



Gult och Blätt

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Pancake Supper and Business Meeting

When: Sunday, January 29th, 3-5pm
Where: Trinity Lutheran Church
820 Lockett Rd
Kirkwood, MO 63122
Cost: Free

Join us for fellowship, Swedish pancakes, meatballs, and other treats while we elect a slate of officers and handle any other business that comes up. NOTE: Members who had pre-ordered their copy of the Lucia DVD and who elected not to have it shipped to them, can pick theirs up at this meeting.

Roger Sandstedt



We are sad to announce the passing of Roger Sandstedt who died on December 31st at age 95. Many of us recently saw him in October at the SCSL's 40th Anniversary Dinner where he seemed to be in good health and spirits. He was a charter member of the Swedish Council of St Louis along with his wife Gudrun. We have no information about services at this time.

Lucia Photos from last Month:



President's Column

Hej Alla och GOTT NYTT ÅR!

What a year the Swedish Council had! Thank you to everyone who joined us at our events and who helped make this year so amazing.

A resounding applause goes out to Lotta Fox, Honorary Consul of Sweden, who once again organized and narrated our Lucia program. And, many thanks go to David Oscarson for directing the choir and Kevin Ericson for coordinating the music. Also, to be thanked are George Nelson and David Youngberg for setting up the beautiful stage and our Santa, Fred Nelson. We could not do without Alan Cina who purchased the many Swedish items for the Butik and Nellie Hohnsen for her assistance. I personally want to thank Barbara Nelson and Ginger Johnson who have helped me year after year with the Kaffestuga and Gary Johnson and Jack Martin who took charge of the ticket booth. And last, but not least, thank you to ALL the adults, children and Nordic Dancers for their dedication and participation each year in creating such a magical presentation.

January 29th will be our official Business Meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kirkwood. We will be electing our officers for 2017 and having a pancake supper. There will also be activities to entertain the children. Please plan on attending.

As our new year has begun, I'll say "god fortsättning" (translated as "good continuation") meaning I wish that all of the year will continue to be good for you.

Best always,

Doris Martin

KAFFESTUGA 2016

Once again our Swedish bakers created their delicious treats to sell at the Kaffestuga. I am so grateful to all of you. Tusen tack!
Doris Martin

A Craft-Show Dilemma Inspires Wildest Dream

By Jeannine Dahlberg

What does it take to sell a book?
What do you do when people just look?
You talk, they listen, then smile and leave
And meander to another booth while you sit and grieve.

There are certain tactics I could employ,
One I can think of... I would enjoy
Taking a rope with a gigantic hook
Then pull them back to buy a book.

Oh, they may fuss and scream and cry.
Would that make me happy? Oh, no, I sigh.
You see to me my reader is the king
And I could not do such a terrible thing.

For an unknown author to acquire riches and fame
I've come to realize you must first have a famous name.
People will push and shove and form a long line
And pay any price for an autographed copy a famous person will sign.

Wait! What am I thinking? I need not despair.
I'll write to Oprah and I know she will care
When I explain my dilemma in total frustration,
She will take pity on me and spread the word to the nation.

That five good books await their reading.
Then I can sit back and stop my grieving.
With good luck and fortune, my eyes will brightly gleam
For then I will have fulfilled my wildest dream.

Sharon and Larry Nordlof Trip to Scandinavia in 2014

Chapter 4 – Flåm – The Sognefjord – Borgund – Oslo – back to Sweden – Örebro – Hässelby – Stockholm

Day 16 – Departing Lillehammer we embarked on a long drive across Norway to Flåm. Norway has a max. national speed limit of 49 mph! We followed the road along a series of lakes flanked by majestic mountains and waterfalls. To reach our next destination, Flåm, we drove through Laerdal Tunnel. At 15.41 miles long, it is the longest road tunnel in the world. It is divided into four sections with three large open areas with blue lighting to stop and overcome potential claustrophobia! Then on to Flåm and our next accommodations “experience”. The only place under \$250.00 a night was the Brekke Gard Hostel, our first, only and last hostel! There was no office, and the person on staff was about to leave for the night as we arrived. It was a series of cabins, each with a kitchen area, five rooms and one shared bath, which had neither towels nor toilet paper. We slept on cot type beds and were glad to get some sleep.



