



# Swedish Center News

Issue No. 503

January 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.*

### The SCC Calendar:

Looking for the monthly calendar of events? Check out the calendar found on the back page of the newsletter.

**SCC AUCTION:  
SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 9, 2008**

## Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, January 6, 2008  
8:00 am - 1:30 pm**

### LIVE SCANDINAVIAN FOLK MUSIC

*Skandia Kapelle, Speldosan,  
Spelmannslag*

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

## Scandinavian Antiques & Flea Market Saturday, January 26

Do you love old things, especially Scandinavian? Do you have more than you need? Want an easy way to get rid of stuff?

We have good news for you! The Swedish Cultural Center is sponsoring an antiques sale and flea market. The event will take place on Saturday, January 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at SCC. Admission after 10:00 a.m. is only \$1.00 (9:00 a.m. "early bird" admission is \$5.00).

Come buy interesting old things, or reserve a table to sell what you no longer need!

Scandinavian antique dealers will have quality antiques for sale. You are welcome to rent a table and sell used and "mostly" Scandinavian items. Clubs are welcome too! If you need advice on pricing items, advisors will be on hand Friday evening, January 25, during set-up. For more information, contact the SCC at 206-283-1090. The event will be at Swedish Cultural Center, 1920 Dexter Avenue North.

## Annual Exchange with Leif Erikson Lodge on February 16

It's the Leif Erikson Lodge of the Sons of Norway's turn to host the annual exchange between the Lodge and Swedish Cultural Center. This year's event will be held on Saturday, February 16, starting at 6:00 p.m. The date was chosen to coincide with the visit to Seattle of a talented trio from Sweden, *Grannar*. This dynamic group "wows their audiences with their technical expertise, innovative arrangements, and showmanship."

Please remember that this year the exchange is **free** for SCC members and includes dinner and dancing. Please make your reservation by calling the office at (206) 283-1090. Leif Erikson Lodge is located at 2245 N.W. 57th St. in downtown Ballard.

Mark your calendars now for an evening of good food, music and camaraderie!

*Grannar* will also be performing at a Skandia dance party on Friday, Feb. 15 at the Cedar Valley Grange and hosting a music workshop on Saturday, Feb. 16 at 10:30 a.m. at the Nordic Heritage Museum. For more information about those events, please contact Skandia Folkdance Society's information line at (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
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	June Anderson Evanoff
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

With the beginning of a new year, I think about the activities that were held at the Swedish Cultural Center in 2007 and the activities planned for 2008. Last month, the Lucia Pageant and Lutfisk Dinner were held at the Center. There was good turnout for both events, which have been December traditions at the Swedish Cultural Center for many years. The University of Washington's Swedish Club continues to be our partner for the Lucia Pageant. As in prior years, the students planned and performed the Lucia procession. I would like to thank the Swedish Women's Chorus, Svea Male Chorus, and Spelmanslag for their performances at this year's event and the women of the Swedish Cultural Center for providing the refreshments.



Looking ahead, the first Pancake Breakfast of 2008 will be held on January 6. The Skandia Folkdance Society is holding an event at the Center on Saturday, January 19. A week later, on January 26, the Scandinavian Antique and Flea Market will take place in the Stockholm Hall.

Early in the New Year, the Swedish Cultural Center will hold its auction on February 9. The theme this year is Mardi Gras. Like last year, money raised from this event will go toward the scholarship program and cultural activities at the Swedish Cultural Center.

Changes will be seen around the office with the addition of another staff member in January to work on programs and membership. Former board member Susan Holmberg, who now teaches in Sweden, has also arranged to have a student intern from Sweden help around the office for the first part of the year.

*Gott nytt år!*

Brandon Benson  
President

## New Book Club for the New Year

A new book club for SCC members has been formed to read books in Swedish, and discuss them in English. The group plans to meet every other month.

The first meeting will be held at 5:30 on Wednesday, January 9 at the Center (before the monthly membership meeting). SCC member Laura Wideburg will make some suggestions about the first book for the group to read.

If you're interested and would like to read and discuss current Swedish books, please come to this meeting. For more information, contact Laura at wideburg@ix.netcom.com or 206-523-1670.

## Director's notes

The Center was very festive in spirit and appearance this holiday season. The fresh trees and garland exuded a wonderful fragrance and they were beautifully decorated by Susan Ramstead, Julie Ramstead, Bob & Connie Blair, Brandon Benson and Inga-Mai Barenthein. Eric Dubois and his staff from *As You Like It Catering* decorated the tree in the 3 Crowns room, Eric also provided and hung the entire garland. My thanks to all of them for they did a great job.

