Docksamling

The doll collection in the lobby of the Swedish Cultural Center has delighted visitors of all ages for over 30 years. It began when a Swedish gentleman who lived in Seattle and recently passed away, Uno Ahman, was given a handcrafted doll from relatives in Sweden. His wife, Inga Märtha Ahman, came up with the idea of collecting dolls from every province in Sweden. Each province has its own traditional folkdräkt (costume), handsewn and worn on holidays and other festive occasions, and the dolls’ costumes match the official folkdräkt. Inga Märtha and other members of the Svenska Kulturförbundet worked very hard to get the collection ready for the American Bicentennial celebration in 1976.

Various individuals in Seattle and Sweden gave the 59 dolls to the collection. Rolf Björling, son of Jussy Björling, the famous Swedish tenor, donated the Dalarna dolls. Rolf was in Seattle to sing at benefit concerts for various charities, such as a children’s home and the Swedish Club, and stayed with Inga Märtha and Uno Ahman. In appreciation for their hospitality he donated the pair of Dalarna dolls to the club. The Karoliner man is in a soldier’s outfit, worn by the soldiers who fought for Charles the Twelfth from 1697 to 1718. In that war, soldiers marched from Norway to Stockholm by way of Dalsland, and this doll was appropriately created by Lisa Johansson from the province of Dalsland.

The special glass case was built to house the dolls, and since the Svenska Kulturförbundet didn’t have its own club house, the collection was loaned to the Swedish Club. Various SKF members had the task of cleaning the dolls, which was lovingly done with an airbrush and termed “doll-dusting.” Ten years ago, the collection was valued at nearly $4,000, and the current value is considerably higher. When the Svenska Kulturförbundet disbanded this summer, they gave the collection to the Swedish Cultural Center. While everyone is sorry that the society is no longer a formal organization, we are delighted that the dolls’ permanent home will be here, where they have already been loved and cherished for so many years.

Clockwise from upper left: The two dolls in front are from Småland, the province from which many immigrants came to America; the two dolls behind are from Dalarna, known as “the heart of Sweden” or the area many tourists visit as archetypical Sweden. Sami dolls from Lapland. Dalarna dolls given by Rolf Björling. Karoliner soldier doll. Closeup of Sami doll.
President’s Notes

The holiday season is a special time in Sweden, and when we start hearing about Lucia, lassekatter and lutefisk, Swedes know that Christmas is not far off. At the Swedish Cultural Center, you can experience all these traditions in true Swedish style, along with a fantastic Nordic New Year’s Eve party. I hope you will join us as the Center becomes a holiday gathering place for Seattle’s Scandinavian community. You can find details about all these activities in the Cultural Director’s article in this newsletter.

We are especially pleased this year to be hosting Luciabal, a long-standing Seattle tradition which has always been hosted by Svenska Kulturförbundet (the Swedish Cultural Society). When Kulturförbundet made the decision, sadly, to dissolve as a formal organization, we were grateful and honored that they voted to donate half of their remaining treasury to the Swedish Cultural Center and the other half to the Nordic Heritage Museum. And we are happy that former members of Kulturförbundet are joining us to help coordinate Luciabal this year.

We want to sustain the legacy of Kulturförbundet and carry on traditions such as Luciabal so that the culture and the society of this organization live on in our Swedish community. To all the people from Kulturförbundet: we thank you for your confidence and for your involvement over the years; and we welcome you to carry forth these elements in years to come with the organizational support of the Swedish Cultural Center.

Speaking of year-end traditions, I must remind you to read the Center’s annual appeal letter. The letter summarizes the progress we are making toward revitalizing our facility and our programs, and asks you to cast your vote of approval in the form of a contribution toward one of the many improvements we are working on, such as a refurbished library or expanded educational opportunities.

To all our members and friends, God Jul and Gott Nytt År!

