The Flip Side of the Pancake Breakfast!

Ever wondered what it takes to make Swedish pancakes for nearly a thousand guests? We thought you’d like a peek behind the scenes of the Swedish Cultural Center’s pancake breakfast, held the first Sunday of every month. This version of the breakfast started in the mid-1990s. The average number of paying guests is around 800, and the most ever served was 1,200. Add to those figures the 75 or so musicians and helpers to get the real number of breakfasts on a typical Sunday morning.

Preparations usually start on Thursday, when the ingredients begin arriving in the kitchen: 220 pounds of flour, 100 dozen eggs, 200 pounds of ham, and so on. Wondering how much lingonberry sauce the guests go through on a typical Sunday morning? Fifty kilos, or about 110 pounds. On Friday, Executive Director R.W. Clay dons his apron and whips up 40 batches of pancake batter. Sunday is when everything gets hot, starting at 4:45 a.m., when R.W. opens the Center and starts heating the five ranges that will keep two shifts of six people each busy frying pancakes. Several key volunteers, including Karl Larsson and Brandon Benson, work the whole breakfast from 5:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., but most of the 12 “fryers,” as they’re called (and you thought that was a chicken), stand at a range making pancakes for only four straight hours. There are other less strenuous jobs for volunteers too: serving pancakes, busing tables, providing music, and so on. If you would like to help at one of the Center’s pancake breakfasts, call the office at 206-283-1090.

Is this monthly marathon of pancake preparation worth it? Sure is. The Swedish Cultural Center clears between $2,000 to $4,000 at every pancake breakfast, providing the funds for programs, staffing, and improvements to the Center. When asked what was the most unusual thing that ever happened at a pancake breakfast, R.W. Clay said that it was the one time someone asked for a side of ketchup. Must not have been a Swede.
President’s Notes

The program for October’s monthly dinner meeting was to help identify items from our archives. I was fascinated to look at old photos of our current building and the original Swedish Club building downtown (which was displaced by the construction of Interstate 5), as well as activities throughout our history and programs from Scandinavian events through the years.

The Board is in the midst of reinventing our organization and creating a Swedish Cultural Center that can thrive in today’s world, as the Swedish Club did for so many decades before us. As we make changes and look to the future, it is important—and interesting—to also consider our history. We want to identify and organize the valuable archives we have and should keep, and eliminate other things that have collected around the building with no purpose.

As usual, there are ways you can participate. Whether or not you attended the October meeting and got to view some of our archives, you may have knowledge that could help document our history. You might have good photos or documents of Swedish Club history that we should make copies of. Perhaps you have an interest in history—or are just nostalgic—and could come in to help with the archive project. Or maybe you are an avid photographer or writer and would like to help us record our current activities for posterity.

If any of this rings true, please contact our cultural director, Kristine Leander, and she’ll schedule you to come in and help us keep our history.

Karl Larsson
President, Swedish Cultural Center
klarsson@earthlink.net
Cultural Director’s Notes

Hunkering Down
Fall is always about settling in, but during this particular fall—between economics and elections—hunkering down may be the best approach to the season. And the Swedish Cultural Center may be the best place to do it. The Three Crowns lounge is open every Friday evening for Happy Hour plus a dinner entrée that varies weekly. Lively chatter from people of all ages spills out until nearly 10 o’clock every Friday evening, so if you can’t make it early, come late. We plan to open for lunches in early November, so watch for that. Physical changes to the building will greet you—from new lounge furniture to the changes in the lobby and library to restore the former beauty of the space. If you haven’t been in for a while, please stop by soon.

But not only is the club’s mid-century, view-laden building a good place to hunker down this fall, it’s a good place to support with your donations. You’ll soon receive the Center’s annual appeal letter. We hope you will consider a gift to support the programs that are drawing new audiences and encouraging former members to return. Your support is meaningful because it makes these programs possible and also because it’s a vote of confidence toward the changes in programs, marketing, and facilities. Your Board took on the challenge of growing the club in 2006, and the fruits of their planning and efforts are now evident. In spite of what’s happening to other social and ethnic clubs in the area, we’re growing. A donation of any size is a yes vote for all the improvements at the club and the essential role we play in the community.