Day 17 – Flåm is at the end of one of the arms of the Sognefjord, the largest and best known fjord in Norway. The Sognefjord reaches depths to 4,291 feet below sea level and has cliffs rising 3,300 feet above the water. Flåm is where the cruise ships dock after their 127-mile journey on the fjord from the ocean and is the jumping off place for most of the fjord boat trips. Flåm serves as a hub for tourists taking the “Norway in a Nutshell” tour. This tour starts in Bergen, takes the Bergen-Oslo train to Mydal, the picturesque Flåmsbana train

down the mountain to Flåm and then a boat back to Bergen. We had several choices of boat tours on the Sognefjord. The “slow” boat is basically a ferry connecting the small villages along the fjord. We chose the Fjordsafari boat tour on the Naerøfjord arm of the Sognefjord. These high speed boats carry 12 passengers each and make the round trip tour of the fjord in about two hours instead of four hours for the “slow” boat. We were given heavy floatation coveralls, lined caps and goggles for the windy chilly trip. Amazingly beautiful!



After the Fjordsafari, we headed to Oslo. We stopped in Borgund to tour the stave church there. The Borgund Stave Church, dating back to 1180-1250 A.D., is the best preserved and most famous stave church in Norway. It has five-tiered overhanging roofs topped by a tower. The gables feature four carved dragon heads like those found on Viking ships. When we reached Oslo, we stopped in the main train station, which is a combination of a train station and shopping mall. We “feasted” on Whoppers at Burger King! It proved to be difficult to find our hotel, the PS Hotell. The entrance was on a lower level behind the front of another hotel in the same building. It was a wonderful hotel with a very helpful staff. As Erik, quite sick, stayed in the room, Sharon and I visited a wonderful Mathallen Oslo market/food hall across from our hotel for a fresh seafood dinner.

Day 18 – With Erik under the weather, Sharon and I took a tram tour of Oslo. We visited the Kon-Tiki Museum. It houses rafts used by Thor Heyerdahl on the Kon-Tiki expedition to sail from Peru to Polynesia in 1947 as well as the Ra II raft, made of reeds, which Heyerdahl sailed from North Africa to

the Caribbean. Adjacent was the Norwegian Maritime Museum. As we toured it, we stumbled on a model of a Norwegian cruise ship from the 1970's, the Vista Fjord. It was the first cruise ship that we sailed on in 1978! We also visited the Viking Ship Museum which displayed several original Viking ships.



Day 19 – As we left Oslo, we stopped at the Vigeland (Sculpture) Installation in Frogner Park. With 212 works in bronze, granite and wrought iron by Gustav Vigeland, it is the largest single artist sculpture park in the world. Then on to relatives back in Örebro, Sweden. Cousin Victor and his wife Jenny, both doctors, who we had never met, treated us like family. Victor prepared a wonderful BBQ dinner, including meats, corn and desert all made on the grill.

Day 20 – This day we met another wonderful cousin Lena and her family in Hassleby, not far from Stockholm. Lena's partner Felix's mother was visiting from Cuba and prepared us a great Caribbean meal. Lena's children, Alma and Oskar study in an English school. After lunch, we drove back to Arlanda Airport to put Erik on a plane back to D.C. It was great to have him with us for 16 days but we were sorry to see him leave. That night we splurged and stayed at the Radisson Blu Royal Viking in downtown Stockholm.

Next Up – Stockholm – Nynashamn - Gotland – Fårö – Visby – Kalmar – Kosta-Boda – Lessebro – Simrishamn – Lund

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Viking Workshop

At the Nov. workshop we discussed the end of the Viking Era. History says it ended with the Norman invasion of England in 1066 AD. However, there were several known Viking raids after that. There were two things that caused the raids to die out: The countries subject to raids became more organized and were better able to defend against them and the kings in Scandinavia discouraged them because they were worried about strong, wealthy, chieftains taking their kingdoms from them.

Because of poor attendance at the Nov. meeting and potential weather problems, we voted to cancel the Dec. and Jan. workshops. So, the next scheduled Workshop will be on Feb. 28, 2017 (the 4th Tue.). As usual it will be at 1:00 PM in the meeting room of the Commerce Bank in Kirkwood, MO. We did not choose a subject so we need suggestions from you Vikings. Think about what aspects of Viking life you would like to learn more about and email them to me.

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Ove Released on DVD

A Man Called Ove, the Oscar-shortlisted Swedish film based on the NYT bestselling novel by Fredrik Backman, is now available on DVD, Blu-ray, and video on demand.