



# Swedish Center News

Issue No. 500

October 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.

**SAVE THE DATE  
FEBRUARY 9, 2008**

**SWEDISH CULTURAL  
CENTER AUCTION**

## Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, October 7, 2007  
8:00 am - 1:30 pm**

**LIVE SCANDINAVIAN  
FOLK MUSIC**

*Nordic Reflections, Skandia  
Kapelle, NW Pelamannit*

Adults \$7.00  
SCC members: \$6.00  
Children 5-12 \$4.00  
Children under 4 free

## Young Swedish Author Visits Seattle

Twenty-eight-year-old author Jonas Hassen Khemiri, praised for his “linguistic playfulness, his earnestness, and his narrative brilliance”, made a splash on the Swedish literary scene in 2004 with his debut novel, *Ett öga rött*. The book (a kind of Swedish *Catcher in the Rye* about a teenager struggling with his ethnic and personal identity) was both controversial and popular, and has now been made into a motion picture, recently released in Sweden.

Khemiri will be speaking (in English) at SCC on Wednesday, October 17 at 7:00 pm. The event is free and open to the public.

Khemiri’s visit to the United States is sponsored by the University of Washington Department of Scandinavian Studies, the Swedish Institute, and North Park College.

## An Evening of Swedish Songs at SCC

Swedish musician Gunnar Säfsund specializes in songs from the rich Swedish “troubadour” tradition, including Evert Taube, Ruben Nilsson and Nils Ferlin. Now a resident of Wilhelmina, Säfsund frequently performs at schools and social functions throughout northern Sweden. Thanks to the efforts of the Seattle area chapter of SWEA (Swedish Women’s Educational Association), Gunnar Säfsund will be appearing at SCC on Friday, October 5.

Starting at 7:30 p.m., Säfsund will perform selections from his extensive repertoire. Admission is \$5, and refreshments will be served. Seating is limited, so please make a reservation by calling the Center at (206) 283-1090. Come early and enjoy Happy Hour (starting at 5:00 p.m.) before the performance!

## Chorus Reception, October 13

Svea Male Chorus and the Swedish Women’s Chorus present an evening reception to kick off their new season. The event will feature a lively mix of songs along with tasty appetizers for you to enjoy. This should be a memorable evening of light refreshment and lots of entertainment.

Please make your reservation by calling Jim Erickson at (206) 546-1384. The cost is \$15.00 per person, and reservations should be made by October 1.

## 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
	Jeremy Holt
	Pam Madden
	Randy Nelson
	Susan Ramstead

Immediate  
Past President Dr. Gene Nystrom

### Center Operations

Executive	
Director	R.W. Clay
Administrative	
Support	Desiree Miglino

### Vännerna

Chair	Maggie Berthiaume
Vice-chair	Lilly Moen
Secretary	Bonnie Orr
Treasurer	Rachel Osterlof
Sewing	Jean Wirch

### Swedish Center News

Editor Jeff Christensen

**Swedish Center News** (USPS 533-750) is published monthly as part of yearly membership dues at \$5 per person, per year, by the Swedish Center, 1920 Dexter Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109-2795. Telephone is 206-283-1090. Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, WA. Postmaster: send address changes to *Swedish Center News*, 1920 Dexter Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109-2795.

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

Not all members of the Swedish Cultural Center may realize that our organization has a reciprocal relationship with the College Club. The College Club is an organization located in downtown Seattle with approximately 500 members. Members of the College Club may visit the Swedish Cultural Center, for example at our Happy Hour, like any SCC member. Likewise, SCC members may visit the dining facility at the College Club on a weekday for lunch.



The College Club recently sold its property and its members are now deciding what to do. One option they are considering is to dissolve the College Club altogether. Another option is to maintain the organization and purchase a new facility. Should the College Club decide to purchase or build a new facility, they will need a temporary facility. The Swedish Cultural Center is on the list of the two or three facilities that the College Club is considering.