The Swedish Cultural Center’s reach extends beyond our Nordic members. One such example is a comment we found on an online blog: “Though I am not a Swede, I have just undergone the wonderfully facile, lo-fi process of becoming a member of the Swedish Cultural Center...this is one of the coolest places in Seattle.” We hope you think so too. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

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

What do visiting Finns do when they find themselves staying for a week or so in Seattle? Why, they help move the Swedish-Finn Historical Society into its new offices at the Swedish Cultural Center. Karina Granö and Juha Finholm from Jakobstad, Finland, were staying with President Dick Erickson, and he invited them to an afternoon at the Space Needle after they helped him at the new offices. Who better to put together IKEA furniture than a couple of visitors from Scandinavia? They reported looking forward to returning to Seattle and the Society’s new digs, knowing they really had a hand in it.

SCC Announces

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

The Swedish Cultural Center announces 655 member households.

New Members
Agnes Arend
Judy Nilsen Cooper
Janice Hartung
Kalle Johansson
Carol Kirsten & family
Chris Lee
Lucille Lundstrom
James & Courtney Nordin
Johanna Padie
Janet Petersen
Shirley Dunkel Petersen
Robert Purser
Michael Repka & Edythe Repka-Kolanowski
Kay Reinhardt & Richard Frith
Robert & Karen Schaefer
Margaret Schnaufer
Joseph & Galina Shogren
Steven Stevenson
Rev. Christopher Swanson
Mary & John Swedstedt
Eva Swedstedt Long & William Jepson
Madeleine Tessandori
Victoria Watt Warshaw
Stuart Wilkinson

Deaths
Anastasia Lightfoot
Anna Rylander

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.

Let us know if we left out your information by mistake.
WHAT’S A NORWEGIAN FISHERMAN TO DO when his old friend rejoins the Swedish Cultural Center? James Nordin is one of the latest SCC members to renew his membership. On the same day he rejoined, he spread a little pride with a friendly prank: Nordin bought a Swedish flag sticker for the back window of a car belonging to his friend Sig Hansen, the Norwegian fishing boat captain featured on the Discovery Channel’s “The Deadliest Catch” television series. Here we see how a Norwegian reacts to a Swedish flag on his property. Maybe after his boat, the Northwestern, returns from the current crabbing trip to Alaska, Sig and his crew can accompany James to our Friday evening Happy Hour. We promise not to put any more decorations on his car. The Nordin family are longtime members of the Swedish Club, and we’re happy to have James on board again.

Let’s Be Friends

The Swedish Cultural Center and the Swedish Women’s Chorus have both officially joined the cyber community with pages on MySpace, the popular social networking Web site. Our address is www.myspace.com/swedishseattle
You can find the Swedish Women’s Chorus at www.myspace.com/swedishwomenschorus
SCC member Karen Pauley has a page at www.myspace.com/nordicrootsandbranches
SCC’s page was created by Board Member Anna Anderson.

WHEN THE UNIVERSITY of Washington was created, there were some persuasive Swedes around who lobbied the legislature to mandate that Swedish would be taught. A hundred years later, the Department of Scandinavian Studies is still going strong.

Next September, the University will plant a “Nordic-Baltic Centennial Oak Grove” to honor the Department. Eight 15-foot European oaks and a plaque will represent the eight nations studied there: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden.

The project will cost $5,000. The community is invited to support the planting with a maximum donation of $10 per person. Donate online at depts.washington.edu/scand/support/oak.html. Or send a check, payable to “UW Oak Fund,” to the UW Department of Scandinavian Studies, Box 353420, Seattle WA 98195-3420. All donors will receive special invitations to the planting in 2009.

The photo shows a representative of the Swedish Consulate in Seattle during a similar UW planting in 1932 to mark the bicentennial of George Washington’s birth.

The new grove will be planted in a ring around the oldest footpath on the UW campus, between Parrington Hall and William H. Gates Hall.

Scandinavian Holiday Bazaar

Co-hosted by the Danes and Swedes

Saturday, Sunday
November 1 and 2

9 am to 5 pm, both days

Three floors of Scandinavian gifts, antiques, baked goods. Free and easy parking.

