Fridays of the month, between 5:00 and 7:00 pm. It sounds like there really are a lot of things to do at the Center.

Our next celebration held here at the Center will be Swedish National Day on June 6, beginning at 5:00 pm with a social and entertainment, followed by a meatball dinner at 6:00 pm (see cover for more details). Later on this month, on June 24, we will be at the Skandia Midsommar Fest. This event is always fun and admission is free this year. Stay tuned for information about other summer events we're trying to plan this year.

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, to donate or volunteer call us at the Center at (206) 283 1078.

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

R.W.

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## Membership Dinner



WEDNESDAY,  
June 13, 2007

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

### PROGRAM:

Mike Banner and  
Kristine Leander present:  
"How To Climb Mt. Rainier"

### DINNER MENU:

Wild Green Salad with  
Lingonberry Vinaigrette  
*Grönsallad med  
Lingonvinegrättsås*

Cabbage Wrapped Cod  
with Saffron sauce  
*Torsk i Vitkålsblad  
med Saffranssås*

Sauteed Vegetables  
*Sauterade Grönsaker  
Krämig Dillpotatis*

Berry Parfait with fresh cream  
*Bärparfait med färsk Grädde*

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

## Museum sends out request

The Jussi Bjorling Museum in Dalarna is searching for missing information about a possible concert or visit by the Bjorling Quartet which, at the time, consisted of 9-year old Jussi Bjorling, his father and two brothers. It is believe they visited the Pacific Coast of the United States sometime during the period from mid-November, 1920, to mid-January, 1921.

The quartet sang in many places in California but might also have visited outside that state – perhaps in Seattle or Bellingham.

If you have any information regarding such a visit, the museum would be grateful to hear from you – please send an email to the director of the Jussi Bjorling Museum at [harald.henrysson@borlange.se](mailto:harald.henrysson@borlange.se).

Locally, you may also contact June Anderson Evanoff at 206-232-3646 with any information.

## 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.

## Fourth of July Celebration returns to the Swedish Center

Our traditional Fourth of July Celebration returns to the Swedish Center on July 4 with a fun-filled evening consisting of a cocktail hour, buffet dinner, music and one of the best views in the entire city for the fireworks display on Lake Union.

The evening kicks off when the bar opens at 6:00 pm, followed by a buffet dinner at 7:00 pm, seated family style at big tables. After dinner, upstairs seating will be made available on a first come basis.

There will be movies for the kids until the fireworks start (no minors will be allowed in the bar). On the top floor, a DJ will be spinning rock-and-roll music, while the main floor will feature “softer” music; dancing will be held on both floors.

Guests are encouraged to plan their fireworks viewing spots carefully - there is no guarantee you will able to see from your table inside, although the main floor will have cordoned off seating for those wishing to sit while watching the display (no one will be on the balcony in front of these seats).

Cost for the evening is \$32.00 for adults, \$13.00 for children under 12 (babes in arms, free) - the price includes parking, dinner, music, dancing and late night dessert. And fireworks, of course!

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## More Scandinavian dance at the Swedish Cultural Center

Two great evenings of traditional dance are coming in the month of June to the Swedish Cultural Center. Whether you're a beginning or an old hand, you are encouraged to come out and participate in the fun.

On Saturday, June 9, an evening of Scandinavian Folkdance will be presented between 8:00 pm and 10:30 pm. Kris Johansson and Chris Barnes lead the live music, giving everyone a chance to dance the dances that put the lilt in great grampa's gait; waltzes, polkas, schottisches and hambos. These dances may not get the popular press they did a century ago, but you betcha they are as much fun as ever. Don't know them well enough? Show up for a free lesson being held from 7:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Admission for the dance is \$9.00.

