

# Swedish Club News

Vol. 53, Issue 2: February 2014

Swedish Club . Seattle . Washington

## 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.

## Auxiliary Reborn as Guild

What's old is new again! The Ladies Auxiliary has been a formidable force in the history of the Swedish Club, and it's coming back, with a new name and new vigor.

Back in the days before women could be Club members, the Auxiliary was an active adjunct to the Club, making food, raising funds and generally helping to keep the wheels on the bus. But the Club rules were changed in 1989 to admit women—and it's hard to know whether to be proud that they finally changed or chagrined that it took so long. Once that happened, the numbers and energy of the Auxiliary gradually began to dwindle.

Lately, though, some Club members decided there was a role for a fundraising guild—and that it could preserve an old organization under a new name. Thus the Swedish Club Guild was formed.

A lively group of women, including all of the existing Auxiliary members who gave their blessing to the group, met in January, inaugurated the Guild and decided to meet the fourth Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. Their goal is to raise funds in order to refurbish some part of the building—perhaps not as large as the roof, but something vital to Club success, such as a kitchen.

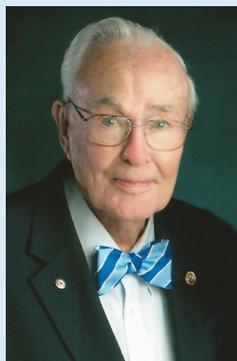
Membership is free and is not restricted to women. Guild officers are **Patricia Salt Charles**



Guild members Syrene Forsman and Eva Larson take stock of the inventory of items available to sell at the Club's upcoming Swedish Pancake Breakfast. They'll also raffle off the vintage purse at left.

and **Vinda Sund**, co-chairs; **Syrene Forsman**, secretary; and **Jean Wirch**, treasurer. They'll be

at our pancake breakfasts, selling handmade items and raffle tickets for an old-fashioned Swedish-style purse. They're also planning for the annual Hat Luncheon on Apr. 12, and welcome your participation. Contact Executive Director **Kristine Leander** if you want to join, or just show up Feb. 22 at 10 a.m. in the library.



## In Memoriam

Carl E. Swenson of Edmonds passed away at the age of 91 on Christmas Day. He grew up on a dairy farm in Elma, Wash., and went on to have numerous leadership roles in Seattle—for example, captain in the Naval Reserve, executive vice president of Sweden Manufacturing in Ballard, president of the Ballard Hospital Board, Rotary district governor and board member of various organizations, such as Ballard Hospital Foundation and Seattle Hearing, Speech and Deafness Center. Carl was a Rotarian for over 50 years and lived the Rotary creed, "Service above Self." His smile, friendship and generosity will be missed.

## Swedish Club

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*www.swedishclubnw.org*

### Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

### Board of Directors

President	Brandon Benson
VP, Facilities	Larry Johnson
Treasurer	Don Wahlquist
Secretary	Mary McCann

Directors: Paul Heneghan, Chris Jones, Vince Madden, Kristina Nordstrom, Rebecca O'Brian, Larry Omdal, Susan Ramstead, Vi Reno, Sonja Richter, Per-Ola Selander, Kathryn Summers

*board@swedishculturalcenter.org*

### Club Operations

Executive Director	Kristine Leander
Event/Office Coord.	Eva Larson
Rentals/Facil. Mgr.	Doug Newlands

### Club Historian

Aina Oscarsson

### Swedish Club Guild

Co-Chair	Patricia Salt Charles
Co-Chair	Vinda Sund
Secretary	Syrene Forsman
Treasurer	Jean Wirch

### Swedish Women's Chorus

Geri Damm *geridamm@gmail.com*

### Svea Male Chorus

Bob Reetz *rebert1@msn.com*

### Swedish Club News

Editor: Kristine Leander  
Copy Editor: Martin Stillion

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### Deadline for material for the next issue is Feb. 20.

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

## Club Notes

The greatest strength of the Swedish Club is that all ages get together," according to one of our younger members. We agree. She likes to be part of a community where it's as common to find folks in their 80s as in their 30s, enjoying the people and activities at the Club.

We think that age diversity adds stability to the Swedish Club community. Other clubs in town may try to retain older members on fixed incomes by offering a reduced rate for seniors, but the Swedish Club goes in the other direction. We encourage younger members to join by offering a lower rate for people in their 20s. Our Viking membership rate is \$40, compared with a regular individual rate of \$65—nearly a 40 percent reduction in annual membership cost.

