

# Swedish Center News

Issue No. 510

August 2008

## 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.*

## Translation Prize Winners

Swedish Cultural Center member Laura Wideburg has won a prize for her translation of the book, *Good Night, My Darling*, a psychological thriller by Swedish author Inger Frimansson. The book won the Swedish Academy of Mystery Authors Award for Best Swedish Crime Novel in 1998 and now the book's translator, our own Laura Wideburg, has also won a prize. *ForeWord Magazine* awarded *Good Night* the Best Translated Book of the Year, with the Gold Medal for 2007. Here's what one reviewer said: "Beautifully translated from the original Swedish by Laura Wideburg, *Good Night* is a peerless exploration into the mind of a dark, lost soul. Inger Frimansson is one of Sweden's premier psychological thriller writers."

This is the third Scandinavian language translator with roots in Seattle to have won a prize. Tiina Nunnally, the translator of the Kristin Lavransdatter trilogy, won several awards including the PEN/Book-of-the-month Club Translation Prize for her work in 2001. Paul Norlen won the American Scandinavian Foundation Translation Prize in 2004. These



awards also shine a bright light on the Scandinavian Studies department at the University of Washington. Laura has her master's degree from the department. Tiina and Paul also did their graduate studies there and are still affiliated with the university.

Members who attended the crime writers' reception last year at the Swedish Cultural Center will remember that Inger did a reading from this book. Our members can look forward to hearing Laura talk about the art of translating and the book *Good Night, My Darling* at our Members' Meeting on September 10. Locally, the book is available at University of Washington Bookstore. Laura has also donated a copy to our library for members to borrow.

NEXT PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

# Swedish Cultural Center

1920 Dexter Avenue North  
Seattle, WA 98109

206-283-1090 Club Business  
206-283-1078 Rentals  
206-283-2970 FAX

info@swedishculturalcenter.org  
rentals@swedishculturalcenter.org  
www.swedishculturalcenter.org

## Office Hours

Monday-Friday  
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

## Board of Directors

President	Karl Larsson
Vice President	Bob Blair
Secretary	Syrene Forsman
Treasurer	Don Wahlquist
VP/Properties	Paul Norlen
Past President	Brandon Benson
Directors	Jeremy Holt Pam Madden Randy Nelson Erik Pihl Susan Ramstead Lori Ann Reinhall

## Center Operations

Exec. Director	R.W. Clay
Cultural Director	Kristine Leander
Admin. Assistant	Rohm Gustafson

## Vännerna

Chair	Maggie Berthiaume
Vice-chair	June Anderson Evanoff
Secretary	Bonnie Orr
Treasurer	Rachel Osterlof
Sewing	Jean Wirch

## Swedish Center News

**Editor:** Kristine Leander

**Copy Editor:** Rohm Carl Gustafson

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, Washington 98109-2795. Telephone is 206-283-1090. Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, Washington. 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 articles into the office or fax to: 206-283-2970. You may also e-mail articles to : [kristine@swedishculturalcenter.org](mailto:kristine@swedishculturalcenter.org).

# President's Message

The *Swedish Center News* plays an essential role in our organization's interaction with our members and the community. We want it to reflect the activity and progress occurring around the Center, and thus have started changing both the look and the content of the News. I hope you will see the changes—and understand they may not be permanent. Please let us know if you like them.

Last month was our first time laying out and editing the News in-house. Kristine Leander and Rohm Gustafson worked very hard and did a great job, considering how many 'firsts' they were up against. Producing the newsletter in-house will give us greater control, flexibility, and economy—all at the same time.

Some of the changes we are experimenting with include the advertising, the format of the calendar on the back page, and coming next month, a new overall look for the News.

A change you may have already noticed is my President's column. Since our Cultural Director elaborates on programs, events, and club-related topics in her Notes, my column will have a greater emphasis on the Center's overall state and progress. Occasionally I will focus on topics such as our committees or our facility. I am also open to your ideas for topics!

