



Swedish Center News

Issue No. 507

May 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.

Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, May 4, 2008
8:00 am - 1:30 pm**

LIVE SCANDINAVIAN FOLK MUSIC

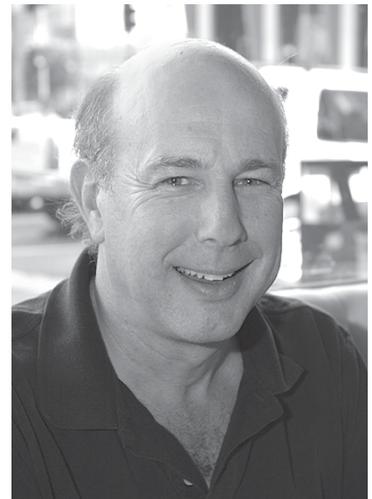
*Richard Svensson, Skandia Kapell,
Nordic Reflections & Bjarne
Jacobsen*

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

SCC Hosts Lecture on Googie Architecture

The Swedish Cultural Center is co-sponsoring a lecture on Modern architecture with Docomomo WEWA (Documentation and Conservation of the Modern Movement in Western Washington).

The lecture, *A Second Look: Googie Architecture and the Modern Ideal*, will be given by California architecture critic Alan Hess, who will examine how Googie architecture successfully combined Modernism and popular culture and why it is important today.



Alan Hess

The Swedish Cultural Center, built in 1961, is a jewel of Modern architecture and an ideal location for the talk about a very specific form of Modernism. Many friends of the SCC became involved in the discussion about landmark status for a local example of Googie architecture—the Ballard Manning's/Denny's building—and will be particularly interested.

Alan Hess is the author of *Googie Redux: Ultramodern Roadside Architecture* (2004) and *Googie: Fifties Coffee Shop Architecture* (1985). As a practicing architect and historian, his writings and advocacy have raised awareness and appreciation of mid-century Modern commercial architecture and have led to the preservation of many of these resources.

You are all invited to the lecture on Tuesday, May 20, at 6:30 pm in the Stockholm Room. For a tour of the Swedish Cultural Center and short lecture on its history, please join us in the SCC's lobby at 5:45 pm.

Docomomo WEWA thanks all the co-sponsors for the event—360 Modern, Historic Seattle, Seattle MODERN, Swedish Cultural Center, and Washington Trust for Historic Preservation. For tickets (\$10 each + \$1.24 service fee) and information, visit www.docomomo-wewa.org/events.php.

President's Notes

After serving on the Board of Directors for the past several years in varying capacities, I was honored to be elected president at the April membership meeting. The outstanding recent Board brought a new energy and enthusiasm to the Center, and we seem to have a much better understanding of our purpose and direction than I can ever recall. I look forward to continuing the course we have set for ourselves.

This motivated Board of Directors engaged in a process of strategic planning where we refined our mission, created a vision for our future, and have begun taking steps toward realizing a Swedish Cultural Center for the 21st century. The thrust of this reinvention is to make our activities and our facility more relevant and more Swedish to more people (i.e., a larger membership). We want to honor the generations that have built this 115-year-old institution by making it a place future generations can enjoy and be proud of.

Right now, we should all give a huge tack så mycket to three outgoing board members. Brandon Benson has done an exceptional job as president, improving the efficiency and organization of the Board's business while prudently steering the Center toward many positive changes—which we are beginning to witness now. Kristine Leander not only has been our devoted secretary, but has chaired the Marketing & Membership Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee, motivating many of us to come in one or two Saturdays each month to plan the Center's future. As a director, Tim Andersen has given us wise and coherent input on many subjects; and as a Building Committee co-chair—and a skilled architect—has dedicated many hours to making good design decisions about our facility.

Luckily, Brandon will retain a board position as immediate past president, and Kristine can now serve us even better as our official cultural director. We greatly value and appreciate all Tim's hard work and hope that someday he can lend us his advice again.

We welcome the addition of Syrene Forsman, Lori Ann Reinhall, and Erik Pihl to our Board of Directors and I look forward to being part of this team. With the help of Executive Director R.W. Clay, Cultural Director Kristine Leander, and countless members and volunteers, we can continue the progress we have started toward building a more vibrant—and more Swedish—Cultural Center!

