



# Swedish Center News

Issue No. 511

September 2008

## The Seattle Weekly Says!

### **Swedish Cultural Center is the Best Reason for Ballardites to Reconsider Their Scandinavian Allegiances**

Sometimes it seems Norwegians get all the love in our fair city. Ballard is hot, hot, hot, getting trendy new bars and writeups in airline magazines, always with references to the neighborhood's Scandinavian roots. But don't overlook those Swedes. The Swedish Cultural Center has you covered for sauce-drenched meatballs, pancakes, and a twice-monthly happy hour—all with a Lake Union view that rivals the one at Canlis. Even if you never had an ancestor named Lutefisk Gustavsson, you're welcome to join up for the low, low membership requirements: an annual fee of \$45 and a pledged interest in Scandinavian culture.

We hope you saw the article above in the Seattle Weekly on August 13. It's reprinted here with their permission.

The *Seattle Weekly*—Seattle's largest weekly newspaper—reaches nearly one in every two residents of the city. For 30 years, it's covered local politics, arts and community events, including a yearly triumphant "Best of Seattle" issue. The magazine receives entries in all sorts of categories and their staff members also get to submit their nominations. In this case, *Seattle Weekly* reporter Laura Onstot decided to rectify the Swedish Cultural Center's status as an under-appreciated resource in the city and nominated it in the category



*Seattle Weekly* reporter, Laura Onstot, enjoys the view from the top floor of the Swedish Cultural Center. She promises to return for one of our Happy Hours.

of "The Best Reason for Ballardites to Reconsider Their Scandinavian Allegiances." Laura, of German heritage, became aware of the Swedish Cultural Center when As You Like It Catering invited her to cover the *köttbullar* (meatball) contest in April. She came away impressed by the view, the friendly welcome she received and club's commitment to the mission of promoting Swedish culture. "I came because meatballs have a special spot in my heart. But then I discovered that it's a place where the community at large can go without the Center losing its cultural emphasis." Thanks, Laura. Come back soon!

Come to the PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

## Swedish Cultural Center

1920 Dexter Avenue North  
Seattle, WA 98109

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206-283-1078 Rentals  
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### Office Hours

Monday-Friday  
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

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### Swedish Center News

Editor: Kristine Leander

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## Deadline for material for the next issue is September 10.

Bring articles into the office or fax to: 206-283-2970. You may also e-mail articles to: [kristine@swedishculturalcenter.org](mailto:kristine@swedishculturalcenter.org)

## President's Message

So many times I have been asked "What does the Swedish Cultural Center do?" It's easy to answer "we do everything related to Swedish Culture," but that is obvious, and while it is difficult to give a complete answer in a brief conversation, I can expand by saying we are a venue for Seattle's Nordic community to "educate, congregate and celebrate."

**Educate.** At the SCC you can learn to speak Swedish from expert language instructors two evenings per week. You can learn different types of traditional Scandinavian dancing in courses, both by our own instructors and through our collaboration with Skandia Folkdance. You can learn about your Nordic roots with help from our volunteer genealogist or, coming soon, from the Swedish Finn Historical Society, which will occupy space in our building. We host frequent lectures on topics ranging from Nordic art to politics, and our library is a resource containing over 2000 books to help you explore and learn about almost any subject related to Sweden. We also encourage learning at the academic level by funding two scholarships to the University of Washington's Scandinavian Department. Finally, we enable children to learn about their Swedish heritage in classes taught by the Swedish School Association.

**Congregate.** At the Swedish Cultural Center there are many opportunities to gather and experience Nordic culture. We are famous for our monthly Swedish Pancake Breakfast; but you can also come and enjoy monthly Swedish and Finnish films and monthly *kafferep* (Swedish coffee parties). Or come and see musical performances from classical to jazz, from folk to pop...the common denominator being that there is always a Nordic connection. If you want to participate in the music, our Svea Male Chorus and Swedish Womens Chorus are experiencing new growth and welcome new members. We also have an art, sewing and crafts group called *Vännerna* ("Friends" of SCC), a Swedish language book club and endless opportunities for members to form groups to gather for any activity related to Sweden. We even invite members to come and watch sports such as soccer or the Olympic Games when Sweden is a contender. Last but not least, our Friday evening Happy Hour offers members a chance to congregate with friends in our relaxed Crown Room Lounge with Scandinavian decor, food, drinks and music. Soon there will be even more reasons to gather at the Center on Fridays, with a lunch cafe and Happy Hour food.