Age, whether it's younger or older, is cherished at the Club. Our Board members range from 31 to 77 years of age; pancake volunteers span high school age to nearly 90; and the students in our Swedish language classes range from 10 to 90! (According to Swedish language teacher **Laura Wideburg**, "The urge to learn Swedish does not depend on what generation you belong to!") Of course the younger ones come with their parents or grandparents (if you

wish your young ones would learn Swedish, why not learn alongside them?) but all are welcome.

Our annual auction was managed by individuals on the young side, and some younger members serve on the Building Committee. Sitting around the bar on Friday evenings, you'll find 30-somethings mixing with 80-somethings. We celebrate the oldsters' birthdays when they come around, but the younger generation picks the music—perhaps ABBA or jazz. When Club icon **Victor Manarolla** turned 97 last month, we celebrated with children's party hats, and the 30- and 40-year-olds enjoyed it as much as those closer to Victor's age.

Newcomers remark on the friendliness that is part of all we do here, and that welcoming attitude means that neither end of the age spectrum feels intimidated by the other end. Youngsters and oldsters alike are curious and seem to value what another generation has to offer. This tapestry of ages is part of what makes the Swedish Club the unique and wonderful community that it is.

KRISTINE LEANDER  
Executive Director

## President's Message

Looking ahead to our Annual Meeting and Board election at our Members & Friends Dinner on April 9, it's timely for me to report on the bylaw changes passed in 2013.

The first change concerns interim elections to the Board. Our bylaws call for a Board of 11 to 17 Members. When there's a vacancy, the Board can elect an interim Member. Candidates must complete an application form and interview with the Nominating Committee, who will recommend qualified candidates to the Board. If approved by the Board, new Members serve until the next Annual Meeting, when they must be elected by Club members.

Our Board recently approved three new interim Members: **Don Wahlquist** will serve as Treasurer, and **Chris Jones** and **Sonja Richter** will become regular Board Members. Don is filling the role only until the April meeting, when the Board will elect a new Treasurer. Sonja and Chris will stand for re-election by the membership.

The second change is the timing of nominations. The Nominating Committee, composed of **Bert Lundh**, chair, and **Bob Blair**, **Bob Erickson**, **Karl Larsson** and **Jan Sullivan**, nominates individuals for the Board. Those names will be published in the March newsletter. In addition, Club members can nominate someone for the Board at the March Members & Friends Dinner—a month before the Annual Meeting. Since floor nominations eliminate the Nominating Committee's vetting process, the one-month period gives members a chance to get to know the nominees, so they can make an informed decision when it's time to vote.

The third change stipulates that any candidate for Board Membership must have been a member of the Club for the preceding year, and that officers of the Board must have served for the past year on the Board.

There are currently 15 Board Members, which means two vacant spots. If you would

like to serve, or if you have suggestions for candidates, please send them to Executive Director Kristine Leander, who will forward them to the Nominating Committee.

The role of Board Members is vital to the changes and growth we anticipate going forward. I hope that every member will take an active interest in the individuals who oversee the Club and ensure that we have adequate resources for the future. Many thanks to those who've served recently and have now stepped aside: **Terry Anderson, Glen Peterson** and **Erik Pihl**. Thanks also to our current Board Members: **Paul**

**Heneghan, Larry Johnson, Vince Madden, Mary McCann, Kristina Nordstrom, Rebecca O'Briant, Larry Omdal, Susan Ramstead, Vi Reno, Per-Ola Selander** and **Kathryn Summers**.

Finally, thanks to our newest Members, Sonja Richter, Chris Jones and Don Wahlquist.

P.S. At press time, we learned of the passing of former Board President Gene Nystrom, who served from 2004 to 2006. We'll provide a fuller obituary in the next newsletter.

BRANDON BENSON  
Swedish Club President

## Coming Events at the Swedish Club

### **Sunday, Feb. 2. Swedish Pancakes.**

Music and dancing, plus authentic Swedish pancakes, lingonberries, ham, and all the right fixin's. Music by Metro Gnomes, Sprida Ut and Smilin' Scandinavians. \$9 guests, \$7 Club members, \$5 children 5-12. 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Stay afterward for genealogy help on the lobby floor.

### **Sunday, Feb. 2. Weaving Class.**

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., **Rachel Keil** will direct your weaving, from novice to experienced weaver. Every first Sunday. Free.