The December Pancake breakfast was a busy one, with close to 800 in attendance. The Bake Sale at the breakfast was equally busy, bringing us a nice return – my thanks to the following for making it work: Birgit Amundson, Connie Blair, Karin Gustafson, Carina Halgren, Margaret Lidberg, Marianne Olson, Birgit Trygg, Judy Womack.

Over 30 members attended and enjoyed a great meal at the membership dinner meeting followed by a fun sing-along of Christmas songs with Richard Svensson. The Lucia pageant this year was outstanding – our thanks to Dr. Ia DuBois of the University of Washington Scandinavian Department and the student members of their Swedish Club: they sang beautifully, as did our Swedish Women's and Svea Male Choruses. Wonderful music was provided by very talented members of Seattle Skandia Spelmanslag and our thanks also goes out to them. The Lucia buns and refreshments served at the event were provided by several women members of the Center: Birgit Amundson, Carina Halgren, Margaret Lidberg, Marianne Olson and Birgit Trygg each deserve a big thank you.

At the time of this writing, the Lutfisk Dinner and New Years Party are yet to happen – I'll give you a full report in the next issue. For now, I wish you all the best for 2008!

R.W. Clay

## New Day, Time for Film Series

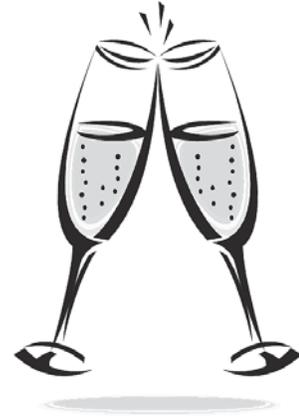
Starting in January, the SCC film series will move to a **new day and time**. The series (formerly shown on Sunday afternoons after the pancake breakfast) will now be held on Wednesday evenings, with the first film for 2008 being screened on **Wednesday, January 30** at 7:30 p.m.

January's film is *Fröken Sverige (Miss Sweden)*, a 2004 coming-of-age film by Tova Magnusson-Norling.

*Miss Sweden* is about 19-year-old Moa. Her friends are all heavily involved in social issues, hardcore vegetarians and animal rights activists. Moa tries hard to fit in, but always seems to say or do something "wrong." When she realizes her friends have no respect for her, she decides to change her life.

The 88-minute film is in Swedish with English subtitles, and refreshments will be served. A donation of \$5 is requested. For more information, please contact Randy Nelson at (206) 768-6405 or by email at rnelson900@aol.com.

## Membership Dinner



WEDNESDAY,  
January 9, 2008

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

### PROGRAM:

"New Sweden and the  
Lenape Indians: A Model  
Relationship?" by Kim-Eric  
Williams, Governor of the  
Swedish Colonial Society

### DINNER MENU:

*Smoked Bacon and Pea Soup*

*Mustard and Herb Crusted  
pork loin with onions and  
mushroom gravy*

*Cream and Dill potatoes*

*Winter vegetable medley*

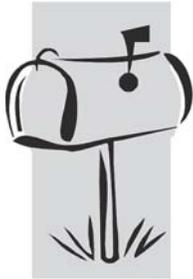
*Cinnamon apple cream Cake*

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

## New Year's resolution? Learn Swedish!

Maybe 2008 will be the year you finally start learning Swedish, or maybe it's time to brush up your skills for a summer trip to Sweden. Whatever your motivation, Swedish language classes begin the week of January 7, 2008. Class sizes are small. Classes usually meet weekday evenings.

The cost for 10 weeks is only \$95 (\$85 for members) plus materials. The instructors are: Karin Hedström, Mark Säfström and Randy Nelson. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Randy at (206)768-6405 or (206) 937-0441, or by email at [rnelson900@aol.com](mailto:rnelson900@aol.com).



## 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.

## "Eila" Ushers in 2008 "Films from Finland"

*Eila*, one of the most lauded Finnish films of the past decade, opens the 2008 series of "Films from Finland" on January 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Swedish Cultural Center.

Nominated for eight Jussi awards 2004, "Eila" won top honors for Sari Mällinen in the title role and for Jarmo Lampela, who directed the film, repeating his 2002 Jussi victory for *Joki* (The River), which was seen in Seattle in the once flourishing but now defunct Nordic Film Festival.

The inspiration for *Eila* was the actual story of a group of cleaning women who sued the Finnish government for illegal termination of employment. While *Eila*'s story may sound grim, the film does have moments of the humor of everyday life and is finally a hopeful story of one woman's determination to take control of her life.

*Eila* is in Finnish, with English subtitles. Running time is 90 minutes, and the rating is K-7.

A complete schedule of 2008 "Films from Finland" will be available at the January showing of *Eila*, in the January Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter Newsletter, or at [ffsc@finns.org](mailto:ffsc@finns.org) from January 15.