KARL LARSSON
President, Swedish Cultural Center
klarsson@earthlink.net
Cultural Director’s Notes

Go Nuts at Christmas

“No one does Christmas like the Swedes!” That claim came from American-born, Midwest-raised Jim Nelson, who now lives in Norway and will entertain us at the Swedish Cultural Center’s Nordic Christmas dinner on Dec. 21. High praise indeed from someone who should know! My upbringing bears it out. Growing up in Skagit Valley, I thought everyone celebrated Christmas with rosette irons and Swedish-woven tablecloths, cookies by the dozens, lutfisk, meatballs, and rice pudding with an almond. My mother was indifferent to Santa Claus but gave extra treats to the farm animals on Christmas Eve; my father pined for julotta services, which didn’t exist in the Valley; and my brothers and I hung the angels on the Swedish candleholder the wrong way at least once each year so we could watch the angels fly backward. My family was more Swedish at Christmas than at any other time of year. And traditions are more important to our community now than ever before.

We warmly invite you to participate in at least one or more of the upcoming celebrations. The season starts with our Members & Friends Dinner on Wednesday, Dec. 10. The choir Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola (SVF) from Jönköping, Sweden, will join us for dinner and will sing for us afterward. Their music is guaranteed to bring a smile to your heart. On Friday, Dec. 12, at our Friday Kaffé and coffee hour fika, we will serve Lusse-katter (Lucia buns) to mark the December 13 celebration of the Swedish queen of light, St. Lucia. That evening will be our Lucia Ball. The tradition of celebrating Lucia’s day with a dinner dance came from the Svenska Kulturförbundet, and the former members are doing most of the planning. There will be a Lucia pageant and the students from Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola will return to the Center to lead us in the dances and songs around the Christmas tree. At this time, there are still tickets, but we anticipate it will be a sellout.

In the early evening of Sunday, Dec. 21, at our Nordic Christmas dinner, we will enjoy the music of Jim Nelson, also mentioned above, and our board member Lori Ann Reinhall while we eat lutfisk and other traditional food. Jim and Lori Ann delighted an audience at the club with their singing and music last summer, and we know you’ll enjoy the music, the food, and the Christmas cheer at this dinner too. New Year’s Eve is the party we’ve all been waiting for. Young people from their early 20s to their 80s will enjoy the music, as we have two bands this year. Kate Tucker and the Sons of Sweden will be on the top floor and Richard Svensson and the Svea Trio will be on the bottom floor. Something for everyone! We anticipate a wonderful holiday season at the Swedish Cultural Center this jultid and we hope to see you here.

Kristine Leander
Cultural Director, Swedish Cultural Center • kristine@swedishculturalcenter.org

Lucia by Carl Larsson, 1908.
Blue + Yellow = Green

Sweden is one of the leaders in protecting the environment. To help you go green this holiday season, we’re offering some environmentally friendly suggestions that will also please the Swedes and Swedo-philes on your holiday list:

**Membership at the Swedish Cultural Center ($45).** The younger crowd has discovered our Happy Hour, so it’s a rocking place for all generations. We’ll send a welcoming letter to your giftee and provide a good time when he or she shows up. Besides, it’s a great way to support the changes going on at the Center. We even have gift certificates for our pancake breakfasts. Check our Web site: www.swedishculturalcenter.org.

**Membership at the Nordic Heritage Museum ($35).** As members, they’ll receive free admission to exhibits, invitations to the gallery openings, news of activities at the Museum, and preferred pricing on events and at the gift shop. The Museum’s Arctic Circle is available for younger members. www.nordicmuseum.org.

Lest anyone think Santa has forgotten how we all need a bit of indulgence, particularly at holiday time, how about a gift certificate for a facial with a Swedish-speaking esthetician at Sara’s Skin Butik?

The owner specializes in European facials. She grew up in America but travels often to her mother’s homeland of Sweden and is fluent in Swedish. You can contact her at her studio in West Seattle at 206-938-7714.

**Dance lessons at Skandia Folkdance Society ($35).** Beginning and intermediate lessons start quarterly at the Phinney Neighborhood Center north of downtown Seattle. This exercise is a lot more fun than the gym. www.skanda-folkdance.org.

**Subscriptions** to the magazines Swedish Press or Scandinavian Press may be the ideal gift for someone on your list. Visit www.nordicway.com or call 604-731-6381 for gift subscriptions.

