Vikings vs. Cowboys

The topic of the Scandinavian personality came up with the interviewing and possible hiring of the club’s new interim general manager. Swedish candidates were in short supply, so those who interviewed for the job were understandably curious about what it might be like to work with Swedes and Swedish-Americans. Some years ago, one of the Swedish authors who penned *Modern Day Vikings: A Practical Guide to Interacting with the Swedes* came to the club for a presentation. Notes from her talk are still relevant to would-be managers for the Swedish Cultural Center.

Christina Johansson Robinowitz and Lisa Werner Carr wrote the book together, and Christina did the presentation, in which she compared Swedes with Vikings and Americans with cowboys. She described how history (1,000 years ago for the Vikings, and 200 years ago for the cowboys) set the stage for today’s cultural norms. See if you agree with the Viking values and cowboy convictions Christina identified.

**Viking Values**

- Strength lies with the group (for example, when rowing a Viking boat)
- Planning is vital
- Exploring the world is important
- *Lagom* means “all things in moderation and everyone gets a fair share”
- *Jantelagen* means that the term “average Swede” is a compliment
- Failure is not OK
- Vacations are a right
- Conversation should have a purpose

**When Working with Vikings**

- Don’t push for quick action
- Feature facts, not flash
- Think of the team
- Tone it down (*lagom*)
- Don’t expect them to know how to make small talk

**Vikings Are…**

- Literal
- Modest
- Humble
- Jealous
- Gender neutral

*Continued on p. 4*
After serving on the SCC Board of Directors since 2005, I was elected president by the Board at their meeting on July 14. I am thrilled and honored to be the first woman president in the Swedish Cultural Center’s 118-year history. I am also humbled and very aware that I have much to learn in this new role, and am grateful to the Board for their support and confidence in my ability to lead this wonderful organization.

It has been fun and energizing to be a part of the vibrant Board of Directors as we engaged in strategic planning to refine our mission, create a vision for our future, and begin to take steps toward realizing a Swedish Cultural Center for the 21st century. You have seen the positive results in our growing membership, expanded cultural programs, and physical changes that have enhanced this wonderful facility. This reinvention has been critical in ensuring that our activities and facility are more Swedish and increasingly relevant to more people as a community gathering place. We will continue to honor the generations who built this nearly 12-decade-old institution by making it a place future generations can enjoy and be proud of.

As I move into the position of president, I would like to introduce the rest of the Executive Committee, recently elected by the Board of Directors.

**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
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www.swedishculturalcenter.org

**Office Hours**
Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

**Board of Directors**
President: Susan Ramstead
Vice President: Erik Pihl
Treasurer: Don Wahlquist
Secretary: Carl Westerdahl
Past President: Karl Larsson
Directors: Bob Blair, Judy Nilsen Cooper, Sara Lightle, Don Meyers, Mark Saffstrom, Bud Saxberg, Erik Sundholm

**Center Operations**
Interim Exec. Director: Eric Stevens
Cultural Director: Kristine Leander
Membership Coord.: Amanda Boyle
Admin. Assistant: Kris Reitan
Facilities Mgr.: Terence Gunn

**Ladies Auxiliary**
Chair: June Anderson Evanoff
Vice Chair: Jean Wirch
Secretary: Aina Oscarsson
Treasurer: Bonnie Orr
Sewing: Jean Wirch

**Swedish Women’s Chorus**
Geri Damm geridamm@gmail.com

**Swedish Center News**
Editor: Kristine Leander
Copy Editor: Martin Stillion

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**Deadline for material for the next issue is Aug. 10.**

Bring articles into the office or fax to 206-283-2970. You may also e-mail articles to kristine@swedishculturalcenter.org

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**THE ESOTERICS**

*Seattle’s most innovative choir*

Founding director Eric Banks leads The Esoterics in the West Coast premiere of a cappella works by Swedish composer Thomas Jennefelt: in the seven-movement *Villarosa sequences*, the meditative qualities of minimalist tone clusters combine with the drama of vibrant melodic lines. Also: Jennefelt’s 1990 motet, *Music for a big church; for tranquility*. Aug. 7, 8 p.m.: Holy Rosary Catholic Church, West Seattle; Aug. 8, 2 p.m.: St Joseph’s Catholic Church, Seattle. Tickets and more information: www.theesoterics.org or 206-935-7779.
ensure that the Swedish Cultural Center fulfills its mission and achieves its vision. We will seek your input during this process. Eric Stevens, who has been an effective leader as the interim executive director, has been offered a permanent position at the Bloedel Reserve and will leave his role here on Sept. 1. We extend to Eric our immense gratitude and support for all his good work.