If the College Club were to join us for this period of time before their new facility is ready, arrangements would be made for its current members to become non-voting members of Swedish Cultural Center. The SCC Commercial Committee has discussed what this new relationship might involve, and views it as a potentially beneficial arrangement which our organization can accommodate. Two years of membership dues for 500 members plus additional income from office space and hall rentals would be financially beneficial to our organization.

It should be emphasized that SCC still awaits a definite proposal from the College Club. However, I felt it was important to bring this to the attention of our members at this time. If any member is interested in learning more about the College Club options or would like to comment on this proposal, please send an e-mail message to me at [brandoncbenson@hotmail.com](mailto:brandoncbenson@hotmail.com).

We have a number of interesting events coming up at SCC in October. *Vi ses!*

Brandon Benson  
*President*

## Evening of Finnish Folkdance at SCC, October 27

On Saturday, October 27, the Center will play host to an evening of Finnish Folkdance as part of the "Fourth Saturday" dance series. Between 8:00 and 11:00 p.m., enjoy dancing to the music of NW Pelimannit. No partner or experience is needed and instruction will be provided. Cost for the evening's entertainment is \$9.00. For more info e-mail [pat@folk dancing.com](mailto:pat@folk dancing.com).

## Director's notes

As we approach the end of September we enjoy the fading vestiges of summer. The end of summer has been good to us this year, bringing some of its' better days. In retrospect, summer was fun from a cultural point of view. We had Midsommar at St. Edward's State Park, the Fourth of July here at the Center and the Ballard Seafood Fest, in lovely downtown Ballard. By the way, I want to thank Richard Svensson for donating his time and talent at the Seafood Fest and for his financial support, as well: Richard and his fellow musicians donated part of their earnings to the Center. Richard also participates in many other events here at the Center; thanks, Richard.

On a sadder note, I'm sorry to have to say we have recently lost another of our friends and a most loyal volunteer — Arne Laskemoen passed away on Monday, September 10. Although Arne was not a member of the Center, he was a great supporter of our organization through volunteering and event participation and he will be missed by many. When I have information about a celebration of his life, I will let you all know.

The October calendar is bringing more talent from the homeland — I hope you will take advantage of the coming opportunities to enjoy some Swedish culture.

Thanks to the volunteers that showed up for the September Pancake Breakfast: it was good to see you all after the summer break. The pancake breakfasts are our major fund raisers and are made successful through the hard work of a small percentage of our membership. I wish more members would consider volunteering for this event, which is a way to nurture the Center and have fun with your fellow members at the same time. The breakfast is actually a multi phase activity, as each month we have to: shop for the ingredients, prepare the product, stage the event, serve the event and then clean up quickly so we can turn the space around for the next activity. This presents several opportunities to volunteer. We need more HELP — if you have just one hour to give, it could help. Please consider volunteering for this event or any other volunteer opportunity we have (there are several Auction committees, for example, and we can always use more receptionist help).

Here is a new member benefit your hard working Board Members have come up with: SCC members will pay \$1 less for the Pancake Breakfast starting this month. It would HELP if you bring your membership card.

Hope to see you in the Center soon.

R.W.

## 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.

## Membership Dinner



WEDNESDAY,  
October 10, 2007

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

### PROGRAM:

“Wild and Weird  
Immigrant Stories from  
the Early Northwest”  
a presentation by  
Brian B. Magnusson, PhD.

### DINNER MENU:

Pumpkin Soup  
*Pumpasoppa*

Cabbage Wrapped Cod  
with Cream sauce  
Torsk i vitkålsblad  
med gräddsås

Wild Rice Pilaf  
*Rispilaf*

Farm-picked  
seasonal Vegetables  
*Färska grönsaker*

Bread Pudding  
*Brödpudding*

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

## HELP WANTED: AUCTION

### PRE-EVENT VOLUNTEERS

Work Party Assistants

Invitations: need help with mailings early January.

Involves stuffing and addressing envelopes.

Visual Display: Make display easels for silent auction certificates. Make stands and props for display.

Catalogs: Collate catalog.