**Celebrate.** Naturally, we celebrate all the Swedish holidays in Swedish style. *Svenska Flaggans Dag*, (Flag Day/National Day) is June 6, and in recent years has become a big festive event at the Center, with music and dance performances, a traditional Swedish meal, our annual raffle drawing, and the announcement of Seattle's Swede of the Year. In September we collaborate with the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce to host a real Swedish *Kräftskiva* (Crayfish Celebration), with fresh crayfish, a great *smörgåsbord*, a DJ playing "Scandi-pop" favorites, and of course aquavit and *snapps-visor*. *Jultid* (the Christmas holiday season) begins with a Lucia pageant performed by students from the UW Swedish Club and continues with our annual lutefisk dinner and various other Christmas traditions. Then our members and friends ring out the year at our popular Nordic New Years Eve Blowout with dinner, live music and a view of the fireworks. We also celebrate classic Swedish traditions such as *Valborgsmässoafton* and *Midsommar*, and look forward to expanding these celebrations in the future.

So the next time someone asks you what the Swedish Cultural Center does, you can tell them we "educate, congregate and celebrate." This might spark their interest, and give you a chance to elaborate—and feel free to plagiarize this article! This kind of word of mouth promotion is probably our best way of generating new interest and membership. And if you haven't had a reason to come to the Center lately, perhaps you will now, or have an idea we can add to this array of Swedish Cultural activity.

Karl Larsson, *President*  
[klarsson@earthlink.net](mailto:klarsson@earthlink.net)

# Executive Director's notes

If summer took you to far away places and interrupted your visits to the Center, you will be pleasantly surprised when you see the changes we have made. The décor and building committees have been working hard to update your facility. At the same time, other less obvious changes have taken place behind the scenes, such as equipment repair and replacement and general maintenance. Light construction will now start near the Dexter level lobby as part of our preparation for the arrival of our new tenants, the Swedish Finn Historical Society. As we have previously mentioned, SFHS will occupy our former business offices and we look forward to the collaboration opportunities that will soon come about. Cultural Director Kristine Leander has a new office in the Vännerna room on the south side of the lobby. We appreciate Vännerna's loan of the space. My office is on the north wall, next to the Viking room. We are making this building a great place for our member events and for your family celebrations and work events as well. Please remember the Center when you need to rent space, as the members' price is discounted 20% from the public price. We also invite you to stop by and check out our progress and say hello.

I'm sorry to inform you that long time member, Bertha Isackson, passed away recently. Bertha was a member of the Club, the Swedish Women's Chorus and a very active volunteer for many years. When I started working here, Bertha shared her Swedish pancake recipe with me and showed me how to combine the ingredients. Thanks to Bertha's recipe, those pancakes have gained fame city-wide and beyond. Thank you Bertha, we'll miss you. Sunday morning, September 7, will be everyone's next opportunity to enjoy some of her pancakes. I think it will be a busy one since we have had a couple of months off. We hope you can make it. One way to insure that you will get pancakes is to volunteer at the breakfast! That way, they are free, which makes them taste even better. Well, that's it for this month; hope to see you in the Center soon.

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



Add your voice to ours! Come and sing with the Swedish Women's Chorus, which begins rehearsals on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 7 pm. Join this fun group for a comfortable atmosphere of song and camaraderie. Let's make beautiful music together! Geri Damm, Candace Mauer, and Judy Womack are preparing for the fall season.

## Members' Dinner



WEDNESDAY,  
September 10, 2008  
Three Crowns Room

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

Laura Wideburg will present a program about her translation of *Good Night, My Darling*, a psychological thriller by Swedish author Inger Frimansson. Laura's translation won an award for the best translated book of the year by *ForeWord Magazine*.