As we continue our search for a permanent leader, the Board has elected to hire an interim general manager with strong facilities and operations experience to complement the work of our current cultural director. The Board plans to recruit an interim leader with strong skills and experience in finance, food and beverage, and operations so that we can build on the foundation that Eric Stevens has established. During this transition, the Board’s hope is to continue our forward progress so that when a permanent general manager/executive director is hired, that person will take over an even stronger organization. By the time this newsletter reaches your home, we expect to have hired an interim general manager and will look forward to introducing him or her to you shortly.

If you have ideas for programs or activities or want to get involved with the exciting activities around the Center, please call 206-283-1090 or speak to any Board member.

Sincerely,

Susan Ramstead, President, Swedish Cultural Center

Calling All Auction Supporters!

That’s all of us, right? We all want to contribute to the Center’s annual auction, Sweden Goes to Hollywood, on Oct. 23. The auction is the Center’s biggest fundraiser, and our best fun-raiser! When you’re out and about between now and October, here’s an easy way to help: Think about gift certificates. Got a favorite restaurant? Next time you go, tell them about the 900-plus households who belong to the SCC. And about the potential new customers they’ll get when they donate a gift certificate to our auction. This also works for hair salons, auto detailing, teeth cleaning, dog walking, financial planning, vacations, and music lessons...the list is endless. (One member even got a doctor to donate LASIK eye surgery!) Think how much it would help us if every member came in with a certificate! So don’t be afraid to ask. They’ll probably be flattered. It helps their business and introduces new customers. We’ll also send them an immediate letter acknowledging their gift, and add their names to our online list of donors.

Do you own a business? Please consider a gift certificate or a gift basket for the auction. What about a corporate sponsorship, which entitles you to oodles of promotion on our Web site, in our newsletter, and at the auction itself? Swedish Medical Center came aboard as our first sponsor, and there’s space for more. Sponsorships range from $1,500 on up. Want more information? Call the SCC office at 206-283-1090 or Auction Chair Robin O’Leary at 206-525-7725.

SCC Announces

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

The Swedish Cultural Center announces 944 member households.

New Members

Carli Anderson
Alex Bennett and Dorothy Ghylin-Bennett
Kathleen and Cy Butler
Gordon and Marjorie Lou Ericksen
Tapio Koskinen, Aija and Petra Elg
Kare Landen
Lisa Larsen
Marcie Larson
Nancy Neuerberg
Tim Nickell
Anna Nystrom
Lise Orville
Susan and Dennis Reed
Anna Soderstrom
Janet and Evan Sorby
Julie Svendsen and Jon Pfaff

Deaths

Sune Lindberg
Ralph L. Swanson, Sr.

Volunteer Hours Donated

June 2010: 362.5

New Address?

Send your address changes or corrections to:

Swedish Cultural Center
Attn: Address Change
1930 Dexter Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98109

Or you can e-mail to info@swedishculturalcenter.org.

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

- Strength comes from individual bravery (i.e., cowboys “shoot ’em up”)
- Quick action is important
- Conquering frontiers, always looking for something new
- The sky is the limit
- During the Gold Rush there were good reasons to be first, to get ahead of everyone else
- Failure is OK because it’s a good way to learn
- Vacations are earned

Cowboys Are…

- Competitive
- More informal
- Willing to make small talk
- Individualistic
- Uncomfortable with silence

P.S. The most recent encounter between the Vikings and the Cowboys was in the NFC divisional playoffs on Jan. 17, 2010. The Vikings prevailed, 34-3. We’re just sayin’.

The New Swedish Nightingales?

Where can you get a bird’s-eye view of the city, enjoy gourmet Swedish food, and be entertained with authentic live Scandinavian music? At the Scandinavian Salon in the Crown Room Lounge, of course! On Thursday, Aug. 19, Lori Ann Reinhall and Jim Nelson are returning as Duo Scandinavica to entertain us with a program of folk, vaudeville, and contemporary favorites perfect for a Nordic summer evening.

The past year has been a busy one for Duo Scandinavica, based here and in Drammen, Norway, with several performances in Seattle, Oslo, and Stockholm. One of the highlights was their appearance at the UW Scandinavian Studies Department’s Centennial Gala. More recently, they came out for Viking Days at the Nordic Heritage Museum, followed by an evening at Leif Erikson Lodge. “But performing at the SCC will also have a special place in our hearts,” Lori Ann explains. “It’s where we got started together years ago, and it’s where we reunited as an act two years ago. We are members ourselves and we have so many friends here.”