If you have ideas or are interested in getting involved with some of the exciting activity around the Center, please contact the office or speak to any Board member.

KARL LARSSON

President, Swedish Cultural Center

klarsson@earthlink.net

Swedish Cultural Center

1920 Dexter Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98109

206-283-1090 Telephone
206-283-1078 Facilities
206-283-2970 FAX

info@swedishculturalcenter.org
rentals@swedishculturalcenter.org

www.swedishculturalcenter.org

Office Hours

Tuesday-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
Directors	Jeremy Holt
	Pam Madden
	Randy Nelson
	Erik Pihl
	Susan Ramstead
	Lori Ann Reinall

Immediate
Past President Brandon Benson

Center Operations

Executive Director R.W. Clay
Cultural Director Kristine Leander

Vännerna

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

Swedish Center News

Editor Jeff Christensen

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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 email articles to : kristine@swedishculturalcenter.org.

Notes from the Cultural Director

Over a year ago, the Swedish Cultural Center Board began to share their vision of a beautiful Swedish facility to host wonderful events, compelling Swedish-related programs, and an expanding group of members and volunteers who enjoyed being together. The Board also hoped that visitors and members would appreciate this great building with the best view in town. Changes are underway and it's now happening. "It's alive here," said one volunteer as she typed up the list of coming events.

The Board deserves the credit for visualizing what could be and then taking the steps to start us in motion. Every Board member is a hard working professional with other responsibilities, but they still take their roles seriously and are dedicated to creating a wonderful experience for members and visitors. Thank you to Tim Andersen who's leaving the board and to our new board members Lori Ann Reinall, Erik Pihl, and Syrene Forsman. We appreciated Tim's wisdom and counsel, particularly on the building committee, and have our fingers crossed that we can still count on him to be involved in the changes here.

We're also delighted that other volunteers are coming forward. One new volunteer is working on the library where we're planning a section of modern crime writers. Do you have books by Henning Mankell you'd like to donate? Are there some in the Inspector Kurt Wallandar series you haven't read? If a few of you will give us your used Mankell books (Swedish and/or English), within weeks, you'll be able to borrow the works of this modern Swedish author.

Two other volunteers who have stepped forward are Sven Axter and Gunnar Damstrom. They decided to put on a program of Swedish student's music from the 19th Century titled "*Gluntarne*" and came to ask for a room to which they could invite their friends. We said "*ja tack* and let's make it for everyone" and off they went with rehearsals and plans. We hope everyone will come on Friday, May 2, at 7 pm to hear these charming *Gluntarne* duets accompanied by the accomplished pianist Maria Männistö. It will be a wonderful evening as the Svea Male Chorus will also sing and Stockholm Hall will be decorated in balloons and birch boughs.

Board member and volunteer Pam Madden is working hard on our fund-raising raffle where the winner will be drawn at the Sweden Day celebration, Friday evening, June 6, here at the Center. You're invited to purchase the raffle tickets you received in the mail and sell them to others too. As further inducement to put the Sweden Day celebration on your calendar, the Board is planning to announce a new honor for someone in our community as "Swede of the Year." We hope you'll come to find out who it is!

If you have time during the day, our *kaffeep* is our fun, old-fashioned coffee party on the third Wednesday afternoon of the month. Our next *kaffeep* is May 21. If you've forgotten what it feels like to sip coffee in a relaxed fashion and eat delicious cookies and chat with friends, we hope to see you there soon. Whew! Lots of stuff is happening. You're invited to join in.

Kristine Leander, Cultural Director
kristine@swedishculturalcenter.org

Director's notes

Spring is officially here and along with it comes Spring Cleaning. We usually wait until August to spruce up the Center, but this year we are into trying new things – so, this month, we will be attacking several projects on the following days: May 9,10,17,23,24,30 and 31.

If we get a good turn out of volunteers, we won't have to work all those days. The work will be interior and exterior cleaning, some painting and light repairs to the building and grounds. The what and where of it all will be predicated on the WEATHER. For more specific details and to sign up, call me at (206) 283-1078.