**An immigrant’s name at Ballard’s Leif Erikson statue ($125).** Our Scandinavian parents or grandparents left their homeland in search of a better future for themselves and the generations that would follow. Honor them by placing their names on the plaques at Shilshole Bay Marina. www.leiferikson.org.

If you simply can’t think of what to get for someone with Nordic genes, how about a gift certificate to Olsen’s Scandinavian Foods or Scandinavian Specialties, both in Ballard? Your recipient will have the fun of picking out a delicious new food or a Scandinavian book—maybe a recipe book?—or any of the other hundreds of Nordic gifts and food items. www.scandinavianfoods.net and www.scanspecialties.com. The Swedish Cultural Center wishes everyone on your list a green god jul.

---

**News from the Nordic Heritage Museum**

The Center’s newsletter will include regular updates from the Nordic Heritage Museum. If you’re not already a member and visitor to the Museum, now is the time. Nordic Heritage Museum is the only Scandinavian museum to encompass all the Nordic countries. Its Board of Trustees, members and staff have embarked on an exciting venture to build a new facility on Market Street in Ballard.

Over $13 million of the $65 million campaign goal is secured. The new 65,000-square-foot world-class museum will incorporate Scandinavian sustainable design. In early 2008, the museum hired Seattle-based architectural firm Mithun, founded by a Norwegian architect, and Ralph Appelbaum Associates from New York City as exhibit designers. In September, their designs were approved, and in October, Executive Director Eric Nelson represented the Museum on a trip to Washington, D.C. He met with ambassadors and cultural attachés at Nordic embassies and the offices of Rep. Norm Dicks and Sens. Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray. Back in Seattle, Eric also met with Rep. Jim McDermott.

Please get involved: The Museum needs your support as a volunteer, as an ambassador for the museum and as a donor (every dollar counts!) to work to secure NHM’s future home. For more information, please contact Diane Figaro, capital campaign associate, at 206-789-5707 extension 24 or dianef@nordicmuseum.org.
More Auction Action

The fun factor for the Swedish Cultural Center’s auction coming on February 7, “Voyage Aboard the Swedish American Line,” is growing every week. A mystery guest in glamorous attire showed up at the November Members & Friends dinner to make sure that “Dahling, you’re coming to the auction, aren’t you?” We don’t know if she’ll be back in December, but she might be. We hope that if she returns, you will say yes when she asks if you’ll be there.

Our auction planners want you to have a good time—and be safe on your way home—so they have reserved a block of rooms for auction guests at the Courtyard by Marriott, located at 925 Westlake Ave N., just below the club. The hotel is holding rooms until January 10, so please call early. You will check in on Saturday, Feb. 7, and check out on Sunday, Feb. 8. Parking is included with your room for $129 for either a single or a double room. Call 206-213-0100 or 1-800-321-2211 to make your reservation.

We’re still seeking donations of auction items. The Swedish Cultural Center thanks the following auction donors:

- Tim Andersen, Architect
- Cascade Ski & Snowboard School
- Costco
- Cutter & Buck
- Cutter’s Bayhouse
- Daly’s Paint & Decorating
- Family Fun Center & Bullwinkle’s Restaurant
- Hilltop Yarn
- Holland America Line
- Hotel Andra
- Interbay Golf Center
- Northwest Outdoor Center
- Pacific Northwest Ballet
- Southwest Airlines
- Starbucks
- Strictly Scandinavian
- Supercuts, Ballard
- Victoria Clipper
- Ann Wendell, Author

When you patronize them—and we hope you do—please thank them for their donation to the Swedish Cultural Center.
Hemlandsnytt

News from the homeland
A column of current Swedish news topics, taken from Swedish news media.

Compiled by Gunnar Wallin

Concern: The Baltic Sea is not feeling too well these days, according to results from testing oxygen levels in the bottom waters. These tests were made at 60 different sites, and some showed very low oxygen or no oxygen at all. The reports show that 26 percent of the bottoms of the west, east, and north "Gotlands basins" are totally dead, while 46 percent of the same areas have acute lack of oxygen.