Packets: Assemble bid numbers, catalogs, etc for reservations packet.

Art/Decorations: Created with Mardi Gras Theme.

Correspondence: Help send out thank you notes to donors.

### SILENT AUCTION SET-UP

Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 help display all silent auction gifts on tables.

Acquisitions: Help with donations, log in items.

### AUCTION EVENING

Greeters: Welcome guests and hand out auction packets.

Runners: Assist finance & deliver bid sheets to winning bidder for signature.

Check Out: Make sure items purchased are given to correct person. Assist finance.

To volunteer, please call RW Clay at 206-283-2090 or contact Pam Madden at 206-285-0623 or email [pammadden4@aol.com](mailto:pammadden4@aol.com).

## Leif Erikson Plaza Unveiling and Celebration to be held October 7

Leif Erikson International Foundation invites the members of the Swedish Cultural Center to a celebration at Shilshole Marina on Sunday, October 7. At this special event, the Foundation will unveil the refurbished statue of Leif Erikson which will stand on a new base, surrounded by 13 runestones designed by Seattle artist Jay Haavik. Each runestone holds a plaque with the names of emigrants from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

All the names received so far for the plaques will be unveiled, but there's still time to add names to the plaques to be unveiled later. Both the unveiling ceremony, which begins at 3:00 pm, and the special reception which follows the ceremony at 4:00 pm, are open to the public.

The charge for the reception is \$10, and Leif Erikson International Foundation (LEIF) invites guests to send in their RSVP and \$10.00 ahead of time to: LEIF, 2245 NW 57th Street, Seattle WA 98107.

To add a name to the plaques, call 206-778-1081 for an application or visit the foundation's web site at: [www.leiferikson.org](http://www.leiferikson.org).

Apartment  
Starting at \$1395



T · H · E  
**VIEWPOINTE**  
ON · QUEEN · ANNE

*A Retirement Community*

Great Views.  
Great Location.  
Great Retirement.

**Special for all Swedish Club Members -**  
*We'll cover your moving expenses!*  
*Join our Senior Yoga Class Mondays at 10:30am*



2450 Aurora Avenue North  
Just 4 blocks from the Swedish Club!

Tours available daily.  
Call us at 206-282-5777  
[www.TheViewpointe.com](http://www.TheViewpointe.com)

## Fall Film Series is Bergman Retrospective

The great Swedish director Ingmar Bergman passed away on July 31 of this year. In honor of Bergman—one of the most significant directors in film history—this fall’s SCC film series will feature three of the more than sixty films he made during his distinguished career, including:

Sunday, October 7, 1:00 pm: *Saraband* (2003), Bergman’s final film, starring Liv Ullman and Erland Josephson.

Sunday, November 4, 1:00 pm: Bergman’s first screenplay, *Torment* (*Hets*, 1944, directed by Alf Sjöberg). This story of a sadistic Latin teacher in a boys’ school in Stockholm stars Mai Zetterling.

Sunday, December 2, 1:00 pm: *Wild Strawberries* (*Smultronstället*, 1957). One of Bergman’s most popular films, with Victor Sjöström, Bibi Andersson, Gunnar Björnstrand and Ingrid Thulin.

All films are in Swedish with English subtitles, and shown from DVD copies. Refreshments are served, with a \$5 suggested donation. For more information, please contact Randy Nelson at (206) 937-0441 or at rnelson900@aol.com.

## SCC Auction 2008 News

The party planning for our “Mardi Gras” is well under way! Please mark the auction date, **Saturday, February 9, 2008** in your calendar! Our goal is to raise monies for scholarships and continued expansion of our programs. We look forward to a fun-filled evening.

Last year we took a “leap of faith” and held our first auction. The support from our members, friends and local community was gratifying! We received donations from over 170 different individuals and businesses. Thanks to the combined efforts of many volunteers, it was possible to stage this type of evening.

Like any first-time event, there were some glitches. We have received member and attendee feedback, and we are making changes to help smooth out those wrinkles! Please have patience; we are learning as we go!