**Söndagsstek**  
Sunday beef roast with gravy

**Hasselbackspotatis**  
Roasted red potato with fresh parsley

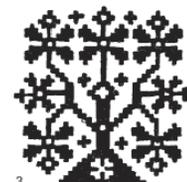
**Gröna bönor med smör**  
Buttered green beans

Dessert: **Chokladkaka**  
Chocolate cake & vanilla ice cream

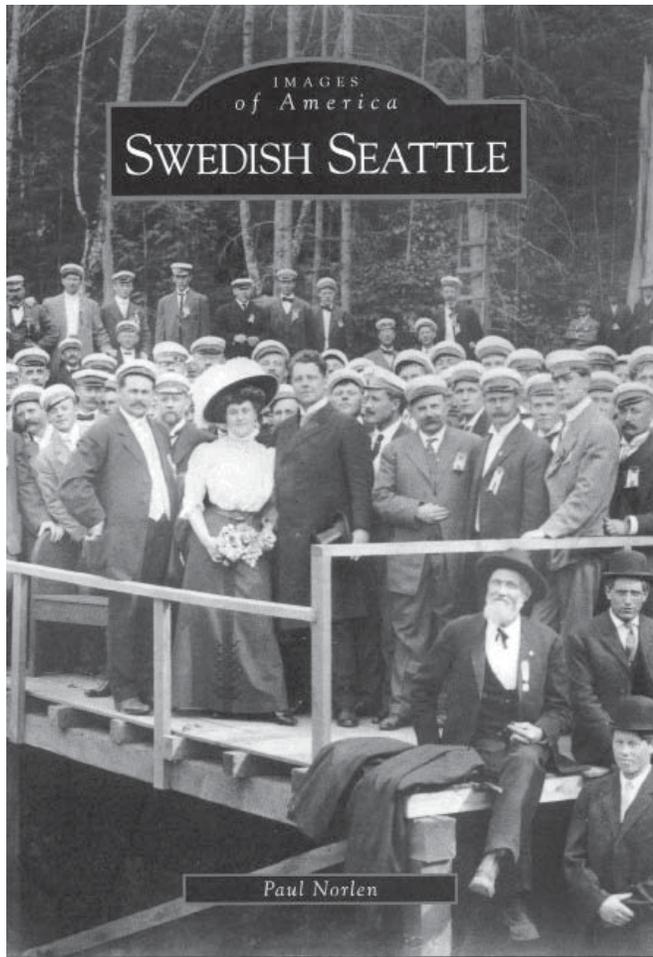


**Come ready to have a fun, relaxed, and friendly evening with your friends and family. Looking forward to seeing you.**

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



# Arcadia Books



*Don't be the last one in Seattle to have a copy. Only \$20 at SCC, or \$24 mailed to your door!*

You've seen "Swedish Seattle," the Arcadia book compiled by Paul Norlen and pictured to your left. Arcadia Publishing is the largest publisher in America of historical non-fiction books and the Swedish Cultural Center now has another association with several local Arcadia books.

Turns out that the long tables at the Center are perfect for laying out the approximately 225 photos during the planning process. In the spring, Cultural Director Kristine Leander compiled "Norwegian Seattle," available in early November, using the long tables at the Swedish Cultural Center. (Members will recall that Kristine's background is Swedish American, but she lived in Norway for several years.)

More recently, club members Celeste Smith and Julie Albright compiled "Private Clubs of Seattle" also using the long tables at the Swedish Cultural Center. Next time you're in a bookstore and see an Arcadia book, you can think about the Swedish Club! "Swedish Seattle" is available at local bookstores or by sending \$24 for the book and postage to Swedish Cultural Center, 1920 Dexter Ave N., Seattle, WA 98109. When you order from the club, we receive part of the proceeds.

## New Board Member

Anna K. Anderson is our newest board member at the Swedish Cultural Center. She has been on the board in the past, and we are delighted that she could re-join us in a special appointment as Vice President of Programs. Anna is a Seattle native who returned after living in Sweden and California to attend the University of Washington in the Scandinavian Department, where she completed her BA and went on to do her graduate studies. Just like three of our other board members (Randy Nelson, Paul Norlen, and Lori Ann Reinhall) Anna has taught Swedish for us. As VP of Programs, she's eager to help develop new programs and activities for our members. You might catch some of Anna's ideas if you attend Happy Hour, and when a future event involves Swedish music, she will likely have a hand in it. In her professional life, Anna is the Consular Assistant to Seattle's Honorary Consul of Sweden, Lars Jonsson. If you visit the Consul's office, you will prob-



ably meet Anna there too. Anna and her husband Sean were married in 2002 and they live in "the last affordable two-bedroom garden apartment on Capitol Hill" with kitties Loki and Ronja. Welcome aboard, Anna!