Economy: Sweden has unveiled a plan to support banks with 1.5 trillion kronor ($200 billion) in credit guarantees in a move to improve liquidity amid the global financial turmoil. The center-right government said it would also create a 15 billion kronor ($2 billion) "stability fund" to bail out any Swedish bank that runs into solvency problems.

Royal treat: Recently, on her maiden visit to India, the one thing that Crown Princess Victoria could not talk enough about was the traditional and folk dances of India. On a visit to the Vikhe Patil Memorial School, she watched these dances for the first time. She was accompanied by Lars-Olof Lindgren, the Swedish ambassador to India, and Anders Sjoberg, the deputy ambassador.

SAAB Gripen: It would be the best choice for Norway to purchase Swedish and not American fighter planes. That conclusion was presented in a joint report from Norway’s Defense and Security Industry and the Norwegian Engineering and Technology Organization. The report advises the Norwegian government to acquire forty-eight Jas 39 Gripen planes rather than the American F-35 Lightning II.

Happy birthday: Last month, Rut Mikaelsson, the oldest Swedish citizen, celebrated her 109th birthday. She lives in Äsele, Västerbotten, and when interviewed by Radio Sweden, she said: “I have lived a good life and been healthy, and it is fun to be alive.” She has lived to see three centuries, two World Wars, and four kings.

Oops: Two cars collided with the same moose on the road between Borås and Seglora. The cars were driving in opposite lanes, and one of the cars hit the moose, which went airborne and landed on the other car. The two drivers were injured and were taken to the hospital, and the moose—sadly—died.

How Swede it is: Swedish soccer star and midfielder Fredrik Ljungberg has signed a contract to play for Seattle Sounders FC of Major League Soccer. In a press conference in Seattle after the deal was struck, he said: “I am here to win and make the league better. After careful consideration, I decided that Seattle was right for me. It is a fantastic city and the club has great ambitions and great fans.”

Opinions expressed are not those of the Swedish Cultural Center.

The Club’s Friday Kafé

Back in the Swedish Club’s heyday, the restaurant was one of the primary reasons people joined, so the Board has been working for several years to re-establish it. It was difficult to find the right direction, but this year, Board Members took into consideration the public’s greater interest in Scandinavian food and our refurbished lounge and well-attended Happy Hours. After asking themselves, “Why not now?” they moved forward in a small step and opened the lunch kafé at the end of November. Guests can select open-face smörgås sandwiches starting at 12 noon, homemade pastries all afternoon, and a hot entrée that varies weekly in the evening. Ann-Margret Lightle is our hostess and pastry chef and Chris Heise is our server. There are reasons to come down to the club from midday through the evening: if you want a Swedish lunch in a beautiful setting, you can come at noon, or a real Swedish fika, please come in the afternoon, or a lively setting for dinner and Happy Hour prices for drinks, come in the evening. See you down at the club!
What Is a Swede Finn?

Finland and Sweden have had a long association. While early Finnish and Swedish peoples met eons before their countries existed, history marks their connection about 700 years ago when Sweden’s King Eric introduced Christianity into Finland. Swedes settled along Finland’s southern and western coasts and maintained their Swedish language. Over the years, Finland was integrated into the Swedish kingdom. Its major business, trade and government language became Swedish, but following a period of Finnish nationalism in the 19th century, Finnish regained its prominence. At that time, Swedish-speaking Finns constituted upwards of 15 percent of the population and remained mostly along the coast.

Fast forward to the present and travel one continent away, and what do you have? The Swedish Finn Historical Society and the Swedish Cultural Center are now cohabitating at 1920 Dexter Ave. N., in Seattle, and it’s time to become better acquainted with our Swedish Finn neighbors.

Who are they? Just as other emigrants left the Scandinavian countries during the era of emigration, people left Finland due to difficult times: inadequate land for the population, fear of conscription into the Russian army, lack of job opportunities, plus the pull of stories of better times in America. All in all, from 1870 to the 1930s, 390,000 Finns emigrated, leaving families, traditions, churches, and culture; 70,000 were Swedish Finns. In America, they were respected for their skills and strong work ethic; one of their earliest documented contributions to North America was the technology of log cabin building in the New Sweden Colony along the Delaware River in 1638. Swedish Finns continue to outdo others in their embrace of technology today.