### **Sunday, Feb. 2. Big Game Viewing Party.**

We're opening the bar and offering food, drinks and TV for a big day of football. Watch the Seahawks take on the Broncos, starting at 3:30 p.m. To make sure we'll have enough for you, RSVP to [rsvp@swedishculturalcenter.org](mailto:rsvp@swedishculturalcenter.org) or call 206-283-1090 if you're coming.

### **Friday, Feb. 7. First Friday Jazz.**

Meet Hell's Bellows—four accordions playing jazz, classical, modern, and beyond, including a tune by Swedish composer Lars Hollmer. They've been described as "an accordion quartet with the radical idea that the accordion is just another instrument." 7:30 p.m.

### **Wednesday, Feb. 12. Book Club.**

We'll discuss *Elddansen (The Fire Dance)* by Helene Tursten. Read in Swedish or English, and join us to discuss this novel translated by our head Swedish instructor, Laura Wideburg. 5:30 p.m.

### **Wednesday, Feb. 12. Members & Friends Dinner.**

Dr. Azita Emami, dean of the UW School of Nursing, is our speaker at the February Members & Friends Dinner. Although her ethnic heritage is Persian, she grew up and was educated in Sweden. Her career includes seven years at the Karolinska Institutet of Stockholm, where she was an endowed professor in elderly care research and a senior lecturer. She will speak on "Sweden's Health Care and Welfare System." RSVP to 206-283-1090 or [rsvp@swedishculturalcenter.org](mailto:rsvp@swedishculturalcenter.org) by noon on Tuesday, Feb. 11. \$20. Social hour 5:30, dinner 6:30, meeting 7:30 p.m. followed by program.

### **Friday, Feb. 14. Valentine Indulgence.**

Who doesn't need a bit of food pampering on Valentine's Day? Our menu will be beef tenderloin and chocolate decadence. \$18. Live music with love songs new and old.

### **Wednesday, Feb. 19. Swedish Club Board Meeting.**

6 p.m. Members always welcome.

### **Wednesday, Feb. 19. Weaving Class & Open Studio.**

From 6 to 9 p.m., Rachel Keil will direct your weaving, from novice to experienced weaver.

### **Wednesday, Feb. 19. Swedish Film.**

*Snabba cash (Easy Money)*. Thriller directed by Daniel Espinosa, based on the novel by Jens Lapidus. JW, a poor economics student living in upper-class Stockholm, meets a

## SC Announces

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

The Swedish Club announces 1,043 member households.

### **New Members**

Kirsen Akerman & Reid Caudill

Ryan & Megan Avery

Ethan Bickel

Tod & Barb Brueske

Leon Coonrad

Darcy J Crane

Richard Isaacson

Jayne Jaderholm

Kelli & Hakim Kamel

Lunarre Omura & John Horn

Erik Ronning

Meri von KlinSmed

Tom Watson

Adam Zylstra

### **Deaths**

Roger Billings

Margareta Blix

Gene Nystrom

Carl E. Swenson

### **Standing Committee Mtgs.**

Building: 1st Tues. of month, 5 p.m.

Fundraising: Date and time TBD

Membership: Tuesday, Feb. 11, 10 a.m.

Guild: 4th Saturday of month, 10 a.m.

Volunteers & new members welcome.

More info: contact Kristine Leander.

**New address?** Send your address changes or corrections to Swedish Club, Attn.: Address Change, 1920 Dexter Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98109.

Or you can e-mail to [info@swedishculturalcenter.org](mailto:info@swedishculturalcenter.org).

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

## Coming Events, cont.

wealthy woman and is enticed into organized crime. 7:30 p.m. \$5. 124 min.

### **Friday, Feb. 21. Third Friday Music.**

Sultry chanteuse Celene Ramadan brings her band, Prom Queen, to the Club for a night of vintage pop and lounge music. Like our building, Prom Queen appears to have one platform heel firmly in the 1960s. Come on down and get with it. 7:30 p.m.

### **Wednesday, Feb 26. Kafferep.**

The fourth Wednesday of the month is our monthly Swedish-style coffee party with homemade Swedish goodies from our best bakers. Everyone is welcome. 2 p.m.

### **Wednesday, Feb. 26. Finnish Film.**

*Kuulustelu (The Interrogation)*. Intense drama about the questioning of a spy during the Continuation War. 7:30 p.m. \$5. 103 min.

### **Thursday, Feb. 27. Hanna Pylvainen.**

Finnish author of *We Sinners*, story of a Laestadius family, which has gotten rave reviews. 7 p.m. Free. Co-sponsored by the Finlandia Foundation.

### **Friday, Feb. 28. Ulf Peter Hallberg.**

Swedish author of *European Trash: Fourteen Ways to Remember a Father*. 7 p.m.