Every artist needs a raison d’être. “As musicians, we enjoy this tremendously,” Jim says, “but we also feel it is important that a certain cultural legacy is passed on.” Lori Ann adds, “There is a great deal of purpose in what we do. We want to support the Scandinavian community with a musical link between past, present and future generations.” The duo has a CD in the works and is currently expanding its repertoire of American songs to reach out to a broader audience.

Jim, a recently retired music teacher, handles the duo’s musical arrangements, while Lori Ann, a project manager, has taken on much of the producer’s role. “She is great at conceptualizing and organizing what we do,” Jim remarks, “and she’s also a great musician and performer.” Lori Ann comments, “Working So Long, Sune

“See that sign? I made it!” With those words and a gesture toward the Three Crowns sign on the side of our building, Sune Lindberg always announced as he was pulling into the Center’s parking lot that he was responsible for the large trademark on our building. Sune passed away on July 3 after the full life of a typical Swedish immigrant in Seattle. He was born in Gotland, lived in Stockholm, “retired” from Volvo, and moved to Seattle in 1952. He loved anything to do with flying and sailing and was also good with his hands, so here he found work with Sundstrand, making black boxes for airplanes. When the call went out that the club’s new building needed a sign, he volunteered to make it. Sune and his wife Rose were faithful attendees at Center events, and his widow invites anyone who knew Sune to call her. (Call the SCC office at 206-283-1090 for her phone number.)
with Jim is amazing. I can tell him I what want, and he just does it. Now that’s talent.”

Duo Scandinavica has a special program planned for the Scandinavian Salon on August 19, including new arrangements of both traditional and modern music from Scandinavia. Seating in the bar is limited and early reservations are recommended. The social hour begins at 6 p.m. in the bar, and the cost is $30 for the dinner, program, and a drink. Call the Center at 283-1090 or e-mail rsvp@swedishculturalcenter.org.

To learn more about the duo, visit www.duoscandinavica.com.

All Roads Lead to the Swedish Club

A new member who joined in June was actually a returning member. Laura Burnett Smith (left) had joined the Swedish Club and Nordic Heritage Museum about 20 years ago to learn about her Scandinavian roots, but then drifted away when her schedule and interests changed. After an absence of some years, her Ballard neighbors encouraged her to rejoin the club, as they’d been enjoying our soccer outings and Happy Hours.

Laura graduated from the certificate program in museum studies at the UW and has become a much-needed volunteer for the Museum. She’s enjoying her renewed memberships in both organizations.

Imagine your editor’s surprise that when we went to take a photo with Laura and Kirsten Olsen (right), exhibitions coordinator at the Museum, they’d chosen a spot in front of a clock donated by another SCC member, Louise Bruse Wenberg Luce. When Louise inherited the clock and other items from her aunt, Anna Melin, in Ilso, Halsingland, Sweden, she had them shipped to Seattle and then donated them to the Museum. Don’t miss the Museum’s new Folk Art Galleries, with many other stunning items from Scandinavia.

How do you know when the Swedish club is having a great party? When they come from Norway to attend! At the recent Bluewater vodka launch party, hosted by SCC member and Bluewater founder John Lundin (left), one guest was Bjorn Gran (right), from Trondheim, Norway. Bjorn had been a foreign exchange student at Ballard High School in the late 1980s, and a year ago, while visiting Seattle, he happened upon our Happy Hour. His next business trip to the West Coast coincided with the Bluewater launch, giving him the right to tell guests he’d come to Seattle “just for the vodka tasting.” We look forward to featuring Bluewater vodka in our bar—and to welcoming more guests from around the world.

Meet Our New Intern

Hip, hip, hooray! The Swedish Cultural Center will have a Swedish intern for fall quarter. Sandra Ohlsson will help us with our auction and learn the ropes of an American nonprofit organization. She hopes to find housing from September through December in a home or apartment with no pets. She’d be a good Swedish conversationalist with your kids or a just a newcomer who needs to find inexpensive housing while she works for us. She can pay minimal rent and prefers to find housing on an easy bus ride to the Center. Can you help? If so, call Kristine at the Center, 206-778-1081. This photo of Sandra was taken last summer when she visited the area.
TRY A
“Double Erik”

Swedish Cultural Center salutes Nordic Heritage Museum.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27
5 p.m. till closing

Try a “Double Erik,” served by our guest bartenders, Museum CEO Eric Nelson and Development Director Erik Stangvik.

Music by Folk Voice Band.

If your first name is Erik, Eric, Erick, Erica, Erika, or Ericka, we’ll buy you a drink!

Change a life forever. Consider hosting an exchange student.