These days, Finland is a bilingual country, which means that Swedish-speaking Finns—a minority made up of not quite 6 percent of the population—have the right to communicate with the state in their mother tongue. Seattle’s Swedish Finns speak Swedish but hang maps of Finland in their office. They also loan and sell books and help people across the country with questions about genealogy. And we might add, as their neighbors, they make darn good cookies.

Executive Director’s Notes

Season’s greetings! What a wonderful time of year to celebrate with family and friends. As usual, your Center is presenting you with a host of different activities. This year is better than ever as we offer something for everyone. You can find information for each event in this newsletter on our Web site, www.swedishculturalcenter.org, or by calling the office. The Center will soon be sporting a jul visage, making things even cheerier and putting us in a holiday mood. And if our holiday decorations don’t work for you, we’ll warm up the glogg. When you come by, you’ll notice the new arrangement of our lobby. Many pieces of art and other treasures are now highlighted in new locations. The Décor and Exhibits committee did a great job. Bravo and thank you.

November was a busy month, just as we anticipate December will be. Volunteers and staff took on the ambitious project of reviving the Bazaar. It went well, and we have scheduled it again for next year. Last month’s pancake breakfast attendance of over 1,100 nearly broke a record. We anticipate this month’s breakfast on Sunday, December 7, will be busy as well. There’s nothing like starting your Christmas shopping with a tasty full of Swedish pancakes and perhaps a pocketful of pancake gift certificates to stuff in those stockings. Before I forget, thanks to all the volunteers who go an extra mile to make our pancake breakfasts a success. You are the greatest.

The Friday evening Nordic Happy Hours are becoming a roaring success. Thanks and congratulations to Anna Anderson, our vice president of programs, who is planning events that draw people in. It’s good to see the lounge full and overflowing again. If you haven’t come to Happy Hour on a Friday evening, we hope you will soon. And by now I hope you have also enjoyed a Friday lunch in the Crown Room lounge.

That’s about it for this month—except, of course, these notes would not be complete without my reminder that it’s never too late to volunteer. We have opportunities if you have the inclination.

I hope to see you in the Center soon. Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

R.W. Clay
Executive Director, Swedish Cultural Center
rw@swedishculturalcenter.org

Members & Friends Dinner
WEDNESDAY, December 10, 2008
Stockholm Room

Social 6:30 p.m.
Dinner 7:30 p.m.
Cost $15.00

First course
Gurksallad
Cucumber salad

Second course
Stekt späckad gamehöna med dillsås
Roasted stuffed game hen with dill gravy
Stekt yukon gold potatis med curry
Curry roasted Yukon gold potatoes
Kokt gronsaksröra
Steamed vegetable medley

Dessert
Appelstruldel med kanel i vispad grädde
Apple strudel cake with cinnamon whipped cream

Students from Södra Vatterbygdens Folkhögskola will join us for dinner and sing afterward. Please RSVP by Monday, Dec. 8. For reservations, please call 206-283-1090, or e-mail rw@swedishculturalcenter.org

Read Your Newsletter
At the Members & Friends Dinner, there will be a prize for the correct response to a trivia question taken from this issue.

www.swedishculturalcenter.org
Coming Events at the Swedish Cultural Center

**Friday, Dec. 5, 12, 19.**

**Friday Kafé.**
Every Friday lunches. Smorgåsbord sandwiches starting at 12 noon, homemade pastries all afternoon, and a hot entrée in the evening that varies weekly. Did we mention the best view in town? 12 noon, 1920 Dexter Ave. N., Seattle. (No Kafé on Dec. 26.)

**Friday, Dec. 5.**

**Nordic Happy Hour.**
A listening party for a CD of mellow music and holiday songs by the Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola choir from Jonköping, Sweden. Glögg every Friday in December. Scandinavian entrees. 5–10:30 p.m., 1920 Dexter Ave. N., Seattle.