### **Friday, Feb. 28. Scandinavian Dance.**

The trio Sprida Ut (and a guest nyckelharpa player) will accompany us. \$10 for guests, \$8 for Club members. 8 to 10:30 p.m.

### **Saturday & Sunday, Mar. 1 & 2.**

#### **Antiques & Great Finds Sale.**

Do you like antiques, secondhand stuff and undiscovered treasures? Delicious Swedish pea soup, meatballs and cookies by our Bite of Sweden cooks. Admission by donation, \$2 suggested. Both days 9 to 4 p.m. We're still accepting vendor applications: [www.swedishclubnw.org/PDFs/Antiques2014.pdf](http://www.swedishclubnw.org/PDFs/Antiques2014.pdf)

### **Tuesday, Mar. 11.**

#### **Serve Lunch at the Millionair Club Charity.**

This is our opportunity to give back to the community by serving lunch at a charity for the homeless and unemployed. Be part of the Club crew that serves the meal or donate funds for the food items to be served. Contact us at 206-283-1090 or [rsvp@swedishculturalcenter.org](mailto:rsvp@swedishculturalcenter.org). Approximate hours 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Our volunteers say this is one of the best experiences they have in connection with the Club. The Millionair Club Charity was started by a Swede, Martin Johansson, and this year, we're serving on the anniversary of the founding. So we're going "birthday party style," with meatballs, cake and ice cream.

### **Every Friday**

**Swedish Kafé & Happy Hour!** *Smörgås* sandwiches, Swedish meatballs, homemade pastries. *Kafé* starts at noon with Chef **Ann-Margret Lightle**. Happy Hour, with different entrees each week by our chefs, starts at 6 p.m. Check [www.swedishclubnw.org](http://www.swedishclubnw.org) for the menu.

**Library & Genealogy.** Please call to make a reservation (206-283-1090) or drop in, Fridays, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**Matinees.** Films with English subtitles. \$5 donation. Film: 2 p.m. Come early for lunch in our *Kafé* (noon to 2 p.m.).

- Jan. 31. Danish film: *Flame and Citron*. 136 min.
- Feb. 7. Finnish film: *Mother of Mine*. 105 min.
- Feb. 14. Danish film: *Mifunes sidste sang (Mifune)*. 102 min.
- Feb. 21. Swedish film: *Snabba cash (Easy Money)*. 124 min.
- Feb. 28. Finnish film: *Kuulustelu (The Interrogation)*. 103 min.

**Vikings to Volvos.** Every Friday, a new film about Viking history, selected by **Larry Johnson**. 5:45 p.m. Visit [www.swedishclubnw.org](http://www.swedishclubnw.org) for the complete schedule.

- Jan. 31. *The Great Ships*. A 1996 History Channel release delving into the design and construction of the Viking long ship.
- Feb. 7. *Viking Wars: The Norse Terror*. Another overview of the Viking Age, focusing on military history. Great computer graphics.
- Feb. 14. Speaker on new advances in DNA testing.
- Feb. 21. *Blood of the Vikings—First Blood*. Traces the legacy of the Vikings in British Isles through genetics (BBC).
- Feb. 28. *Blood of the Vikings—Invasion of 856* (BBC).

**Mad Men.** We're watching Season 6 after dinner, in the Board Room. Starts about 7:30. Free.

### **Helping the Club?**

Please give us your gently used, no-longer-wanted items for our Great Finds Sale on Mar. 1 & 2. If a garage sale is too daunting, but you've got great stuff for deserving buyers, donate it to our sale and the proceeds will go to the Swedish Club.

Later this spring, we'll also be grateful to receive your gently used, no-longer-needed clothes for the Women's Clothing Sale on May 3 & 4.

We always need volunteers for events. It's a great way to meet other members and enjoy the activity at the same time. Nearly every event at the Club, from Friday night dinners to fundraisers, is supported by volunteers who lend a hand.

Right now, we need volunteers to help with our Members & Friends Dinners and all aspects of our fundraising events. For more information, or to volunteer, e-mail [info@swedishculturalcenter.org](mailto:info@swedishculturalcenter.org) or call 206-283-1090.

### **Rentals available**

at Swedish Club, 1920 Dexter Ave N., Seattle. Call 206-283-1078 or visit [www.swedishclubnw.org/Venues/venues.htm](http://www.swedishclubnw.org/Venues/venues.htm). If you've been a member for at least a year, you get a 20 percent discount.