Evelyn Ollas recently donated two 50-year-old kurbits paintings to the club, which are replicas of much older paintings, probably from the 19th century. Since the Middle Ages Swedish churches were decorated with stories from the Bible and it was also common for artists to take the visual arts of the church when they decorated country people’s homes—complete with Biblical figures dressed in the folk costumes of the area. The story depicted in one of the club’s new works of art is of Zacchaeus, with the Swedish words: “Sackeus, Sackeus, stig snarliga ned ty i dag vill jag gästo ditt hus” (Zacchaeus, Zacchaeus, come down, for today I will be a guest in your house”). Zacchaeus is shown in the tree, wearing a typical man’s costume from Mora. Evelyn’s late husband Martin had inherited the paintings, so their origin is unknown. When Evelyn visited the club to see them in their new home, she announced that she intended to have her 100th birthday party at the club. See you in seven years, Evelyn, and we hope, before that too.
Party leader Gudrun Schyman pulled handfuls of men and women prior to a national election. Feminist stunt designed to highlight wage disparities between banknotes worth 100,000 kronor ($13,000) in a Sweden’s Feminist Party burned a pile month before his death. Larsson mentioned the book less than a talk about it, and friend John-Henri Holmberg, to longtime partner, Eva Gabrielsson, who has refused to two people know what’s in the manuscript: Larsson’s author’s laptop when he died suddenly in 2004. Only is a mystery. The book was left unfinished on the of Stieg Larsson’s bestselling “Millennium” crime series new adventure. But their journey in the fourth book Blomqvist and Lisbeth Salander are about to begin a Canada. In the cold, desolate landscape, Mikael Unfinished: the average reading is 71, down from 72.7 last year. Gripes: Swedes are less satisfied with their jobs nowadays, and younger workers seem less happy than the older ones. Swedes aged 20–67 were asked to rate their workplaces on a scale of 0 to 100, and the average reading is 71, down from 72.7 last year. Unfinished: It is September in Sachs Harbor in Canada. In the cold, desolate landscape, Mikael Blomqvist and Lisbeth Salander are about to begin a new adventure. But their journey in the fourth book of Steg Larsson’s bestselling “Millennium” crime series is a mystery. The book was left unfinished on the author’s laptop when he died suddenly in 2004. Only two people know what’s in the manuscript: Larsson’s longtime partner, Eva Gabrielson, who has refused to talk about it, and friend John-Henri Holmberg, to whom Larsson mentioned the book less than a month before his death. Ticked off: Sweden’s Feminist Party burned a pile of banknotes worth 100,000 kronor ($13,000) in a stunt designed to highlight wage disparities between men and women prior to a national election. Feminist party leader Gudrun Schyman pulled handfuls of cash from a plastic bag and threw them onto a smoking barbecue as a crowd of some 75 people looked on. It happened on the island of Gotland, where political parties were gathered for a week of campaigning. Sweden’s Feminist Party hopes to win its first seat in the Parliament since it was founded in 2005.

Yum: Sweden is fighting European Union food-safety rules in a battle to save one of its traditional delicacies: surstromming, a smelly dish made from fermented Baltic herring. This dish is produced under a special exemption for Sweden and Finland from EU rules on the sale of fatty fish from the Baltic Sea. Next year the loophole will close, and the EU will ban production or sale. Positive: Mostly good news about the economy! Four out of 10 believe that they have received more money in their wallets during the last four years. The “Stockholmers” have gotten the better part, while the folks up north in Norrbotten believe things are worse, according to a recent poll. Also, 43 percent responded that their quality of life has improved. Stockholm residents have gained more on the government’s economy policy. Nearly half of them are said to have seen improved economy during the recent years.

Unique: A Swedish zoo recently presented a newborn female lowland tapir, an endangered species that hails from Central and South America. Most tapirs born in captivity are males, so the staff at the zoo were proud to announce the birth of a female. Another zoo in Sweden reported the birth of a male lowland tapir. He was born on July 14—the birthday of Crown Princess Victoria—and was therefore named Daniel in honor of Victoria’s husband, Daniel Westling. Opinions expressed are not those of the Swedish Cultural Center.

Members & Friends Dinner WEDNESDAY, Aug. 4, 2010 Three Crowns Room

Social 5:30 p.m.
Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Cost $18
RSVP by noon Aug. 3. Late RSVPs and walk-ins: $22.