Then, on Saturday June 30, the Center will play host to a fun-filled evening of Zwiefacher dance, beginning at 8:00 pm and continuing until about 10:30 pm, "or so." Once again, Kris Johansson and Chris Barnes lead the live music, and the featured dance will be the Alpine Zwiefacher. Zwiefacher is one of those tricky mixtures of Waltz and March music, each mixture unique. If you have rhythm, you owe yourself a go at these. Since no one ever manages perfection, we get no dance snobs here to laugh at you either. We calm down with more usual dances (waltzes, polkas, schottisches, and hambos) and review most patterns. No partner required, no experience required. (Do wear shoes that protect your toes!)

Once again, there will be a free lesson between 7:30 pm to 8:00 pm and cost for the Zwiefacher dance is \$9.00.

The Swedish Cultural Center is located at 1920 Dexter North Seattle 98109 (on the East side of Queen Anne Hill down from Aurora). Contact [pat@folkdancing.com](mailto:pat@folkdancing.com) for more information.

## Center Library adds new history of Swedish family

The Swedish Cultural Center recently added to its library a book chronicling one family's historical journey from Swedish roots to a new life in America. The book, "From Boats to Board Feet: The Wilson Family of the Pacific Coast", by Emily M. Wilson, tells the story of the Wilson family's ancestry beginning from the earliest known records of the family in Bohuslän, Sweden, in 1550. It continues to the death of a key Wilson ancestor, a ship captain, in the shipwreck of his vessel in the North Sea in 1854. The story then chronicles the immigration of seven of the captain's children—five brothers and two sisters—to America's Pacific Coast and details their life along the Columbia River in the early 1870s. Rather than a conventional history book, it is meant to be a readable chronicle of the family's business and personal pursuits.

Check out this new addition and the entire collection currently calling the Center, home.



### CROWN ROOM

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### 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:**

June 1  
June 15

## 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

James and Browyn Coyne.

### Deceased

Bill Epperson.

### Memorials

Thomas Green in memory of Thomas Alberg.

Mr. & Mrs. Alden Harris in memory of Astrid Carlson.

### Donations

None reported.

## Travel to Sweden for Antiques?

Several SCC members are planning a trip for other Swedish antique lovers in 2008. This group of around 12 interested people will go to an antiques fair and stop at 10-12 antique stores starting in Leksand, then moving through Dalarna, to Sweden's biggest antique store in Brunflo near Östersund, then to Sundsvall and back to Stockholm. The trip is tentatively scheduled for 10 days in very early fall 2008.

If you want to be on the list to learn more about it, contact Carolyn Wahlquist (425-462-1443) or Kristine Leander (SwedishAntiques2008@gmail.com).

## Women in War in June “Film from Finland”

With any luck, those who come to the Swedish Cultural Center to see *Lupaus* (Promise), the June 27 film about Finnish Lottas, will actually be able to meet some of the few remaining Lottas living in the Seattle area.

Outside Finland and other Nordic and Baltic countries, few people are aware of the World War II efforts of the Lottas – an organization of women who performed significant – even essential – non-combatant service – during a time of national crisis.

Organized at the end of World War I, the Lotta Svärd reached its high point in 1944 with over 242,000 volunteers – perhaps the largest voluntary auxiliary organization in the world at the time. In fact, by that time, the Lotta movement had also spread into Estonia, Sweden and Denmark. It is estimated that 100,000 Finnish men were made available for military service when Lottas took over their work. In addition, Lottas worked in auxiliary military tasks in hospitals, air-raid warning stations, morgues, mail delivery and transport.

While Lottas appear prominently in such films as *Rukajärventie* (Ambush), shown as the December 2006 “Film from Finland,” they are front and center in *Lupaus*, the June selection in that series. This late 2005 film focuses on the wartime experiences of three young Lottas – two sisters and a friend. The war is seen through their eyes, rather than those of the men around them, as is more common in films about the Finnish Winter and Continuations Wars.

Bringing the Lotta story to the screen was a large undertaking. With a crew of 80, a cast exceeding 50, and extras numbering 1,300, *Lupaus* is a major film. No one with an interest in Finnish history and the role of women in that history will want to miss it.