Donations are welcome. The more items we receive, the greater our chance for financial success. Please remember, donate NEW, UNUSED gift items. Heirloom-quality items are also accepted, depending on condition. Checks are appreciated and can be used to underwrite expenses. Drop your donations at the SCC office, membership dinners, and pancake breakfasts.

Please help with the party! Volunteers are needed for a variety of auction activities (see Page 4). These include pre- auction tasks as well as jobs the night of the event. Some jobs are done at the SCC and others can be done from home. Getting involved is a great way to meet other members and have some fun! Whatever amount of time you can give is appreciated.



### 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:

October 5 & October 19

### 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

Anna Abraham, Geraldene and Douglas Damm, Ann Maki, Don Morgan, Frank Brown and Elaine Murakami, Hubert (Sonny) Vinberg

### Deceased

Vida Brunzell, Svea Carlson

### Memorials

**In memory of Kerstin Ellstrom-Bauer:**  
Karin Gustafsson

**In memory of Svea Carlson:**  
Vännerna

**In memory of Vida Brunzell:**  
Vännerna

**In memory of . Beverly Ann Boyd:**  
Håkan and Agnetha Bengtsson family, Mary Gregory, Ruth and Anders Hedström family, Katarina Nilsson and Mats Larsson family, Carole Ann Rindal, Gulli and Hans Ström family

### Donations

Brandon Benson, Clifford and Lynda Benson, Bob and Connie Blair, Karin Gustafsson, Kristine Leander, Vivianne Lindback and Eckhard Schipull, Pam and Vince Madden, Richard and Susan Nelson, Desiree and Larry Omdal, Richard Svensson.

## Strategic Planning Summary September 2007

The strategic planning committee began meeting in September 2006. Ten participants, mostly SCC Board members, met every other Saturday through June. Our process had three stages: 1) Analyze other similar organizations and brainstorm; 2) Hold focus groups of long-time members, new members, Swedish-American individuals (non-members) in the community, and representatives of clubs with ties to Sweden; 3) Summarize what we learned into six specific recommendations.

**Community.** Current and prospective members want a community. Long-time members enjoy Happy Hour and membership meetings. Newer members and others with young families want somewhere to celebrate Swedish holidays and traditions and introduce their children to Swedish culture. Young prospective members long for a “meet me at my club” experience. Our first recommendation is that the SCC should go back to its roots and have the feel of a clubhouse and be the center of Swedish activities in the Northwest. Although our building is our greatest asset, we are a community that owns a building, not a building that’s owned by a community.

**Facility.** We enjoy a fantastic facility, envied by other organizations, but the physical presence of the Swedish Cultural Center should be more Swedish and retain its mid-century modern look while showcasing Nordic design from various periods and styles. The building should feel Swedish, from the entry to the top floor, and changes should embrace good Swedish design.

**Volunteers.** We need more participation by members. We recommend specialized committees that report to the board, to plan and carry out the work of the organization. We also recommend an honorary board of people with a stake in the local Swedish-American community. More volunteers will help us build community.

**Programs.** We need more reasons for people to join the SCC and more clarity about membership. We are adding benefits for members and have reduced the cost of membership. We are working to add more programs that give members an opportunity to meet and build community.

**Cooperation with other clubs.** We need to create mutually beneficial cultural partnerships with Scandinavian-related clubs.

**Marketing.** We need to hire a professional marketer to handle promotion of the organization, volunteers, Swedish cultural events, relationship with other cultural groups, and new members.

At the conclusion, we created a vision for building the membership of the SCC: *“A vital community with strong ties to Sweden and its culture and heritage, with our fantastic building and location as the hub of Swedish activities in the Northwest.”*

# 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.*

**Prize:** The winner of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize will be announced in Oslo on October 12. The five-member Norwegian Nobel Committee will select the winner of what many consider to be the World's most prestigious accolade from a near record field of 181 nominees. The committee does not disclose the names of the nominees, but rumor has it that former U.S. Vice President Al Gore is included among them.