In the recent survey, someone suggested that we post the number of attendees at the Pancake Breakfast. I thought I always did that in this article but, anyway, last month we had 950 customers for breakfast. Think about that for a moment...950 customers; few if any restaurants in this area serve that many people during a single meal period. We do it with volunteers, non-professional food service workers, and this is a great accomplishment. These volunteers are fantastic; they are doing a great job and are helping to provide a major contribution to our annual budget. We could cut our cost even more if we had about a dozen more volunteers – so take it into consideration and volunteer.

I am sorry to announce that Desiree Miglino has resigned from the position of Administrative Assistant of the Swedish Cultural Center, effective this month. Desiree has accepted the position of Office Administrator with Edward Jones Company. Although I will miss her, I wish her every success in her exciting new position. As a result of this vacancy, a new and somewhat different position has been created, for which resumes are being accepted

Another change is the location of my office I am straight down the hall from the old office, last door on the left, stop by and see me some time. Well that's it for this month; hope to see you in the Center soon.

R.W. Clay
Executive Director
rw@swedishculturalcenter.org

Co-hosted event with Swedish American Chamber of Commerce

The Swedish Cultural Center is joining SACC to host the Swedish entrepreneur Torsten Jansson with New Wave Group, owner of Orrefors, Kosta Boda and Cutter & Buck. He will discuss his company's activities in the United States and strategy for the future in a very engaging presentation. The cost is \$20 for both SACC and SCC members. We'll be in the Three Crowns Bar where we'll enjoy appetizers, beer/wine, a no-host bar, and the latest news from Sweden.

Members' Dinner



WEDNESDAY,
May 14, 2008

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

PROGRAM:

Filmmakers Lucy Ostrander
& Nancy Bourne Haley
present their documentary:
"Finding Thea (Thea Foss of
Foss Tugboat Co.)"

DINNER MENU:

Beet and Onion Salad
Rödbets och löksallad

Sauteed Veal Chops with
Brown Butter Sauce
*Sauterad kalvkotlett med
brun smörsås*

Hot Potato Salad
Varm potatissallad

Green Beans with
Walnut Vinaigrette
*Gröna bönor med
valnötsvinägrettsås*

Apple Cake
Äppelkaka

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

Kafferep

Every third Wednesday of the month, you are invited to a real Swedish *kafferep*, with home made cookies and *tårta*! An idea introduced by Cultural Director, Kristine Leander, a *kafferep* is a fun way to get to know new people and catch up on what's happening around the Center.

Every month, attendees gather in the Swedish Cultural Center lobby, the idea being just to socialize and come together. The coffee is provided, and everybody who wants to come just brings some of their favorite cookies, and we put them all on plates for anyone to have. "Just like the Swedes used to do it!" offers Leander.

The next Kafferep will be held at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, May 21. We'd love to hear if you plan to come (206-283-1090), but even if you don't call first, you are welcome to come.

Been to a meeting lately?

Have you been to a general meeting of the membership lately? Meetings are a great time to mingle with your fellow Swedes, hear about what's new at the Center and have a great time.

For information or to make your reservations for the next meeting, contact the Center Office at 206-283-1090.

"Mombasa" comes to Findland in May film selection

"One-Way Ticket to Mombasa" (*Menolippu Mombasaan*) certainly doesn't sound like a Finnish film, but it is that. It is also the May 20 selection in the monthly "Films from Finland" series at the Swedish Cultural Center.

This road movie follows two young, male, Finnish cancer patients who meet in a hospital and decide to hit the highway before death claims them. Their planned trip to Africa is put off as one of them insists on going to Lapland first to see the girl of his dreams. While the subject matter sounds grim, the film has a good deal of wry comedy.

"One-Way Ticket" was nominated for six Jussi Awards, including one for Best Cinematography, which shows off the Finnish countryside to beautiful advantage. Music is also an important element of the film, in a soundtrack alive with Finnish popular music.

As is the case with all films in the series, "One-Way Ticket" begins at 7:30 p.m. It is 84 minutes in length and is rated K-11 (approximately a strong PG-13). This film is in Finnish, with English sub-titles. A \$5.00 donation is requested at the door.

"Films from Finland" is a presentation of Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter.

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We shine the spotlight on current SCC Board members

At the members' meeting on April 9, we elected three new members to our Board of Directors. We hope you'll get to meet them soon.