**Saturday, Dec. 6.**

**Winter Concert.**
The Swedish Women’s Chorus, the Svea Male Chorus and two choirs from Snohomish will perform at Ballard First Lutheran Church. 2 p.m., 2006 NW 65th Ave., Seattle.

**Sunday, Dec. 7.**

**Swedish Pancakes.**
Music and dancing make it the best food and entertainment in town. 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m., 1920 Dexter Ave. N., Seattle.

**Wednesday, Dec. 10.**

**Members & Friends Dinner.**
Students from Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola will join us for dinner and sing afterward. Social hour 6:30 p.m., dinner 7:30 p.m. $15. Just this evening, we’ll eat in the ground floor Stockholm Room. We must have your RSVP by Monday, Dec. 8. rw@swedishculturalcenter.org or call the Center at 206-283-1090 to tell us when you can come in.

**Friday, Dec. 12.**

**Luciabal.**
A Saint Lucia pageant and songs in Swedish, traditional Swedish food, and dance music by Sylvia. Song dances around the tree led by students from Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola in Jonköping, Sweden. Social hour 6:30 p.m., dinner 7:30 p.m. $15 for members, $20 for guests. Purchase your ticket by December 5 for the chance to win a cruise for two on Norwegian Cruise Line. 206-283-1090. 1920 Dexter Ave. N., Seattle.

**Friday, Dec. 12.**

**Book Launch: Frederick & Nelson.**
Do you remember that famous Seattle store with Swedish roots? You’re going to love the new Arcadia book Frederick & Nelson by Ann Wendell. Come to Happy Hour from 5 to 10:30 p.m. and enjoy snacks from the F & N Tearoom menu, including Frangos! 1920 Dexter Ave. N., Seattle.

**Wednesday, Dec. 17.**

**Kafferep.**
Our monthly coffee party will be special with Christmas cookies and music this month. Everyone is invited. Please bring some of your favorite cookies to share with everyone. Free. Info: 206-283-1090. 2 p.m., 1920 Dexter Ave. N., Seattle.

**Sunday, Dec. 21.**

**A Nordic Christmas.**
Jim Nelson, an American singer who lives in Norway and delighted audiences at a recent Happy Hour, is coming back. Lori Reinhall will help him make the music. No one does Christmas music better than the Swedes! We’ll have lutefisk and other Christmas delicacies on the table and Scandinavian songs for your enjoyment. $24 members, $30 nonmembers. 4 p.m., 1920 Dexter Ave. N., Seattle.

**Thursday, Dec. 25.**

**Julotta.**
Traditional early Christmas service at 7 a.m. The Swedish Women’s Chorus and Svea Male Chorus will sing. Service is in Swedish; everyone is welcome. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 911 Stewart St., Seattle. Parking is available in the parking lot across the street at Stewart and Terry. There will be coffee and cookies after the service.

**Wednesday, Dec. 31.**

**Nordic New Year!**
Music on two floors: Seattle’s awesome indie-pop darlings Kate Tucker and the Sons of Sweden on the top floor and Richard Svensson’s Svea Trio for dancing on the ground floor. A light dinner of Nordic food too. Starts around 9 p.m. $50 ($40 per person for members of the Swedish Cultural Center or Leif Erikson Lodge Sons of Norway). Buy your tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com or send a check to Swedish Cultural Center, 1920 Dexter Ave. N., Seattle, 98109.

---

Volunteers?
We’re just about done organizing the library and the next big project is to organize our archives. Are you a neatnik at heart? Do you love history? Do you know about earlier days at the Swedish Cultural Center? Will you join us as we sort through old photos and work to get them labeled and neatly put away for the future? E-mail info@swedishculturalcenter.org or call the Center at 206-283-1090 to tell us when you can come in.

Rentals available at Swedish Cultural Center.
1920 Dexter Ave N., Seattle. Call 206-283-1078 or visit www.swedishculturalcenter.org/Venues/venues.htm. If you’ve been a member for at least a year, you get a discount.