**Car love:** "Sluggish in the U.S. but a big rush in Russia." That is how the purchase of SAAB and Volvo automobiles so far this year can be described. The Russians are crazy about Swedish cars and Russia is now Volvo's fastest growing market – the same report has been made by SAAB Auto.

**Fast and small:** The Uppsala-based company Angstrom Aerospace has been selected to take part in developing future "small" satellites for the U.S. military. Angstrom Aerospace specializes in micro and nano scale space research and they have signed a two-year contract with the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory to develop a system to control the temperature in small "fast-deployable satellites".

**Co-op:** Norway and Sweden should team up and launch a new military cooperation to lower costs and obtain better equipment, claim the chiefs of each country's respective armed forces. They think their countries should jointly purchase equipment such as submarines, tanks and other military items in order to lower costs and give each country more bargaining power.

**More Gore:** The city of Göteborg's environmental prize for firm development will go to former U.S. Vice President Al Gore. He will receive the prize of SEK 1 million (\$150,000) for his work of raising awareness regarding the issue of global warming. Gore will receive his prize in Göteborg on February 22, 2008.

**Oops:** Two sisters were being married to each other's Mattias in a double wedding at Kalmar that began with the priest saying the wrong name of the first groom (which was quickly corrected by the couple). Following that mistake, the priest then called the first bride by the wrong name and was, once again, corrected by the couple. "Two mistakes of two possible" the priest concluded, as he continued. It went better with the second couple as the right sister got her right Mattias. The, however, there was a third miss! When the priest asked for the rings, he was reminded by the first Mattias that he had forgotten to ask him the classic question "Do you take..." and therefore had not been able to answer "yes" to his bride. All ended well though.

Submitted by  
Gunnar Wallin

## Vännerna



### NEXT MEETING

Vännerna Business &  
Sewing Meeting  
Tuesday, October 2  
10:00 a.m.

### COMING EVENTS

Vännerna Business &  
Sewing Meeting  
Tuesday, November 6  
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.

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

## Swedish Center Calendar - October 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2 Vännerna Meeting 10:00 am SWC & SMC Rehearse 7:00 pm	3 SCC Board Meeting 5:30 pm	4	5 Happy Hour 5:00 pm Swedish Troubadour "Gunnar Safsun" 7:30 pm	6	7 Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am SCC Film "Saraband" 1:00 pm
8	9 SWC & SMC Rehearse 7:30 pm	10 Membership Dinner Meeting 6:00 pm	11 SCC Arts & Crafts Club 11:00 am	12	13 SWC & SMC Season Kick-off Reception 6:30 pm	14 SSA Children's Swedish School 9:30 am
15	16 SWC & SMC Rehearse 7:30 pm	17 Swedish Author Night 7:00 pm	18	19 Happy Hour, Crown Room Lounge 5:00-7:00 pm	20	21 SSA Children's Swedish School 9:30 am
22	23	24 Finnish Film 7:30 pm	25	26	27 SCC Folk Dance 7:30 pm	28
29	30	31				

## Swedish Center Calendar - November 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2 Happy Hour, Crown Room Lounge 5:00-7:00 pm	3	4 Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am SSA Children's School 9:30 am SCC Film Series 1:00 pm
5	6 Vännerna Meeting 10:00 am SWC & SMC Rehearse 7:00 pm	7 SCC Board Meeting 5:30 pm	8 SCC Arts & Crafts Club 11:00 am	9	10	11
12	13 SWC & SMC Rehearse 7:30 pm	14 Membership Dinner Meeting 6:00 pm	15	16 Happy Hour, Crown Room Lounge 5:00-7:00 pm	17	18 SSA Children's Swedish School 9:30 am
19	20 SWC & SMC Rehearse 7:30 pm	21	22	23	24 SCC Folk Dance 7:30 pm	25
26	27 SWC & SMC Rehearse 7:30 pm	28 Finnish Film 7:30 pm	29	30		