Erik Pihl is Vice President for Development at the Pacific Science Center, one of 25 most-visited museums in the United States and a nationally-recognized leader in informal science education. Erik's grandparents immigrated to Seattle from Norrbotten, Ångermanland and Åland in the first quarter of the 20th Century. Learning about our customs, history and traditions from an early age, Erik has had a lifelong interest in Sweden, Åland and Swedish culture. Erik is actively involved in the Nordic community and serves on the Advisory Board for the University of Washington's Scandinavian Studies Department and the Board of Trustees of the Nordic Heritage Museum, where he recently chaired the search committee for the Museum's new Executive Director. He has a keen interest in Modern furniture and looks forward to helping the SCC achieve a new look for the bar and other areas of the Center.

Lori Ann Reinhall is a Seattle native with deep roots in the local Swedish community. Since childhood, she has had a keen interest in Swedish culture, which led her to study Swedish language and literature at the University of Washington, where she received both a Bachelor's and Master's degree with honors. She was the first student to receive the Swedish Women's Educational Association (SWEA) scholarship and she also earned a Fulbright to stipend to teach in Vienna for two years. She was a popular Swedish instructor at U.W., UCLA, and the Swedish Cultural Center. More recently Lori Ann has worked as a translator and international IT project manager, working on the international release of software and Web products, including Microsoft Office and Hotmail. She is currently employed as a Senior Project Manager at Lionbridge Technologies, the world's largest software globalization vendor.

In her free time, Lori Ann enjoys playing classical piano, gourmet cooking and interior decorating. She and her husband Ulf, a native of Stockholm, also enjoy films. Lori is interested in raising funds and contributing to the cultural programs and is excited about the growth in activity and the support from members that she sees happening at the Swedish Cultural Center.

Syrene Staaf Forsman was born in Seattle but the Staaf family returned to their father's home in Malax (Vasa Province) Finland for a year, to see if the family could make it in Finland. Unfortunately, outdoor toilets and no central heating, plus serious bronchial problems for her mom and brother sent the Staaf family home to Seattle, where their father was a builder. Syrene got her Master's in Scandinavian Language and Literature at the University of Washington, with a major in Swedish. She was hired by Seattle Schools, the Ford Foundation, and the SCC.

Cont'd on Page 6



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:

May 2
May 16

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

Rick Anderson & Marianne Bergstrom; Brenda Bard; Dan Nord and Amanda and Cordelia Franklin; Jack and Elaine Hakala; Anna and Kristian Hasselquist; Kristin Hillbloom; Gustaf, Barbara, Sten, and Greta Karlholm; Dan Nord and Amanda and Cordelia Franklin; Alan and Louise Maie Thorslund

Deceased

Helen G. Hanson, Ruth Johnson, Dorothy Warne

Memorials

In memory of Dorothy Warne:

Rosalie A. Alhadeff
Barbara Borders
The Golden Girls
Richard A. Johnson

Donations

George Carfrae, Dick Schwartz, Faith Locke Siewert

Changing address?

Send your address changes or corrections to: Swedish Cultural Center, Attn: Address Change, 1920 Dexter Ave. N., Seattle WA 98119, or e-mail info@swedishculturalcenter.org.

Board members (cont'd from Page 5)

She taught altogether for 25 years, including Swedish for 14 years. Her classes at the SCC were full every year thanks to Martin Larsson who donated a HUGE bowl of cracked crab for her Christmas parties! Syrene remembers with fondness playing the accordion while families sang, danced and ate wonderful food.

Syrene and her husband Don had daughters and now two granddaughters. She lost Don this past year but is thankful for the support she received from friends at Nordic Heritage Museum, Magnolia Lutheran Church and especially Swedish Finn Historical Society, where she and Don volunteered. She is pleased to be the new secretary at the Swedish Cultural Center and looks forward to being part of the changes that are being planned.

It's 17th of May (*Syttende mai*) Parade Time Again

Yes! We are going to participate again in the Norwegian community's great national parade celebration, *Syttende mai*. This year May 17 falls conveniently on a Saturday, and as usual the parade will wend its way down Market Street through downtown Ballard.

Last year we had 13 fun-loving people representing Swedish Cultural Center in the parade, including two entertainers who flipped stale pancakes back and forth with their spatulas through the entire route. The theme will again be "Swedish Pancakes" and you are encouraged to join us wearing cooking aprons, carrying spatulas and coffee cups, or any other paraphernalia from our famous pancake breakfasts. (We are still looking for someone with a lingonberry costume.)