First course
Sallad med gröna ärtor
Green pea salad
Limpa med smör
Limpa bread and butter

Second course
Kyklingbröst späckade med karamellök och jarlsbergost
Chicken breast stuffed with caramelized onions & Jarlsberg cheese
Potatismos med stekt vitlök
Roasted garlic mashed red jacket potatoes
Blandade grönsaker
Steamed vegetable medley
Dessert
Kaka med persikor
Peach cake

Program: Seattle-based a cappella ensemble The Esoterics will preview their upcoming concert of works by modern Swedish composer Thomas Jennefelt. As a bonus, you can purchase Swedish bread from Svedala Bakery this evening! Pick up a loaf of limpa (sourdough rye) or mandelflata (cardamom bread with almond paste).
Coming Events at the Swedish Cultural Center

Every Friday. Swedish Kafé & Happy Hour!

Every Friday. Library & Genealogy.
Our Friday librarian and genealogist will guide your research or help you find a book. 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Every Friday. Viking Series.
Our Viking video is over until September, but we’ll still be discussing Vikings every Friday at 5:30. Read up on these topics and come to discuss.
• Aug. 6: Armor, Clothing, and Costume
• Aug. 13: Religion: Paganism vs. Christianity
• Aug. 20: Viking Women
• Aug. 27: DVD on the Vikings!

Every Friday. Matinee.
Scandinavian films with English subtitles. $5 donation. 2 p.m. Come early for a sandwich in our Friday Kafé.
• Aug. 6: Danish film: The Boss of It All
• Aug. 13: Norwegian film: The Other Side of Sunday
• Aug. 20: Swedish film: Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
• Aug. 27: English-language film by Swedish director Lasse Hallström, set in France: Chocolat

By popular demand, a pancake breakfast Sunday in August! Music and dancing make it the best food and entertainment in town. Live music and authentic Swedish pancakes, ham, lingonberries. $8 guests, $6 SCC members, children 5–12 $4, 8 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Come to learn your own ancestry, or to help others get started! Real genealogists. Free. 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 4. Members & Friends.
The Esoterics, “Seattle’s most innovative choir,” perform and perpetuate contemporary a cappella choral settings of poetry, philosophy, and spiritual writings. Under the baton of founding director Eric Banks, they’ve performed many of the most challenging works of the past century, from modern to postmodern to avant garde. We’ll get a preview of their upcoming concerts. Three-course meal for $18. RSVP by Tuesday, Aug. 3. Late RSVPs and walk-ins $22. RSVP to 206-283-1090 or rsvp@swedishculturalcenter.org. Social hour 5:30, dinner 6:30, program 7:30.

Wednesday, Aug. 18. Kafferep.
Our monthly coffee party is always special, thanks to Seattle’s best Swedish bakers! All are invited. We often have live music too. Free. 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 18. Swedish Film.
Girl with the Dragon Tattoo. See the film sweeping the United States and Europe. $5 donation. 7:30 p.m.

Monthly dinner & conversation with food by Ann-Margret and musical presentation by Duo Scandinavica. Lori Ann Reinhall lives in Seattle and Jim Nelson in Norway, but together, they make beautiful music! The menu will be Swedish! $30 includes the meal and a glass of wine. Limited seating, so RSVP early: rsvp@swedishculturalcenter.org or 206-283-1090. Social hour 6 p.m.; Dinner 7 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 27.
“Double Erik” Happy Hour!
Have you noticed how many Eriks there are these days? The SCC is saluting a couple of our favorite Eriks and inviting them to be our guest bartenders: Eric Nelson, CEO of Nordic Heritage Museum, and Erik Stangvik, development director of the Museum. If your first name is Eric, Erik, Erick, Erica, Ericka, or Ericka, we’ll buy you a drink. Starts at 6 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 10.
Scandinavian Old-Time Music Jam Session.
Newcomers welcome to listen or play or both! During Happy Hour, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

In the Community

Saturday & Sunday, Aug. 7 & 8.
Swedish Symphony for Voices.
The works of Swedish composer Thomas Jennefelt will be performed by The Esoterics at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in West Seattle at 8 p.m. on Aug. 7, and St Joseph’s Catholic Church in Seattle at 2 p.m. on Aug. 8. Jennefelt’s Villarosa Sequences, a seven-movement symphony for voices, receives its West Coast premiere in these concerts. For information, visit www.theesoterics.org or call 206-935-7779.

Saturday, Aug. 21.
Swedish Farm Tour in Pierce County.
Sponsored by PLU’s Scandinavian Cultural Center. $15 includes shuttle to farm and lunch. For more information, call 253-535-7322.

Volunteers?
We need volunteer help cashiering at various special events, including Friday Happy Hours. We always need help with pancake breakfasts. To lend a hand on any of these projects, e-mail info@swedishculturalcenter.org or call 206-283-1090.

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.

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