

Lucia Celebration in Sweden

The festival of Santa Lucia begins before dawn on the 13th of December. The eldest daughter in each household comes to her sleeping parents, dressed in a long white gown tied with a red sash, and wearing a crown of lingonberry leaves in which are seven lighted candles. She carries a tray with coffee, Lucia buns and gingerbread cookies. The procession includes sisters and brothers called attendants and star boys also dressed in white, holding lighted candles, and singing of the light and joy of Christmas.

Lucia was a beautiful girl who lived on the island of Sicily around 300 A.D. during the last great persecution of Christians. Lucia, a Christian convert, distributed her dowry and wealth to the sick and poor. She was martyred for her belief on the day of the winter solstice, December 13th, according to the Julian calendar then in use. Since then Santa Lucia symbolizes light and hope.

There are many theories on how the legend of Lucia came to Sweden. One popular version is

at the height of a terrible famine in Sweden, Saint Lucia was seen at the helm of a ship loaded with grain as it crossed Lake Vänern to bring relief to the starving people.

A traditional Swedish Lucia celebration will take place at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 825 Forest Ave. Jamestown, Sunday Dec. 9th at 2 PM. Free and open to the public. - Gerd Brigotta

Shelby Lyn Adams, this year's Lucia, is a junior at Jamestown High School. She is the daughter of Shelley Adams of Jamestown and granddaughter of Barb and Joe Strychalski. Her father is Gary Adams of Tennessee and South Carolina. Her paternal grandparents are Joanne and Don Adams. She began Scandinavian dancing at a young age of 4. Her interests include soccer, track, skiing, and cheering. She is committed to her academics and plans to pursue a career in dentistry. Shelby is honored to be this year's Lucia.



SCANDINAVIAN FOLK FESTIVAL



The eleventh annual Scandinavian Folk Festival was held on July 20-22, 2012 at the Gerry Rodeo Grounds. It proved to be another major event in our community enjoyed by thousands of people.



This year's feature entertainment was the Rockridge Brothers, a bluegrass band from Stockholm, Sweden. Special lectures were provided as we celebrated the 100th birthday of Raoul Wallenburg and the 200th anniversary of the death of Swedish author August Strindberg.



Planning has begun for the next Festival to be held July 19-21, 2013. If you would like to be part of the planning or be a volunteer please call Don Sandy, Festival Coordinator at 716-665-0883.



Photos by Jane Young



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ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC EVERY SUNDAY IN DECEMBER**

Sweden's New Royal Heir, Princess Estelle



Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden married Daniel Westling on June 19, 2010. She is next in line for the Swedish Monarchy. Crown Princess Victoria will become Sweden's 70th monarch and the third female monarch in the history of the Kingdom of Sweden.

The royal couple's daughter, Princess Estelle Silvia Ewa Mary, born February 24, 2012, is now in line for the throne after her mother. Since 1980, Sweden has had fully cognatic succession, which means that the first-born child of the monarch is heir to the throne, regardless of gender.

Award of Merit

The Scandinavian Studies Program recently awarded Gwen Axelson and Ragna Hjemdahl-Monsen with the Award of Merit for their contributions to promoting the Scandinavian heritage. Ms. Axelson was honored for her hard work with the Scandinavian Folk Festival since its inception in 2002. She has chaired many of the task forces including vendors, fund raising, gift shop, raffles, and many other areas including being secretary. Mrs. Hjemdahl-Monsen was honored for her 14 years of teaching hardanger embroidery at Culture Day sponsored by the Scandinavian Studies Program. She enabled this Norwegian craft to be passed on down the generations. There are now a number of additional people in the community who can do this unique embroidery all thanks to her. Congratulations to Gwen and Ragna.



Our Scandinavian Heritage



The Norden Women's Club, in collaboration with Barbara Ann Hillman Jones, is excited to announce the publication of Our Scandinavian Heritage. It is a collection of stories and memories written by members of our community. There are over 150 stories shared in the book. There are many wonderful stories.

The book has been completed and will be available before Christmas. There will be the opportunity to purchase the book at the Culture Day Julmarknad (Christmas Market) at JCC on December 1, from 9 a.m. - 12 noon. What a perfect gift to give at this holiday time. The book can also be purchased from Norden Women's Club members, Yvonne McNallie at (716)-644-2977 or Sandra Sandy at (716) 484-0415.

Did You Know?

Swedish Pancakes are served every Friday and Saturday at T. K. Ribbings, 153 West Main Street, Falconer, NY from 7:30 AM to 11 AM.

Scandinavian Resources during November and December is part of the Indoor Farmer's Market held at the Renaissance Center located on the corner of W. Third and Washington Streets. The Market is held on Thursday each week from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A number of Swedish imported gifts, books, and linens are available.

THULE CALENDAR

(all events at Thule Lodge on Pancake Hill Road)

Dec 15th - Lodge Meeting 2 p.m. - Installation of Officers followed by Doppi Gryta and Tom & Jerry Party

SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES CALENDAR

Dec 1st - Culture Day and Julmarknad 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Jan 5th - Culture Day at JCC

Feb 2nd - Culture Day at JCC

March 2nd - Culture Day at JCC

ASHF CALENDAR

Dec 9th - Lucia Fest at Holy Trinity - 2 p.m.

NORDEN WOMEN'S CLUB CALENDAR

Dec 14th - Christmas Luncheon at

Moonbrook Country Club - Noon