

Swedish Center News

Issue No. 509

July 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:
Check out the calendar found on the back page of the newsletter. We are trying out a new format.

Raffle Winners

Congratulations to our raffle winners! Andi Pihl (sister of Board Member Erik Pihl) was our grand prize winner. Andi won a \$1000 gift certificate to Best Buy. Her mother, Louise Pihl, along with her husband Bill, members from Mount Vernon, bought tickets and put her four children's names on them. To Andi's surprise, she won! Roger Pardo won the second prize of \$500 Fred Meyer/QFC shopping spree, and Arn & Carol Lindstrom won two pancake breakfasts every month for a year. The proceeds from the raffle mean an additional \$3,000 to our bottom line this month and we thank everyone who participated.

NEXT PANCAKE BREAKFAST
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2008




Sveriges Manskör
Sweden's Male Chorus

Tuesday, July 8, 7 p.m.
Free will donation welcome



Under the direction of
Lennart Johansson
Concert at
Swedish Cultural Center

The chorus will sing some of Lennart's original compositions as well as traditional songs from well-known Scandinavian composers.



Swedish Cultural Center
1920 Dexter Avenue North, Seattle, 98109
(on the east side of Queen Anne Hill) 206.283.1090
www.swedishculturalcenter.org

A marvelous men's singing group from Sweden, Sveriges Manskör, will be at the Swedish Cultural Center to perform on Tuesday, July 8, at 7 pm. You're invited!



Andi Pihl, the winner of the raffle at the Swedish National Day celebration, is seen here receiving her \$1000 certificate from Board President Karl Larsson.

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.

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Swedish Center News Editor

Rohm Gustafson

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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.

President's Message

I hope you have noticed some changes taking place recently around the Center's main lobby and offices. You may have also noticed some change in the lounge on the top floor. This is all part of our effort to make our wonderful building better serve and support our membership.

The general plan for the main floor is to free up a large enough space to lease two offices to the Swedish Finn Historical Society (SFHS) for two to five years, until they find a new permanent home.

An important aspect of this rearranging is that Vännerna has agreed to allow us to use their room (next door to the library) as an office. Thank you so much to all the members of Vännerna for your generosity and loyalty to the Center, both now and through the years! Vännerna will continue to meet in one of the adjacent rooms.

Another change in use of space is that we are trying a new set-up for our new administrative assistant, Rohm Gustafson. Instead of sharing an office with someone, he will have a desk in the lobby, allowing him to greet visitors and answer questions. I have personally seen people walk into the lobby, appear bewildered and head out the door. On a few occasions, I have asked the person if I could help and they answered that they were curious about the Swedish Cultural Center... Who knows how many potential members have walked in and out the door because they weren't given a good Swedish "Välkommen!"

An additional benefit of this new configuration is that Executive Director R.W. Clay will have more privacy in his office, giving him a more professional setting in which to meet with potential rental clients.

Meanwhile, we are moving closer to finalizing the contract to welcome SFHS to our building this autumn. Having them here will generate more activity around the Center and will create another opportunity for SCC members to connect with their Swedish and/or Finnish roots. Leasing space to another 501(c)(3) organization will support our own non-profit status, and the revenue we gain will help us with needed improvements around the building.

You will soon be seeing more changes in the Crown Room Lounge. I assure you this is not just change for the sake of change. Many times we have heard comments about what a wonderful space and view we have there—and how cool it would be if we spruced it up. The Board has worked long and hard to devise a master plan for doing this. We believe a stylish lounge will help increase rentals of the facility; and more importantly, will encourage membership participation at our events including Happy Hours! We have even received some donations for the refurbishment, including a very high quality piano—a Boston (division of Steinway) UP-118S — donated by Board Member Lori Ann Reinhall and a monetary gift from another member. Thank you both very much for your generosity! More about this elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have questions about any of this activity or would like to get involved, feel free to contact me.

Karl Larsson
President
klarsson@earthlink.net

Executive Director's notes

As I begin this message to you, the sun is shining brightly, bringing an end to the longest winter I've experienced in Seattle. We are also approaching the end of the second quarter and I am happy to report that we are very close to being on budget with our income and expenses. June's pancake breakfast brought us over 800 guests—a good crowd for the last breakfast of the season. Thank you to all pancake volunteers. Enjoy the break and we'll see you again on September 7. Thank you to everyone who participated in the raffle and all the volunteers for their hard work on National Day, another successful event. The Board never sits still. Our auction chair and Board Member Pam Madden has already started to prepare for the 2009 auction. I'm sure that if everyone gives her the strong support you've shown for the raffle, it will be another successful event.