That said, I can't resist mentioning the Skandia Midsommar festival at St. Edwards State Park. It was a fun time where the Center had its usual booth. What was beyond usual was the excellent participation by our board members. Six of our 12 board members, plus our Executive and Cultural Directors all took shifts promoting the Center, despite the 94 degree heat! Now, that's dedication.



Here are some of the recent Presidents all in a row: *Left to Right* Brandon Benson, Gunnar Wallin, Karl Larsson (yours truly), Dick Nelson, and Charles Anderson

Karl Larsson  
President  
[klarsson@earthlink.net](mailto:klarsson@earthlink.net)

## Executive Director's notes

So far this summer we have been lucky weather-wise. Hasn't it been great? This was fortunate for the Midsommar celebration at St. Edwards State Park and Tivoli at Nordic Heritage Museum. I volunteered at both events. Both were fun and, to my eye, well attended. It was fun frying pancakes with the Norwegians and Swedes in the Museum's kitchen. I'm not sure what to call those pancakes: Swegians or Norwededs? At any rate they tasted great. It takes a lot of volunteers to make those events work, just as it does here at the Center.

We have also had some fun times at the Center this summer. One event was a program by the Runneberg Chorus and Folkdancers from Finland. Another was a concert by the Sweden's Male Chorus, and they were great. We also had a concert by the Greenwood Concert Band, who has been providing us with free concerts for the past several summers. With more events in our future, we will need more volunteers. Please consider volunteering. It can be a fulfilling experience—plus fun. I want you to know how much I appreciate the ones we have. I also appreciate the generosity of our members. Some of our renewing members have given us generous gifts and we appreciate it.

We look forward to welcoming the Swedish Finn Historical Society as tenants in our building. The City of Seattle has granted the permit to reconfigure the portion of the building SFHS will occupy, so minor construction will start right away and they will be moved in sometime next month. Welcome SFHS!

Just a reminder—no pancakes until September 7. Well, that's it for this month; hope to see you at the Center soon.

R.W. Clay

Executive Director

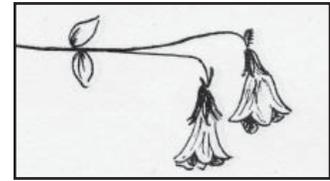
[rw@swedishculturalcenter.org](mailto:rw@swedishculturalcenter.org)

## Cultural Director's Notes

Scandinavian Airlines is featuring an advertising campaign with a huge headline that says simply: *Bättre*. The ad says that "*bättre*" means better in Swedish. Most of you know that, but you may not know how hard we're working at the Swedish Cultural Center to make our club better. For instance, we have brand new brochures describing the club and our rentals, and much of our new lounge furniture was in place at our recent Members' Meeting and Happy Hours. The library is coming along, attendance is up at our events, and our membership is growing. We're also getting a better handle on address and other changes for our members. For that reason in this issue you may notice a longer list than usual of current and past members who have passed away. It's not that we have lost more members to death recently—rather that we're getting better ways to become informed of it and we've listed everyone we've learned about recently.

Cont'd on Page 5

## Members' Dinner



WEDNESDAY,  
August 13, 2008  
Three Crowns Room

Social 5:30 pm  
Dinner 6:30 pm  
Cost: \$15.00

According to: *A Social History of Scandinavian Immigration, Washington State, 1895-1910*, the *Svenska Klubben* (the original Swedish Club) held its first picnic on Mercer Island in 1892, to raise money for widows and orphans. At their early picnics, they sold over 1000 tickets even though they had only "65 members in good standing."

So we want to celebrate the proud heritage of our organization with a picnic dinner at our Members' Meeting this August 6. We will have decorations, prizes, a few games and a rollicking good time. Food will be a boxed dinner served to each one. We will surprise you.

Members Kathi Ploeger and Don Meyers will teach us some Swedish songs.