Danish open-face sandwiches on Saturday and Swedish pancakes on Sunday

Swedish Cultural Center
1920 Dexter Avenue N
Seattle, WA 98109
206.283.1090
www.swedishculturalcenter.org
Auction Action

Seattle is the auction capital of the world. No other city supports as many auctions or bids as generously as do the people of Seattle. It’s estimated that over 400 major auctions are held every year in the Northwest, which means eight to 10 auctions every weekend. These affairs combine charity and showmanship, donating to a cause and finding a bargain, one-of-a-kind experiences and friendly competition. Most importantly, of course, an evening of fun keeps many charities in the black all year long.

The Swedish Cultural Center’s auction is somewhat different. Yes, we expect to make money to support ongoing programs, renovations, and education efforts. But we also want our auction to build community. We want it to be fun. We want people to enjoy themselves and get to know their fellow club members.

Toward that goal, Auction Chair Pam Madden came up with this year’s theme of a transatlantic Swedish cruise. With the backdrop of being aboard a ship, guests will enjoy the ambience of a luxury cruise on the Swedish American Line. It won’t be a real cruise, of course, but guests will get the next best thing. Board member Lori Ann Reinhall has already started on the decorations, which might include life preservers, porthole windows, or a gangplank to enter Stockholm Hall.

Good auctions depend on two ingredients: lots of bidders and lots of items or services to bid on. We hope that every SCC member comes to the auction—and helps us obtain an item or a service. Maybe you know how to write a résumé, mow a lawn, or bake a cake, or you have an item you don’t need. New Swedish Cultural Center member Eric Nelson, the executive director of the Nordic Heritage Museum, has already donated a 1950s porcelain coffee set to our auction. He and his wife Yvonne would rather see it go to work raising funds for the Swedish Cultural Center than sitting in their cupboard.

Maybe you know a merchant who will gladly part with something in exchange for the publicity or tax write-off? This newsletter includes a copy of a letter you can give to your favorite merchant.

Generally, the best ones to approach are merchants whose donations don’t come out of their inventory, those who relish the promotion, those with a process for auction requests, or those from whom you’ve made a major purchase this year. Some sellers, such as massage therapists or aestheticians, can offer their time but not an item off their shelves. Another new SCC member, Sara Lightle, owns Sara’s Skin & Massage Butik, and she’s already offered a certificate for a facial. Some merchants keep a supply of items or a budget for auctions. Hotel Andra, for example, has donated a stay. Some companies, such as IKEA, have a process requesters can use to obtain a donation.

Another easy solicitation is to ask a merchant from whom you’re making a major purchase. Maybe the architect who’s designing your remodel would throw in a certificate for several hours of free services, or the hotel where your granddaughter is getting married can give a certificate for a night’s stay. You probably have more resources at your fingertips than you know. We welcome your help getting items for our auction, and if have questions about what to donate or how to obtain a donation, please call Pam Madden at 206-285-0623 or Cultural Director Kristine Leander at 206-283-1090.

Auction Action

Karin’s Apple Pie Cake

We hope you will join us for a future Kafferep. The food is good, the conversation is stimulating, and it feels like home to have a cookie and coffee with friends. It’s the third Wednesday of every month, at 2 p.m., in the lobby. Bring some goodies from your kitchen or not, but be sure to come!

Here’s a recipe for Karin Gustafson’s Apple Pie Cake that we enjoyed at a recent Kafferep.

Apple Pie Cake

1 c. sugar
½ c. butter
1 egg
1 c. flour
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. nutmeg
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. soda
½ c. nuts, chopped
2 Tbsp. hot water
½ c. apples, diced
1 tsp. vanilla

Cream sugar & butter together. Mix in egg. Sift flour, salt, nutmeg, cinnamon, and soda together and add to mixture. Stir in remaining ingredients. Bake 50 min. in an 8x8-inch pan (or double the recipe for a 9x13-inch pan) at 350°.

Continued on p. 6
Hemlandsnytt

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

Compiled by Gunnar Wallin

Improvement: Sweden will take better care of veterans who serve in international military conflicts, according to a recent statement. This includes a larger responsibility by the Defense Department to provide support for soldiers who have been wounded abroad. It’s also suggested that a new memorial day be established honoring Swedes who have served in conflicts abroad.

Safety first: SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) is presently engaged in a project in Afghanistan. Because of safety concerns, SIDA personnel will not fly the Swedish flag but instead use the smaller, national coat of arms, the Three Crowns.