I also give my congratulations to Jane Lea, recipient of the "Swede of the Year Award." At the June membership dinner meeting we had the pleasure of the company of Eric Nelson, Executive Director of the Nordic Heritage Museum and Karen Hansen, Director of Marketing for the Nordic Heritage Museum. Eric presented us with a program detailing the intended direction for the Museum. It was enlightening and interesting to learn of the plans for the Museum's future.

I thought it might be fun to have a little quiz this month. The winner will be the first person to call me on 206-283-1078 with the correct answer. If I don't get your call live, my answering service records date and time. The prize will be two beverages of your choice at the next members' dinner meeting. Here is the question: Which country was the first in the world to introduce freedom of the press and in what year? The operator is standing by. Well that's it for this month; hope to see you in the Center soon.

R.W. Clay
Executive Director

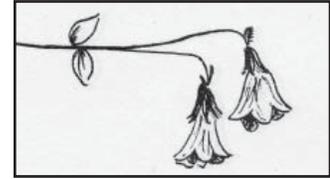
Cultural Director's Notes

We're having lots of fun these days at the Swedish Cultural Center and I hope you're taking part! Our June 6 Swedish National Day program and dinner was marvelous. The singing by the children of the Swedish School stole the show, the award of Swede of the Year was well-deserved, the music by the choruses was inspiring, the dancers made us all proud of Sweden, and the food was delicious.

Thank you to Anna Hasselqvist for organizing the children, to Eric Nelson of Nordic Heritage Museum for announcing the Swede of the Year, to our own gracious Jane Isakson Lea for being our Swede of the Year, to Svea Mens Chorus and the Swedish Womens Chorus for your expert singing and the practices that made it so, to our Nordiska dancers who danced beautifully and looked oh-so Swedish, to chefs Diana Erickson, Crescent Belgard, Julie Pheasant Albright, led by Anita Einarsen-Vinberg. Big round of applause for everyone, but particularly for Anita, who as a brand new member stepped up to do all the food. (And got her husband Sonny Vinberg to do the invitations.) We love new members like these two. *Tack så mycket.*

Cont'd on Page 5

Members' Dinner



WEDNESDAY,
July 9, 2008
Three Crowns Room

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

PROGRAM:
Scholarship winner Kirk Nyland will show slides of construction projects in Stockholm and Dubai



DINNER MENU:

Bay Shrimp Salad
Räksallad

Kalops (Swedish beef stew)
Kalops

Mashed Potatoes
Potatismos

Red Cabbage
Rödkål

Lingonberry Parfait
Lingon Parfait

For reservations, please call
206-283-1090, or e-mail
rw@swedishculturalcenter.org

JulyFourthBash!

Reservations ARE required for this unique event put on by As You Like It Catering.

You will see the fireworks from our Center's fantastic view points, on three floors, and share some old-fashioned July Fourth fare.

Contact As You Like It Catering to take part, at 206-523-9570. Parking will be reserved for RSVP place holders only. The cost is \$33 for adults, \$12 for children. There will be a cash bar and a special avoid-all-the-traffic dessert.

There will be dancing music and karaoke provided by Ottomatic.

See back page for menu details.



The Swede of the Year

The Board of Directors of the Swedish Cultural Center decided many months ago to start a "Seattle's Swede of the Year" award. So many wonderful people in Seattle have supported the community, so it was easy to come up with our first honoree. We asked Eric Nelson, the new Executive Director of the Nordic Heritage Museum, to make the announcement at our Swedish National Day dinner. This is what he said: "This person is so Swedish that although she grew up here in Seattle, she studied at the University of Washington and is fluent in Swedish. This person is so Swedish she learned how to dance Swedish dances and traveled around Europe with a folk dance group. This person is so Swedish that she lived in Sweden for two years, twice. This person is so Swedish that she has friends and relatives in Sweden who expect her to be there for holidays. This person is so Swedish that she owns one Norwegian national costume and two Swedish costumes. This person is so Swedish that when she buys a Norwegian sweater, she buys it in blue and yellow. It gives me great pleasure to announce Seattle's Swede of the Year, Jane Isakson Lea." The Board was very pleased to name Jane as our first honoree. We look forward to sharing this honor with others great Swedes in the future.



Jane Isakson Lea and her husband Jim Lea are long time members and supporters of the Swedish Cultural Center. The Board of Directors named June "Swede of the Year" on June 6, 2008.