# Cultural Director's Notes

"Everything old is new again," is a song with lyrics that apply right now to the Swedish Cultural Center: "Don't throw the past away. You might need it some rainy day." Along with all the new things we're doing, such as new furniture in the lounge and the main floor office changes, we're also going back to some things we did in the past. The first is a November holiday bazaar. Those who remember our bazaar have urged us to plan it again and we're working on it for November 1 & 2. We hope you'll come buy Christmas items from our vendors selling mostly-Scandinavian items, or come to volunteer, or come just for the sociability. The Center will have one table with a bake sale and we'll need some of your delicious baked goods for it. The Danish community may collaborate with us on the bazaar. Their sandwiches will be a real draw for Saturday, just as our pancakes will be on Sunday!

Another "something old" is our plan for serving food again at the Center. At the height of the Swedish Club's membership numbers in the 60s and early 70s, the Club ran a busy restaurant and bar, which was a major reason for joining. As society changed, joining the Club for the sake of a special meal became less important to members. Eventually, restaurant-style meals were phased out. There are many reasons for serving food again: the first and third Friday Happy Hours have become busier; many members remember lunchtime at the Club and have asked us to begin serving food; the make-over of the lounge has created a beautiful and elegant place to gather; there is increased interest in Scandinavian food both in Scandinavia and this country; and lastly, the South Lake Union area is growing as a place for businesses and therefore, more workers who need a place for lunch. Our Board of Directors knows that a restaurant is integral to our plans for growth, and we're taking a small step toward it. We plan to open the lounge at noon every Friday for cold plates and a hot soup. Every Friday afternoon will be a coffee *fika* with Swedish conversation, and then Friday after work, we'll start our Happy Hour. We'll need members' support to make this cafe work, so stay tuned for how you can help. (Hint: mostly, we'll need you to come and eat.)

And here's another idea from our past: a reception for new members. I've heard from some long-time members that we used to show new members around and host them to a free drink. We plan to institute a periodic reception for our new members so they can tour the Center and meet other new members. What do you think of all these new old ideas? Are we making progress? If you want more information or you have some new old ideas for the Swedish Cultural Center, contact me at 206-283-1090 or by e-mail.

P.S. We invite all of our members to attend Nordic Heritage Museum's auction on Sunday, Sept. 21, and sit at our club table! If you want to be included, call or e-mail me and I'll give you the details.

Kristine Leander  
Cultural Director  
[kristine@swedishculturalcenter.org](mailto:kristine@swedishculturalcenter.org)



## CROWN ROOM

food service by  
**As You Like It Catering**

*Eric DuBois, Owner*

Visit the Crown  
Room Lounge

## HAPPY HOURS

The first and third Friday  
of each month  
5:00 till 10:30 pm

Come join your friends  
for discount drinks, a light  
meal, and good company.  
In September, drink  
prices go up by \$1.

**Happy Hour dates  
for this month:**

**September 5  
September 19  
October 3**

## SCANDINAVIAN HOUR



Saturday mornings  
9:00-10:00 am

KKNW 1150 AM  
With hosts Doug Warne and Friends

**Music & other  
programming from  
the homeland**

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

## The Swedish Cultural Center announces

The Swedish Cultural  
Center announces 618  
member households.

### New Members

Laurie Arst  
Hart Boyd  
Henrik Brameus  
& Denice Rochelle  
Elizabeth Campbell  
Carolyn Ann Carlson  
Gail Engler  
Dick Erickson  
Boel von Haartman  
Roger Henry  
Jay Jentoft  
Michael & Cami Jones  
David Lund  
Dick & Pat Lundgren  
Donald  
& Elizabeth McKenzie  
William Nelson  
& Judy Hoffman Nelson  
Jan Peterson  
& Mark Hammarlund  
Anne Steinemann  
Anders & Eva Thisner

### Deaths

Harold "Jay" Wallain  
Bertha Isackson



## NEW ADDRESS?

Send your address changes  
or corrections to:  
Swedish Cultural Center  
Attn: Address Change  
1920 Dexter Ave. N.  
Seattle WA 98119

Or you can e-mail to  
[info@swedishculturalcenter.org](mailto:info@swedishculturalcenter.org).  
Let us know if we left out your  
information by mistake.