Discovery: A pillared church from the Viking era has been found on the grounds next to Lännäs Church outside Örebro. Churches found earlier have been much damaged, but now the archaeologists have located four pillars marking this church and a gravesite where the skeleton of a woman was found. It is believed that the church, only about 100 meters from the present church, is more than 1,000 years old.

Ambulance service: It seems like Danish patients will become accustomed to Swedish being spoken in the ambulance. The Swedish company Samariten will provide ambulance transportation in five of six hospital regions in the Danish Sjælland, beginning next year. The Stockholm-based company won the proposal that Region Sjælland posted last spring.

Going green: Algae and trees that can produce oil may a future source of jet fuel for SAS. Together with French, Japanese, and Dutch airlines, SAS will invest in speeding up the development of ecological jet fuels.

Education: In order to get more youth interested in technology and science, the University of Technology in Lund will open its own experimental workshop, the Science Center, next fall. Plans for the new facility were recently released by Principal Anders Axelsson in connection with Ideon’s 25th anniversary.

Good man: In Gotland, one doesn’t cancel a bus schedule just because the bus doesn’t work. At least not if your name is Göran Linhatte and you’re the driver. When Göran was ready to begin the first ride of the day at 5:30 in the morning, he found that the bus had been broken into and that the keys were gone. Not to leave his riders stranded, he used his car instead. His car is not that large, but luckily only six people were waiting at the bus stop. He drove four of them to their destinations and then went back to pick up the other two.

Opinions expressed are not those of the Swedish Cultural Center.

SWEDISH GENEALOGY, NORWEGIAN RESOURCES—Our genealogist, Diana Erickson, shows Syrene Forsman of the Swedish-Finn Historical Society how to find her Swedish, Finnish, and Norwegian ancestors who emigrated through Norway. Many emigrants traveled through Norway on their way to America and were recorded in Norway’s archives, which are now available for free on the Internet. They can be accessed in English at www.arkivverket.no/english.

Want to learn how to do genealogy? Or maybe you just love talking about genealogy and sharing your experiences. The Swedish Cultural Center invites you to join our new genealogy group. We’ll meet in our library the first Sunday of every month, around 1:30 p.m. Our first meeting will be January 4, 2009. And of course, if you want to work with our genealogist one on one, just call or contact the Center.
Members & Friends Dinner: Jonas Olof Grafström

The Swedish Cultural Center invites members and the public to have dinner and hear a talk about Swedish-born artist Jonas Olof Grafström. Around the Pacific Northwest, Grafström is best known for his religious art, particularly the altarpiece at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. But he was also an avid outdoorsman who loved the mountains and forests of the Pacific Northwest. This illustrated presentation at the Center’s Members & Friends dinner meeting, Wednesday, Nov. 12, will highlight Grafström the artist and adventurer, and tell how his spectacular portrayal of Silver Lake and Mount St. Helens came to pass.

Our speaker is Brian B. Magnusson, assistant professor, Nordic and American art and culture, Jyväskylä University, Finland. The cost is $15 and we need your reservation by Monday, Nov. 10. The time is 5:30 for social hour and 6:30 for dinner, with the program to follow. RSVP to info@swedishculturalcenter.org or 206-283-1090. Everyone is most welcome!

Members & Friends Dinner
WEDNESDAY, November 12, 2008
Three Crowns Room

Social 5:30 p.m.
Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Cost $15.00

First course
Soppa med gul squash och kardemumma
Cardamom roasted butternut squash soup

Second course
Fläskfile späckad med vitlök och rosmarin
Rosemary garlic stuffed pork loin

Potatismos med dill och grädde
Dill and cream mashed potatoes

Gröna bönor med bacon och lök
Bacon and onion green beans

Dessert
Paj på pumpa
Pumpkin pie

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.

Seattle’s Gethsemane Lutheran Church displays this altarpiece by Swedish-born artist Jonas Olof Grafström in its chapel at 901 Stewart St. It was restored after being forgotten and rolled up behind the organ for 40 years. Those who attend our Members & Friends dinner on Nov 10 will get to hear about Grafström’s spectacular 1889 landscape painting of Silver Lake, Washington.

Executive Director’s Notes

Now that it is November, remember to fall back on the first Sunday. And then, after that extra hour of sleep, come to the Center for pancakes. Perhaps we can exceed the October turnout of 879, which was 100 more than the September breakfast. While we’ve raised the price to $8 for the public, the member price is still the same. At only $6, it’s a bargain.