Cultural Director

(Cont'd from page 3)

This newsletter marks several brand new things. Our new Administrative Assistant Rohm Gustafson comes to us with experience at the Danish Foundation (although his roots are Swedish!) and facility management, so he's ideally suited for his role here. He's introducing himself to you by putting together the newsletter. Our previous editor, Jeff Christensen, told us months ago that June would be his last. We are delighted that Rohm came to us now and that he has the skills for newsletter layout. Some technicalities to this issue will be slightly different, such as a new font and a new format to our calendar. Software and computers are driving the changes, which may not be permanent. Come on in and say hello to Rohm.

We look forward to seeing you at a future event at the Swedish Cultural Center!

Kristine Leander
Cultural Director

kristine@swedishculturalcenter.org

A New Look for the Lounge

When the strategic planning began in 2006, the committee wanted to ensure the future of the organization by bringing in more members, particularly younger members. They realized that our beautiful building on prime view property was a gift from previous generations and a key to our future. They had specific goals: update the building's Swedish look; plan more programs; and involve members. You've seen results in small changes in the building, more programs and the invitations to join committees.

Some architectural experts got involved in the building, namely Susan Boyle, a mid-century architectural historian and architect, and DoCoMoMoWeWa (Documentation and Conservation of the Modernist Movement in Western Washington), a modern architecture preservation and advocacy group. The crowd at a well attended Happy Hour also voted on chairs. With the advice from experts plus the result of the vote, a three-stage bar refurbishment is underway. Board Member Tim Andersen laid the plan's foundation in 2007, the Building and Décor Committees refined it and members are about to see the first reveal in mid-July. Danish designer Arne Jacobsen's Swan chair was by far the most popular chair and we will include four of them in stage one. They will surround a glass top table. Jacobsen's Series 7 chairs will compliment beech wood tables. Some new lighting and the donation of a high-quality piano will also set the scene for the popular Scandinavian mid-century modern design. Stage one has been paid for, thanks to donations at the auction and other funds. As a response to the project's momentum, a generous donation was made in the last few weeks. With this contribution, we are well on our way to realizing stage two, which will bring additional furniture and lighting. Stage three will bring new flooring and an outdoor feature to the bar. If you want to earmark a donation to update the building, there is definitely a need for funds toward the overall plan. We think that the new look will help to make the Swedish Cultural Center an "in" place for future members. In mid-July, you're invited to the Happy Hour or just to drop by to see the first stage.



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 till 10:30 pm

Come join your friends
for discount drinks, snacks,
games and more.

Happy Hour dates for this month:

July 18
August 1
August 15

SCANDINAVIAN HOUR



KKNW 1150 AM
Host Doug Warne

Saturday mornings
9:00-10:00 am

**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 577
member households:

New Members

Mary Emerson
Jill Forsberg
Johan Hurtig
Eric & Yvonne Nelson
Meghan O'Connor
Rebecca Olson
Dale Westford

Donations

Brandon Benson
Lori Ann Reinhall
Barbara E. Wilkins

Let us know if we left out your
information by mistake.



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).

An Evening of Music with Jim Nelson

Jim Nelson, popular Scandinavian folk musician and scholar, will perform in the SCC bar, Friday, July 18, at 7 pm. He will present traditional favorites and lesser known immigrant songs in Swedish, Norwegian and Danish, and accompany himself on the guitar, accordion, traditional Scandinavian bark flute and piano.

Born and raised in the Midwest, Jim began to learn Norwegian at age 6 and to sing while still in his teens. While studying music at Augustana College, Jim began playing accordion at Swedish-American community events. A few years later he was singing Scandinavian folksongs and playing for old-time dances in southern Wisconsin. His debut as a singer of Norwegian and Swedish traditional music came at a concert at the University of Washington in 1979.

From 1983 to 1994 Jim was assistant professor of Scandinavian Studies at liberal arts colleges in Alberta and Minnesota. He also continued as a folk performer and was a frequent guest on radio programs in Edmonton and Seattle. Jim has lived in Norway for over 14 years, and currently teaches music in Drammen.

Jim earned a music degree and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Scandinavian Studies. A recognized expert in immigrant music, he will provide an educational and entertaining introduction to the Scandinavian immigrant experience from the old country to the new.

Jim's program is being sponsored by his colleague and friend, SCC Board Member Lori Ann Reinhall. A complimentary Swedish dessert will be served. Jim and Lori Ann are currently producing a CD recording of Jim's Scandinavian classics. You're invited to hear the free program and watch for his CD in the fall of 2008.

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

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.

Good job: Two 10-year old girls are heroes in the village of Mark outside Borås. Their achievement was awarded a diploma and a gift voucher by preventing a fire and saving an 88-year-old woman. The woman had fallen on the stairs breaking her hip. At the same time, a pot was cooking dry in the kitchen tripping the fire alarm. The girls heard the alarm and the woman's cries for help, rushed into the house, and despite the thick smoke, managed to turn off the stove.