## Genealogist Update

Nothing is more gratifying to a genealogist than linking family members—particularly when they're all living. Newsletter readers may remember that last month we published a classified ad asking for relatives of a former Swedish Club member, Yngve Englen. Fredrik Larsson in Sweden, a relative of Mr. Englen's father and grandmother, asked for our help. It turns out that the best help came from our Swedish Cultural Center genealogist, Diana Erickson, who found Mark Englen, Mr. Englen's son, in Georgia. Mark is a Ph.D. microbiologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and here's his response.

"I am indeed the Mark you're looking for. My father loved the Swedish Club and the Male Chorus in which he sang for many, many years. I was born at Seattle General Hospital and grew up in Edmonds. I graduated from both the UW and WSU. I haven't been to Seattle since my father's passing but have many fond memories of the city and surroundings. Although Ballard is often claimed by the Norwegians, Swedes know better. My parents had children late in life and I had no information at all on my paternal grandfather. I'm grateful for your help, though your e-mails made me a little homesick for Seattle."

E-mails have flown in both directions, photos are coming out of dusty albums, and memories are recaptured. Thank you, Diana! If you want help with genealogy or family research, it's free to Swedish Cultural Center members. E-mail [info@swedishculturalcenter.org](mailto:info@swedishculturalcenter.org) or call 206-283-1090 to ask for our genealogist's help.



Our genealogist Diana Erickson has reunited family on both sides of the Atlantic. Fredrik Larsson in Sweden asked our help to find the family of a former club member, Yngve Englen. She was successful, and the family have sent us this 1946 photo of Yngve's mother, Stava Englen (4th from left seated on the sofa) who had been the first of her family to emigrate from Dalarna. She died in Seattle in 1957 and was the grandmother of Mark Englen, whose comments are above.

# 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.

**Decrease:** Sweden's center-right government plans to cut income tax by SEK 15 billion (\$ 2.4 billion) in its autumn budget to boost jobs and counteract the global slowdown, according to Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt. The government has already introduced two rounds of income tax cuts since it came to power two years ago.

**Change:** Schools run by private enterprise? Free iPods and laptop computers to attract students? It may sound out of place in Sweden, that paragon of taxpayer-founded cradle-to-grave welfare. When this change was introduced in 1992, 1.7 percent of high-schoolers and 1 percent of elementary school children were privately educated. Now the figures are 17 and 9 percent.

**Saab:** Brazil is ready to purchase 36 fighter aircraft. One of the six planes the government is negotiating for is Saab's JAS 39 Gripen. If they choose the Gripen, it will be the new, more modern version that Norway may also purchase.

**Honor:** To set the mood for the pageantry of the Olympic Games in Beijing, a competition was held to select the official musical overture. From more than 100 entries, the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Sport selected a composition by Swedish composer Robert Wells. The Olympic Overture begins with five tunes to symbolize the Olympic rings.

**Tough:** Swedish golf star Annika Sörenstam's dreams of one last triumph in her home tournament were dashed by the Korean teenager Amy Yang, who claimed her maiden professional victory after winning the Scandinavian TPC in Stockholm. The 37-year-old Sörenstam, who is retiring in December, eagled the par four 17th hole to move into second place.

**Yum:** After a pressing Mediterranean-style heat wave, a monsoon-like rain took over and dumped lots of water. That gave the Swedish mushroom lovers—and there are plenty of them—hope for a large crop when they venture into the woods to pick these delicacies.

**I want my mom:** Only a couple of months old, the Red-neck Wallaby kangaroo, Walter, lost his mother. Luckily, two female animal handlers at Ystad's animal park took charge. They made pouches of fabric to hang on their tummies so Walter can find the comfort and protection that kangaroos need for the first 10 months of their life. According to his new moms, Walter is very healthy and growing each day.

Submitted by  
Gunnar Wallin



**Here's a challenge!**  
**Read this issue of the newsletter carefully!**

**We will ask you a trivia question at the next Members' Meeting, directly from this issue. The first person who knows the answer will get a nice ♥SURPRISE♥**

**Sami Connection?**  
**Who carried the Sami flag at Midsommar?**

**Another Sami wants to be in contact. E-mail info@swedishculturalcenter or call 206-283-1090 and we'll put you in touch.**

**PLAYGROUPS**  
**for Swedish speaking parents and their children**

Contact our Cultural Director, Kristine Leander, to learn about private playgroups in your area.

kristine@swedishculturalcenter.org

# CALENDAR

Fun Stuff for Local Swedes & Their Friends!