I’m pleased to say that we are on budget in most areas. Our rentals are strong, and we are fortunate to have some generous donors who share our vision for stronger programs at the Cultural Center and a refurbished building. We appreciate the generosity of our members and supporters.

Changes continue to the building. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the lobby will again approach its former look, which included a beautiful brick wall on the north side. My office has been moved, and we’ve welcomed the Swedish-Finn Historical Society into my former office. You may reach me directly by dialing 206-283-1078, and the other number 206-283-1090 is still a good number for the business of the Cultural Center. I hope to see you in your Center soon.

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

swedishculturalcenter.org
Coming Events at the Swedish Cultural Center

Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 1–2.
Scandinavian Holiday Bazaar.
Start your holiday shopping at the Swedish Cultural Center November 1–2. Three floors of vendors, food and entertainment. Vendors will be selling Scandinavian items and items of interest to Scandinavians. We’ll have Danish smørrebrød sandwiches and beer on Saturday, and Swedish pancakes on Sunday. Food available both days until it runs out. Bazaar runs 9 a.m.–5 p.m. both days. Co-sponsored by the Danish community.

Sunday, Nov. 2.
Swedish Pancakes.
Music by Spelmanslag, Vi Aro Musikanter, and Nordiska Folkdancers and Musicians—and dancing—make it the best food and entertainment in town. 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m. This month only, the Scandinavian bazaar will also be running.

Tuesdays, Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25.
Sing!
You’re welcome to join the Svea Male Chorus or the Swedish Women’s Chorus. Both rehearse every Tuesday evening. To learn more, call 206-283-1090.

Tuesday, Nov. 4.
Vännerna.
Do you like to sew or enjoy the company of those who do? Join us for our monthly Tuesday morning sewing and crafts session. 10 a.m.

Fridays, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28.
Swedish Club Kafé.
At the time we’re going to press, we plan to open our new every-Friday café on Nov. 7. Watch for further announcements or call 206-283-1090 to check before coming. Delicious Nordic-inspired food. Noon till 5 p.m., in the Three Crowns Lounge.

Friday, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28.
Nordic Happy Hour.
Members and their friends are invited to Happy Hour every Friday evening. Homemade Scandinavian entrees and the best view in town. 5–10:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 12.
Swedish Book Club.
We’re reading Goodnight My Darling by Inger Frimansson. This book is available in English and Swedish. We meet 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. in the library.

Contact Randy for more information: 206-937-0441 or rnelson900@aol.com.

Wednesday, Nov. 12.
Members & Friends Dinner.
Come hear Brian B. Magnusson, Assistant Professor, Nordic and American Art and Culture, Jyväskylä University, Finland, talk about Swedish-born landscape artist Jonas Olof Grefström. $15. Social hour 5:30, dinner 6:30. Please RSVP by November 10 at 206-283-1090 or rw@swedishculturalcenter.org.

Friday, Nov. 14.
Karelian Folk Music.
Songs in Finnish, Karelian, and Russian, with traditional accompaniment, at Nordic Heritage Museum, 7 p.m. Museum members $10, guests $15. To reserve, call 206-789-5707, ext 21.

Wednesday, Nov. 19.
Kafferep.
Join us for a old-fashioned Swedish coffee party in the SCC lobby. Bring your own favorite cookies or just come! Free. 2 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 12.
Lucia Bal.
A Lucia pageant and songs in Swedish, traditional Swedish food, and dance music by Sylvia and Fjordsong. We’ll have more details later. For now, mark your calendars.

Sunday, Dec. 21.
Lutfisk Plus Concert.
Jim Nelson, an American singer who lives in Norway and delighted audiences at a Happy Hour last summer, is coming back to the Swedish Cultural Center. We’ll have lutfisk and other Christmas delicacies on the table and Scandinavian songs for your enjoyment. Around 4 p.m. Save the date!

Wednesday, Dec. 31.
Nordic New Year!
Enjoy music on two floors: Richard Svensson in the ground floor ballroom for dancing and local hip band “Kate Tucker and the Sons of Sweden” on the top floor. A light dinner will be available. $40 for members. We have to limit the number of guests, so get your tickets ahead of time. Call 206-283-1090 or e-mail info@swedishculturalcenter.org.

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.