**Come ready to have a fun, relaxed, and friendly evening with your friends and family. Looking forward to seeing you.**

For reservations, please call 206-283-1090, or e-mail [rw@swedishculturalcenter.org](mailto:rw@swedishculturalcenter.org)



**Say, Here's a Challenge!**

**Read this issue of the newsletter carefully!**

**We will ask you a trivia question at the next Members' Meeting, directly from this issue.**

**The first person who knows the answer will get a nice ♥SURPRISE♥**

**What Swedish community trivia would you like to share?**

A Swedish genealogist, Fredrick Larsson, is eager to be in touch with the family of former member **Yngve Englen**. If you have knowledge of Mr. Englen or his family, please contact [larson.fredrik@gmail.com](mailto:larson.fredrik@gmail.com).

Two students from Uppsala will be studying at Seattle University this fall. Can you help them find housing within an easy bus ride from SU? Contact Russ Lidman, Professor and Director, Institute of Public Service, SU. [lidmanr@seattleu.edu](mailto:lidmanr@seattleu.edu)

## Books, Books, Books



*Volunteering is lots of fun! Please thank these fine folks for thier hard work in the Center and the library the next time you see them.*

Swedes are known to be readers, and so are the members of the Swedish Cultural Center. In fact, the Center's library has over 2,000 books. You heard last month about the efforts to organize them. Thanks to the volunteers pictured here—Berit Lehman, Per Bolang and Inga Bolang, and Diana Erickson (not pictured)—it's nearly completed. They organized most of the books into general categories, such as Swedish history, Swedish arts and crafts, Swedish-American immigration and so on. The next step is to organize the books within each category, and more importantly, to obtain new shelving for the library.

The Board's vision for the library is matching floor to ceiling shelving on two walls (as you recall, two walls in the library are windows with a spectacular view of Seattle), an elegant table and chairs, and current magazines and reading material from Sweden. The Board anticipates that these changes will make the room more appealing to our members, better for students in our Swedish classes, as well as for anyone who may want to stop by and read a magazine or check out a book. The library will also work out nicely for corporation rentals, as a private place to meet with clients off-site, or an organization renting space for an occasional board meeting.

If you would like to help with the library project, we still need book sorters and cataloguers, and we need financial donations toward the shelving. Contact our Cultural Director, Kristine Leander ([kristine@swedishculturalcenter.org](mailto:kristine@swedishculturalcenter.org)) to offer your help. And by the way, we'll be happy to take your donations of books and magazines after we get new shelving. Of course you are welcome any time, to stop by and borrow a book.

## Cultural Director

(Cont'd from page 3)

Another way that the local Scandinavian American community is getting *bättre* is that we're cooperating more on events. The Swedish American Chamber of Commerce (SACC) and Swedish Cultural Center are again planning our annual Crayfish Celebration dinner on Friday, September 5. Crayfish dinners are a late summer tradition in Sweden and we can't miss it here either. The crayfish are caught in fresh water, boiled with dill and eaten cold, invariably accompanied by Swedish snaps and beer. We hope you'll join us. Check [www.swedishculturalcenter.org](http://www.swedishculturalcenter.org) for RSVP information. The Board of the Swedish Cultural Center is planning a table at the Nordic Heritage Museum auction on Sunday, September 21, for our members and board. If you've thought about attending the Museum's auction and want to sit with a group of Swedes and their friends, let us know and we'll send in the RSVPs together. We think it will be a lot of fun and may just get our juices going for our own Swedish Cultural Center auction on February 7.

## Introducing Rohm!

Our newest member of the staff at the Swedish Cultural Center is Rohm Gustafson. He is the administrative assistant to both RW Clay, the Executive Director, who handles the rentals and the building, and to Kristine Leander, the Cultural Director who handles the membership, communication, and cultural events.

We're moving things around at the Center, due to our upcoming rental arrangement with the Swedish Finn Historical Society, and Rohm's new office is in the lobby. He's there to greet visitors and answer the phone four days a week. Although Rohm's heritage is Swedish, he lived in Denmark and speaks Danish, so if you want to rent a room or discuss your membership in Danish, he's the man for the job! Please stop and say hello to Rohm next time you're in the Center.



## CROWN ROOM

food service by  
**As You Like It Catering**

*Eric DuBois, Owner*

Visit the Crown  
Room Lounge

### HAPPY HOURS

The first and third Friday  
of each month  
5:00 till 10:30 pm

Come join your friends  
for discount drinks, a light  
meal, and good company.