These events are at the Swedish Cultural Center and you're invited!

**Tuesday, Sept. 2. 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 am.

**Friday, Sept. 5. Nordic Happy Hour.** It's the traditional name day for Harry or Harriet, so if that's your name, the Swedish Cultural Center will buy you a drink! Always the best view in town. Gerry Diamond on the piano. Food available too. 5 pm till 10:30 pm.

**Friday, Sept. 5. Crayfish Celebration.** Join members of the Swedish Cultural Center and the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce. We'll enjoy the Swedish tradition of a fun party with delicious late summer crayfish and the other usual foods. Members of either group \$45 and guests \$50. 6:30 pm till 12 midnight. RSVP to SACC, PO Box 2229, Bellevue, WA 98004.

**Sunday, Sept. 7. Swedish Pancakes.** Swedish Cultural Center's pancake breakfasts resume. Richard Svensson, Bjarne Jacobsen, Folk Voice Band, and Northwest Pelimannit, plus dancing, make it the best food and entertainment in town. 8 am until 1:30 pm. Don't miss it!

**Wednesday, Sept. 17. Kafferep.** Join us for a real Swedish coffee party at in the lobby of the Swedish Cultural Center. Bring some of your own favorite cookies or just come! Free. 2 pm.

**Friday, Sept. 19. Nordic Happy Hour.** We'll enjoy clarinet music by a professional musician, Leonard Blomfeldt, who grew up in Sweden. Always the best view in town. Food available too. 5 pm till 10:30 pm.

**Wednesday, Sept. 27. Films from Finland series: *Laita kaupungin valot* (Lights in the Dusk).** Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter. This Kaurismäki film is the story of a security guard who falls for a femme fatale. [www.finnsnw.com/FFSC/films.htm](http://www.finnsnw.com/FFSC/films.htm). 7:30 pm. \$5 donation.

**Saturday, Sept. 27. Scandinavian Dance.** The first dance of the fall season starts with a lesson by Pat McMonagle at 7:30 and live music by Skandia Kapell at 8 pm. \$7 for Swedish Cultural Center members, \$9 for the public. Come single or as a couple, experienced or inexperienced. Either way, you'll have fun.

## Swedish Language Classes

Ten-week classes begin September 29 and October 1, and run through the first week of December.

Advanced	Mondays 6-7:30 pm	Mark Säfström
Intermediate	Mondays 7:30-9:00 pm	Randy Nelson
Beginners 1	Wednesdays 6-7:30 pm	Randy Nelson
Beginners 2	Wednesdays 7:30-9:00 pm	Randy Nelson

Class sizes are small: 5 - 8 students. If these times do not work for you, we may be able to offer a class at another time. For placement and other information, contact Randy Nelson at 206-937-0441, [rnelson900@aol.com](mailto:rnelson900@aol.com). The cost for 10 weeks is \$95 (\$85 for SCC members) plus material. Classes meet at the Swedish Cultural Center

**Sunday, Oct. 5. Swedish Pancakes.** Swedish Cultural Center's pancake breakfasts are the ones other clubs imitate. Music and dancing make it the best food and entertainment in town. 8 am until 1:30 pm. Music by the Norseman, Skandia Kapelle, and Mädd Fiddler. This month only, flu shots available.

**Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 1, 2. Scandinavian Holiday Bazaar.** Plan now to start your holiday shopping at the Swedish Cultural Center on November 1 & 2. Vendors will be selling Scandinavian items and items of interest to Scandinavians. We'll have Scandinavian open-face sandwiches for hungry shoppers on Saturday and Swedish pancakes on Sunday. Probably live music on both days too. If you're a vendor who wants to be there, contact [info@swedishculturalcenter.org](mailto:info@swedishculturalcenter.org).

**Make an appointment: Genealogy Research.** Free to Swedish Cultural Center members. Bring your family records or send them by e-mail and our genealogist will find out what she can. Call to schedule your time: 206-283-1090.



Members enjoying our August kafferep included the following: Birgit Trygg, Laurie Arst, Karin Gustafson, Gerry Folkestad, former Honorary Swedish Consul Cliff Benson, Dana and Lynda Benson.