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)

# SCC Auction 2008: Deadlines Draw Near

Happy New Year to All! Within the next week you'll receive your formal invitation to our **Second Annual Auction Dinner Party, Mardi Gras, Saturday, February 9, 2008**. We hope you'll join us for the festivities. If there are friends or family members you'd like included on the guest list, please contact the office with names and addresses and invitations will be sent.

Some extraordinary donations made it possible to create great live auction items! Two are: a trip to Scandinavia and a trip to New York with dinner at Aquavit Restaurant! There will be plenty of **FUNdraising** opportunities as we socialize, enjoy our cocktails and dinner, and shop!! Please return your RSVP's before February 1, 2008 to insure best dinner pricing. You don't want to miss this party!

**Members! Your help is needed. Please drop January auction item donations off as early as possible.** This allows us to plan auction item display space. It's also less stressful for the volunteers who store, organize and retrieve the items for the auction. Need assistance or more information about donations? Contact Pam Madden or RW Clay. **There is no limit to the number of donations you can make!**

## Thank You to the following individuals for donations made through 12/15/2007:

Karin Abraham	Pam & Vince Madden
Birgit Amundson	Margaret Mechaley
Syrene Forsman	John Purvis
John & Kristia Higgins	Seattle Skandia Spelmanslag
Rolf Hokansson	Eric & Barbro Wangsten
Jeffrey Scott & Debra Kalin	Rebecka Helen Wilson
Dick & Betty Lyons	

## Please remember to thank and patronize these businesses:

All Volvo	King 5 Television
Aquavit Restaurant NY	Maggiano's Little
Bennett's Pure Food Bistro	Italy Restaurants
Cascade Acupuncture	Pacific Science Center
Cutter & Buck	SAS
Cutter's Bay House Restaurant	Seattle Art Museum
Dukes ChowderHouse	Southwest Airlines
Fred Meyer	Sunset Bowling
Hotel Andra	Swanson's Nursery
Interbay Golf	The Clog Factory
Ivars/Kidd Valley	The Scandinavian Hour

Contact RW Clay at 206-283-1090 or [swedishcc@gmail.com](mailto:swedishcc@gmail.com). Contact Pam Madden at 206-285-0623 or via email at [pammadden4@aol.com](mailto:pammadden4@aol.com).



## 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:

January 4  
January 18

## 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

Roger, Arnold, Katie Knien, Jacqueline Putt, Kaylene Robbins, Gail Anderson Stevens.

### Deceased

None reported

### Memorials

#### **In memory of June**

**Peterson:** Paul and Ellen Duernberger, Ulla Foster, Robert and Jane Hendrickson, Margaret Morrison, Philip and Nena Running, John Sundberg, Lillian Swenson, Vännerna.

#### **In memory of Ella**

**Reisinger:** Lillian Swenson, Vännerna

### Donations

Garrett Benson

### Auction Donations

Julie Byington  
Syrene Forsman  
John & Kristia Higgins  
Jeffry Scott and Debra Kalin  
Dick & Betty Lyons  
Margaret Mechaley  
Ron Olson  
John Purvis  
Barbro and Eric Wangsten  
Doug Warne

*The SCC Auction takes place Saturday, February 9, 2008. See Page 5 for more details.*

## We shine the spotlight on current SCC Board members

### **Susan Ramstead, Board Member**

Susan Ramstead is a third-generation Swede, has been a member of the SCC since 2005. She joined the board in September 2006 and is now the facilitator for the Exhibits/Decorations Committee. The committee's major responsibility is to achieve and maintain a Swedish "look and feel" throughout the SCC including displays, furnishings and accessories. The committee is working to set up an annual calendar and guidelines for exhibits and displays throughout the Center. Most recently,



the committee and other board members helped decorate the Christmas trees in the Stockholm Hall, main lobby and the Svea Room. Susan and the current committee members, Inga-Mai Barenthein and Kiki Alvord, warmly welcome new members.

Susan currently resides in Mill Creek and works for Premera Blue Cross as an Account Executive. She is the mother of two grown sons and recently welcomed a new branch onto her family tree, a handsome grandson. Susan enjoys music, travel, cooking, fitness walking and socializing with friends and family. Last spring, Susan worked with Bertil Lundh on the coordination and implementation of the Recognition Dinner and Tribute for the founders of Swedish Hospital held on April 21, 2007.

### **Karl Larsson, Board Member**

Karl Larsson is co-chair of the Building Committee, which has responsibility for managing and enhancing the potential of our facility, and tries to make Swedish design choices whenever possible. In 2007, the Building Committee oversaw new lighting in Stockholm Hall, new wall colors in the main lobby, fence replacement in the lower lot, and is currently working on refurbishing the bar and investigating a zoning variance to enable the SCC to have a restaurant.