**Happy Hour dates  
for this month:**

August 1  
August 15  
September 5

## SCANDINAVIAN HOUR



Saturday mornings  
9:00-10:00 am

KKNW 1150 AM  
With hosts Doug Warne and Friends

**Music & other  
programming from  
the homeland**

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

## The Swedish Cultural Center announces

The Swedish Cultural Center announces 600 member households. Look for a list of new members next month.

### Some Recent Donors

Bjorn Bayley  
Brandon Benson  
Bob & Connie Blair  
Jon & Carina Halgren  
Charles Henry  
Genevieve Holter  
Barbara Krohn  
Pam & Vince Madden  
Gunnar & Birgitta Wallin  
Spelmanslag

### Deaths

Lois E. Fry  
Joyce Haglund  
Carl L. Helgren  
Donna Henry  
Alfred Gunnar Larson  
Carl Nelson  
Russell W. Weberg



## NEW ADDRESS?

Send your address changes or corrections to:  
Swedish Cultural Center  
Attn: Address Change  
1920 Dexter Ave. N.  
Seattle WA 98119

Or you can e-mail to [info@swedishculturalcenter.org](mailto:info@swedishculturalcenter.org).  
Let us know if we left out your information by mistake.

## Vännerna (Friends)



Do you like to sew, or enjoy the company of those who do?

**Please join us.  
Vännerna meetings  
resume in September.**

You're invited to join our friendship group that gets together to do handwork and projects that support the Swedish Cultural Center.

For more information contact  
206-283-1090 or  
[info@swedishculturalcenter.org](mailto:info@swedishculturalcenter.org)

## HOSTING SWEDISH VISITORS

A great way to keep in contact with what is happening in Sweden is to host students or traveling performers.

Are you willing to host dance or music participants from Scandinavia who come to Seattle for short performance visits? Please contact Roberta Morrow at:

[birdeekay@earthlink.net](mailto:birdeekay@earthlink.net).

# Hemlandsnytt

## News from the homeland

Submitted by  
Gunnar Wallin

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

**Royal birthday:** As is the tradition, Crown princess Victoria received her birthday celebrations, at the Solliden castle on her 31st birthday on July 14. A large crowd was gathered at the courtyard to sing "ja må hon leva" and Victoria was overwhelmed to see how many people were there to greet her.

**Go green:** Dealers selling electric cycles are sensing great success in accord with rising gas prices and climate debate. Now more Swedes will discover the new transportation gadget that already is a big hit in Japan and now becoming more popular in Europe.

**Hot:** The foreign tourists visiting Sweden are increasing in numbers and they spend an average of SEK 7,000 (\$ 1,700) per day and person during their stay, which should add up to a total of SEK 100 billion this year. This includes money spent on airline tickets, hotel/restaurants and shopping.

**Big deal:** Sweden's Volvo AB reported that its aircraft unit Volvo Aero has signed a contract to supply components for the US aircraft engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney. Volvo said the deal is expected to result in sales worth SEK 50 billion (\$ 8.4 billion) over 40 years. The Volvo stock rose 2.12 percent following the announcement.

**More:** There are 11,944 foreign companies in Sweden. That is an increase by 837 since last year. The foreign companies have a total of 612,326 employees and this is the first time that more than 600,000 Swedes are working for non-Swedish companies. The EU countries, United States and Norway dominate the foreign ownership in Sweden.

**Happiness:** Next to the Danes, Swedish retirees are the happiest in Europe as 93 percent of them state that they are satisfied with life. This in accordance with a research in Europe of elders regarding quality of life. The retirees in Hungary think they are the worst off and less than half of them are satisfied with life.

**Concern:** The threat against the environment and the struggle against the climate changes are questions that should have the highest priority within EU, according to more than seven out of 10 Swedes. More than 1,000 Swedes took part of a research which totaled 26,000 people in EU's 27 member countries.