Big: For the third time, the ostriches at Gunnar Sahlin's ostrich farm in Borlänge have laid a world's record-breaking egg the size of a soccer ball and weighing 2,589 grams (5.71 lb). The record has been registered in the Guinness Book of Records.

Yum: Oprah Winfrey's personal chef, Art Smith, wants to share his love of Swedish rye crisp bread because it's both tasty and healthy. During a recent trip to Sweden, Art discovered the crispy bread. On the TV show, he proclaimed his love for it and sales of the bread rose in both the United States and Sweden.

Yum yum: The sun is the strawberries' best friend. Thanks to the abundance of sunshine so far this season in Sweden, the strawberries are extra sweet and bountiful. The intensive sunshine makes the berries absorb more carbohydrates, which makes them sweeter, according to the experts.

Scare: Swedish police say they have closed an investigation at the Oskarshamn nuclear power plant where traces of an explosive substance were allegedly found in an employee's bag. Two maintenance workers were arrested last month after security guards say they detected traces of highly explosive substance in a plastic bag. However the bag that triggered the alarm contained a package of shaving cr me, which in turn contained small units of TNT. Yes, the workers were released.

Uproar: With the price of gasoline now in Sweden of SEK 13/liter (\$ 5.70/gal), the patience of the Swedes has been severely tried. A gasoline uprising is spreading on the Internet and the Swedes are urged to boycott the big oil companies.

Loaded: A police officer has been indicted for suspicion of DUI. Two other drivers saw the officer's car weaving in central Ume  and they managed to stop the car and take away the keys. The alcohol test showed a .252 blood alcohol rate which is way above the Swedish limit of .01.

Submitted by,
Gunnar Wallin



Your ad here, contact
us for rates.

Research Materials Request

Do you have any
bygdeboks or *g rd*
histories from Sweden?
Our genealogist would
appreciate any books
you could loan to the
Swedish Cultural Center
library that include
information about
farms or families in
Sweden. Call
206-283-1090 or e-mail
info@swedishculturalcenter.org

Tack s  mycket!

CALENDAR

Fun Stuff for Local Swedes & Their Friends!
You are invited to the Swedish Cultural Center for these events.

Tuesday, July 1. Runeberg Chorus & Folkdancers

Fifty dancers and singers from Österbotten, a Swedish speaking part of Finland, will perform at the Swedish Cultural Center. \$5 donation. Refreshments will be served. Sponsored by Swedish-Finn Historical Society and the Seattle Order of Runeberg. 7 pm.

Thursday, July 3 & 17. Genealogy Help

Free to Swedish Cultural Center members. Bring your family information and our volunteer genealogist will get you started. Or, if you've already started some genealogy, she'll help you find out more. Please RSVP (info@swedishculturalcenter.org or 206-283-1090) for your exact time to work with our genealogist. Every first and third Thursday, between 1 pm and 4 pm.

Friday, July 4. Join us for the Fourth of July Bash!

Million dollar view of the fireworks on Lake Union, reserved parking, and deluxe picnic dinner with hamburgers, hot dogs, fried chicken, peach cobbler, salads and relishes and an "avoid traffic" dessert. Professional DJ with dancing and karaoke. Doors open at 6:30 pm, buffet starts 7 pm, fireworks begin at dusk. \$33 adult/\$12 children. RSVP required: 206-523-9570.

Tuesday, July 8. Sveriges Manskör

The featured singers at the national convention of the American Union of Swedish Singers are coming to sing at the Swedish Cultural Center. 50 male singers from Sweden directed by Lennart Johansson. Donations accepted. 7 pm.

Wednesday, July 9. Members' Meeting

Everyone is invited for a delicious dinner and an after-dinner program. Kirk Nyland (SCC scholarship winner in 2007) will show slides of construction projects he's worked on in Stockholm & Dubai. Social hour starts at 5:30, dinner at 6:30 and the program starts with dessert. \$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.

Wednesday, July 16. Kafferep

Join us for a real Swedish coffee party at in the lobby. Bring some of your own favorite cookies or just come! Free. 1 pm

Friday, July 18. Folksinger & Happy Hour

Scandinavian folksinger Jim Nelson joins us from Norway for a performance at 7 pm. We'll also be revealing the new bar furniture. And the best view in town. Food available too. 5 pm till 10:30 pm.



The Runeberg Chorus and Folkdancers from a Swedish speaking part of Finland will perform at the Swedish Cultural Center on July 1, at 7 pm. You're invited!