Like all entries in the monthly “Films from Finland” series, *Lupaus* will be shown at the Swedish Cultural Center at 7:30 p.m. A \$5.00 donation is requested at the door, and refreshments are available. The 112 minute film carries a Finnish rating of K-11 (approximately PG 13) and is in Finnish with English subtitles.

“Films from Finland” are sponsored by Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter, and a schedule of films in the series is at FFSC@finns.org. No films will be shown during July and August, but the program will resume on September 26 with *FC Venus* – a battle of the sexes played out on the soccer field.

## Local travel guru Rick Steves spotlights Sweden on show

An upcoming program of “Travel with Rick Steves” will feature a Stockholm-based tour guide taking calls and talking about travel in Sweden. This program is scheduled to be broadcast on Saturday, June 16 at 2:00 p.m. on KUOW (94.9 FM).

# 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.*

**Treaty:** An agreement between Sweden and the United States providing increased cooperation, as well as an exchange of information regarding research and technique for handling of civilian crises and catastrophes, was signed recently in Washington D.C. by Swedish Minister of Defense Mikael Odenberg and U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff.

**Embassy news:** Sweden's ambassador to Thailand, Jonas Hafström, will become the next Swedish ambassador to the USA – the present ambassador, Gunnar Lund, will be relocated to Paris, France. This change will be announced as soon as USA and France have given their green light.

**Worries:** More than 60 percent of Swedes are feeling concerned about the climate changes. Generally, women are more worried than men over the warming trend - least concerned are men between 15 and 29 years of age.

**Honored:** The founder of Microsoft, Bill Gates, and his wife, Melinda French Gates, have been appointed as honorary doctors of medicine by the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, for their contributions via the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. According to a press release by the Institute, a special promotional ceremony will be held in Stockholm next January.

**Big:** The shaft on the paint brush that the artist David Åberg has created is 12 meters (39.4 ft) long and is the largest in the world. It will soon be listed in the Guinness Book of Records – just like Åberg's earlier record for the largest painting in the world. The brush will be displayed in Las Vegas on August 30 and is called "Elvis Brush". Why? The hairs on the brush are arranged like Elvis's hairdo, as a tribute to "the King".

**Hurry:** The drivers in Stockholm are speeding more than drivers in other parts of Sweden. Stats show that during April 16.5 percent of the Stockholm drivers drove faster than the speed limit, compared to ten percent in other regions. The reason: the tempo of the lifestyle in Stockholm is so highly wound-up that it affects the driving habits.

**Caught by cows:** The police went out to clear the highway of 60 cows that were on the loose. As the police started the roundup, a tractor came driving down the road with a farmer driving...at least for a little while. The farmer fell off the vehicle, really intoxicated. After the police were finished with the cows, they took the drunken driver to the station to sleep it off (he was later charged with DUI).

*Submitted by  
Gunnar Wallin*

## Vännerna



### NEXT MEETING

Vännerna Business and  
Sewing Meeting

Tuesday, June 5

### COMING EVENTS

Vännerna Business and  
Sewing Meeting

There will be no  
meetings of Vännerna  
in July or August

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 - June 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 Happy Hour, Crown Room Lounge 5:00-7:00 pm	2	3 Pancake Breakfast
4	5	6 National Day Celebration	7	8	9 Folkdance	10 AYLI Sunday Brunch, 3 Crowns Dining Room
11	12	13 Membership Dinner Meeting	14	15 Happy Hour, Crown Room Lounge 5:00-7:00 pm	16	17 AYLI Sunday Brunch, 3 Crowns Dining Room
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 AYLI Sunday Brunch, 3 Crowns Dining Room
25	26	27 SCC Board Meeting  Finnish Film Series	28	29	30 Folkdance	

## Swedish Center Calendar - July 2007

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