While last year we simply walked, this year we are forming a precision pancake marching team as part of our group—and we need more people to join us. If you're interested, please contact Bob Blair at bob.blair900@comcast.net or call the Center at (206) 283-1090.



Last year's 17th of May parade in Ballard took place under sunny skies with a strong representation from Swedish Cultural Center. Can we do better this year? Ya sure, you betcha!

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.

Zapped: The electrocution of a rat in an electric station recently caused a three-hour power outage in Stockholm's central train station, halting elevators and escalators. The early morning outage led to some delays in train traffic and nearby hotels and shops were also affected. The rat had sneaked into the station and came in contact with some parts that caused a short circuit.

Skål: The French liquor group Pernod Ricard outbid three other companies to buy Sweden's state-owned Vin & Sprit, the maker of Absolut Vodka, for \$ 8.9 billion. The deal ends months of speculation over who would take over one of the world's biggest vodka brands, which was put on the auction block as part of a sell-off of state-owned companies.

Healthier: Frequent blood donation is not harmful to your health, a new study confirms. "Blood donation may actually be good for you," said Dr Gustaf Edgren of the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, the study's lead author. People who donate blood show lower cancer and mortality rates than their non-donating peers, according to the report.

Ancient: Scientists have found a cluster of spruces in the mountains in western Sweden believed to be the world's oldest living trees. Carbon dating of the trees carried out at a laboratory in Florida show the oldest of them first set root about 8,000 years ago, confirming them to really be the world's oldest known living trees.

Bad bears: Norway is having problems with bears that are crossing the border from Sweden to feast on honey from bee-keeping sites. Now special electric fences will be installed around the bee-hives to keep the honey loving critters away.

Sad: The last mustard jar lid has been sealed at Slotts mustard factory in Uppsala. That put an epoch in the grave as, after 122 years, the production is moving abroad. The mustard production in Uppsala started already in 1885 when the then Holmgrens Ättiksfabrik was founded. A lot has changed since then but the mustard, loved by so many, has always being produced in Uppsala.

Family brawl: The celebration of a 100 year-old woman's birthday did not turn out the way her 70 year-old son had thought. His disappointment led to a big fight with his siblings' kids. When the 100 year-old's grand children came over to get the woman to another place, the son took to his fists and started a big fight which led to him being charged with assault of five people and taken to the clink. Happy birthday Mom!

Submitted by,
Gunnar Wallin

Vännerna



NEXT MEETING

THIS MONTH

Vannera Business and
Sewing Meeting Tuesday,
May 6, 2008
10:00AM

Coming Events
Vannera Business and
Sewing Meeting
Tuesday, June 3, 2008
10:00AM

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 - May 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2 Nordic Happy Hour Glutarne Concert	3	4 Pancake Breakfast SSA Children's Swedish School
5	6 Vännerna Meeting SWC & SMC Rehearse	7 SCC Board Meeting 5:30 pm	8	9	10	11 SSA Children's Swedish School
12	13 SWC & SMC Rehearse	14 Membership Dinner Meeting 6:00 pm	15	16 Nordic Happy Hour	17 SSCS Scholarship Interviews	18 SSA Children's Swedish School
19	20 SWC & SMC Rehearse Architecture Lecture 6:30 pm	21 SCC Film Series Kafferep at SCC 1:30 pm	22 SCC & SACC Social At SCC 6:30pm	23	24 SCC Folk Dance	25
26	27 SWC & SMC Rehearse	28 Finnish Film Series	29	30	31	

Swedish Center Calendar - June 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am SSA Children's Swedish School
2	3 SWC/SMC Rehearse	4 SCC Board Meeting 5:30 pm	5	6 Swedish National Day Nordic Happy Hour	7	8 SSA Children's Swedish School
9	10	11 Membership Dinner Meeting 6:00 pm	12	13	14	15
16	17 SWC/SMC Rehearse	18 Kafferep At SCC 1pm	19	20 Nordic Happy Hour	21	22
23	24 SWC/SMC Rehearse	25 Finnish Film Series	26	27	28	29
30						