Karl first volunteered for the pancake breakfast around 1997 and continues to help coordinate this fundraiser. He has served on the board and various committees since 1999. Karl works in both construction and property management. He and his wife Arlene live in Queen Anne with their dog Mia, and also volunteer with animal rescue work. Karl enjoys playing soccer, cycling and snowboarding.

Karl remembers coming to the Swedish Club as a kid, when the lobby had blue shag carpeting and the 3 Crowns Dining Room required reservations to get in. His father Martin—from Sweden—and mother Flo—who took Monday night Swedish classes, (guess where!) for many years—are still SCC members.

# 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.*

**Scary:** There have been many threats against schools during November 2007. On November 9, two boys – ages 16 and 17 – were caught planning to kill the principal of a school in Enskede. Then, on November 12, someone threatened to shoot students outside a school in Växjö. Finally, on November 26, a teacher at a school in Karlstad was threatened by a student, armed with a knife.

**Nice:** Göteborg has been voted Cultural Community of the year for spreading long-term and successful cultural life for its citizens.

**Another prize:** Skåne is the favorite province among the Swedes, according to a recent study of 900 people. The respondents answered questions about what province, city and region they like the best: the number one answer, receiving 18% of the vote, was Skåne; it was followed by Bohuslän and, in third place, Stockholm.

**Up, up and away:** The space travel company Virgin Galactis has started selling tickets to tourists and they are going fast. Bengt Söderqvist, from Småland, was one of the first customers buying a ticket for SEK 1.4 mil. (~ \$ 220,000). The first flight is scheduled from New Mexico in early 2009 and, three years later, flights will be launched from Kiruna.

**Brrr:** Hans Bertilsson, from south of Varberg, was celebrated with a cake when he came out from Kattegatt's ice cold water. Not only was that in November, but the dip was his 500<sup>th</sup> daily in a row. Bertilsson, 43, who has high blood pressure, read an article in a paper that a person with the same problem was cured by swimming in cold water. Sadly, the swims didn't lower Bertilsson's blood pressure – but they did him hooked on the daily dips in the cold sea.

**Honors:** Each year the organization World Economic Forum meet in Davos, Switzerland, where it generates a list of "Technology Pioneers". This year, two Swedish companies – Polar Rose and Qliktech, both from Lund – made the list of 39 companies. Polar Rose has developed a new method of search and identify digital pictures and Qliktech has developed a system that can find and analyze information in large databases.

**Close call:** A 46 year-old male threw himself on top of the hood of a car that didn't stop at a pedestrian crossing in Kristianstad. He did it to avoid being run over, hanging on for some distance before being able to call the police on his cell phone. The car went on to run a stop light and collided with another car; luckily no one was injured. The 86 year-old driver lost his license and was charged with reckless driving.

Submitted by  
Gunnar Wallin

## Vännerna



### NEXT MEETING

No Vännerna business and sewing meeting in January 2008

### COMING EVENTS

Next Vännerna business and sewing meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 5, 2008

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 - January 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 CENTER CLOSED	2 SCC Board Meeting	3	4 Happy Hour, Crown Room Lounge 5:00-7:00 pm	5	6 Pancake Breakfast  SSA Children's Swedish School
7	8 SWC & SMC Rehearse 7:00 pm	9 SCC Membership Dinner Meeting	10	11	12	13 SSA Children's Swedish School
14	15 SWC & SMC Rehearse 7:00 pm	16 SCC Committee Members Dinner	17	18 Happy Hour, Crown Room Lounge 5:00-7:00 pm	19 Skandia Folk Dance Society Event	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Scandinavian Antique & Flea Market	27 SSA Children's Swedish School
28	29	30 SCC Film Series 7:30 pm "Miss Sweden "	31			

## Swedish Center Calendar - February 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 Happy Hour, Crown Room Lounge 5:00-7:00 pm	2	3 Pancake Breakfast  SSA Children's Swedish School
4	5 SWC & SMC Rehearse 7:00 pm	6 SCC Board Meeting	7	8 Set up for Auction	9 2nd Annual SCC Auction	10 SSA Children's Swedish School
11	12 SWC & SMC Rehearse 7:00 pm	13 Membership Dinner Meeting	14	15 Happy Hour  Swedish Meatball Contest (tentative)	16	17 SSA Children's Swedish School
18	19 SWC & SMC Rehearse 7:00 pm	20 Nordic Council Meeting	21	22	23 SCC Folk Dance	24
25	26 SWC & SMC Rehearse 7:00 pm	27	28	29	30	