**Crook:** Nothing seems sacred for copper thieves. A person called the police and told them that a man was tearing down the copper roof of the train station in Partille. The thief sensed that he was observed and when the police arrived he was gone. Left on the ground was a stack of spouts and parts of the roof and the bad guy didn't get to keep any of the copper.

We will run your classified ad on a space available basis, if the topic relates to Sweden or to Scandinavia. Your name must be included in the ad.

### Research Materials Still Requested

Do you have any bygdeboks or gård histories from Sweden? or information about farms or families in Sweden.

Contact us at the SCC  
*Tack så mycket!*

### TICKETS ON SAS!

Two SAS roundtrip non-stop economy class tickets for Seattle to Copenhagen, dates 8/22 - 9/6/08. \$1,600/for both.

Please contact  
Kristian Erik Soholm:  
ksoholm@runbox.com.

### PLAYGROUPS for Swedish speaking parents and their children

Contact our Cultural Director, Kristine Leander, to learn about private playgroups in your area.

kristine@  
swedishculturalcenter.org

# CALENDAR

Fun Stuff for Local Swedes & Their Friends!

These events are at the Swedish Cultural Center and you'r invited!

**Friday, August 1. Nordic Happy Hour.** You've heard about April 1 as April Fools Day. Come to Happy Hour for our August First Scandinavian Joke Day! Be prepared to tell your favorite Ole and Sven jokes. Always the best view in town. Food available too. 5:00 till 10:30 pm.

**Wednesday, Aug. 13. Members' Meeting.** Swedes love to picnic! Everyone is invited for a delicious hoe-down picnic dinner with games, prizes and songs. A couple of members have offered to teach us Swedish drinking songs! Social hour starts at 5:30, dinner at 6:30 and the program starts around 7:30. \$15. Please RSVP the Monday before so we know you're coming. 206-283-1090. It's fun, and a wonderful chance to meet other members and learn what's going on at the Center.

**Friday, August 15. Nordic Happy Hour.** Swedes love to celebrate. It's the names day for Stella or Stellan, so if that's your name, the Swedish Cultural Center will buy you a drink! Always the best view in town. Food available too. 5 pm till 10:30 pm.

**Wednesday, Aug 20. Kafferep.** Join us for a real Swedish coffee party at in the lobby of the Swedish Cultural Center. Bring some of your own favorite cookies or just come! Free. 2 pm (NOTE NEW TIME!)

**Tuesday, Sept. 2. Vännerna.** Do you like to sew or enjoy the company of those who do? Join us for our monthly Tuesday morning sewing and crafts session, 10 am and It's Free

**Friday, Sept. 5. Crayfish Celebration and Fundraising Auction.** Join together with members of the Swedish Cultural Center and the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce. We'll enjoy the Swedish tradition of a fun party with delicious late summer crayfish and other traditional foods. 6:30 pm till 12 midnight. Members of either group \$45 and guests \$50. RSVP to SACC, PO Box 2229, Bellevue, WA 98004.

**Sunday, Sept. 7. Swedish Cultural Center's Pancake Breakfast:** We resume our monthly breakfasts, 8 am until 1:30 pm. Music and dancing make it the best food and entertainment in town. Don't miss it! Prices will go up, but not for our members. Bring your card.

**Make an appointment: Genealogy Help.** Free to Swedish Cultural Center members. Bring your family records or send them by e-mail and she'll find out what she can. She'll also teach you to continue the research. Call Kristine to schedule your time: 206-283-1090.

**Swedish speaking volunteers?** We're organizing the library of at the Swedish Cultural Center to become a lending resource for the community, and we need your help. You don't have to be a librarian, only able to read Swedish titles and determine the topic of a book. It's fun to see the treasures collected over time. We have over 2,000 books and even just an hour or two helps us. E-mail [info@swedishculturalcenter.org](mailto:info@swedishculturalcenter.org) or call the Center at 206-283-1090 to tell us when you can come in.



Here are Board members working on the Three Crowns Lounge re-do. Erik Pihl, Karl Larsson, Bob Blair, Brandon Benson. You're all invited to an upcoming Happy Hour to check out the changes. Thanks guys!