



February 2022

SWEDISH COTTAGE NEWS



Monthly Meetings

Members Meeting
4:30 PM Sunday, 3rd
April, 2022

Craft Group
(Pysselgruppen)
Tuesday, 22nd March
Saturday, 9th April
Tuesday, 26th April

Events

Easter Brunch 16th
April 2022

Hosting Opportunities

Saturdays: Open Only
Sundays: Serving
Coffee and Pastries
Noon-4 PM or 1-5 PM

Contact House of
Sweden:

HouseofSwedenSD@gmail.com
<https://www.houseofsweden.us>

A Note from our President

Dear Members,
The International cottages were opened again, February 18, after having been closed during the Covid restricted period.
We are now serving each Saturday and Sunday.
The Membership meetings are the first Sunday of the month and the Craft Group meets the second Saturday and the fourth Tuesday, when we also receive school children visiting the cottages.



March 6, the HPR Queens represented their Houses by helping out with the Sunday serving. Joanna Donat looked pretty in her Swedish Costume.

Later that day, we saw many happy faces at the Member Meeting enjoying a variety of delicious potluck dishes.

Last Saturday, March 12, we had a combined Church Service and Memorial for our long time member Märta Nilsson, who passed away on February 8. Please read Katarina Cape's article below.

Our next Member Meeting is on April 3 at 4.30 PM. It will be a potluck. The Easter lunch is on April 16. Please put that date on your Calendar. A separate invitation will be sent out together with the sign-up list on dishes for the Buffet table.

House of Ukraine, our next door neighbor, has been open daily since the outbreak of the Russian Invasion into Ukraine. Clothing and monetary donations have been received to provide humanitarian relief for Ukrainian refugees. House of Sweden has donated \$500.

Let's keep praying for Ukraine, it's for People and for Peace.

With my best regards, Anne-Marie Kocherga

Björn Natthiko Lindeblad

Jag Kan Ha Fel/ I Could Be Wrong
(to be published in English in a few months)

A young man grows up in Sweden, in Gothenburg, part of a happy family, with a mother, father, and several brothers. He finishes high school, and wonders where he should go. His father went to the School of Economics, so that might be a good path. Björn takes the test, and he is admitted. He finishes his studies, is hired by a big company and gets sent to their offices in Spain.

All would be good. A handsome smart young man in an excellent position, but...but eventually he admits to himself, I am not happy, this is not for me!

Björn starts a journey of discovery, partly in Thailand. Not feeling happy and after a sad love story, he decides to take a course in meditation, maybe with the thought of "finding" himself.

The step from trying to learn meditation and to becoming a buddhist monk of the woods, was not easy, but maybe inevitable!

His satisfying life as a monk lasted for seventeen years. Eventually he decides to leave this life, he returns to Sweden, and feels utterly lost, sad and depressed. To go from a life of total involvement, community and discipline to an existence without purpose or goals, as of yet, not easy!

Björn, a man of openness and wisdom, will be asked to share what he has experienced and learned during his life as a monk. He starts giving lectures and sharing his thoughts with large audiences. We are so fortunate to get to know Björn because of his public engagement.

However, life is never predictable, Björn seems to have a path to a new life, giving of his wisdom, of himself and of his life, he even meets Elisabeth, they fall in love and get married.

But, he gets a diagnosis of ALS, a neurological disease, fatal and as of yet, without a remedy.

Björn struggles on and continues his lectures, and he writes his book, with the help of his close associate. Björn's life ended on January 19 this year. He was surrounded by his beloved Elisabeth and family and friends.

We are so lucky to have this book, and to be able to learn of Björn's wisdom and experiences. Björn was a remarkable man, "I could be wrong". I hope that you will have a chance to read this book. I will announce it to our members when I find it on Amazon. If you read Swedish, the book is available in its original language on Amazon.



Some Swedish Jokes

Where do desserts go on holiday? Scone-dinavia.

Why did the vampire like eating Scandinavians? He had a Swede tooth. Why

Why do Swedes always drink their milk in the store? Because on the box it says "oppnas här".

What did Elin Nordegren wish Tiger Woods before she hit him with a golf club? Swede dreams.

*My dear friend Märta Nilsson is no longer with us.
She passed away Tuesday February the 8th sitting in her favorite chair.
Her daughter Maria found her there when she came to take her out for a mother-daughter day.
Märta was the nicest person you can dream of. She was so sweet and she
cared about all of us, she always had a smile for everybody AND she made
the best "kroppkakor"! Of course she was born on Öland! (so was I!!!)*

*She loved to sing and to play the guitar... Many, many times when we sat around
a table, she took up a song and we all sang all these old songs from Sweden, even
her daughters Anna and Maria knew the words much better than I. We had so much fun!!
We always had so much to talk about and I will miss her dearly..*

She will also be sorely missed by her many friends both here in California and in Sweden.

VILÄ I FRID---REST IN PEACE.

Love---Gunnel (Schoenherr)

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[Church service in the House of Sweden](#)

On Saturday March 12 we had a beautiful church service in the House of Sweden, remembering our long time friend and member Märta Nilsson who passed away on February 8. Family and friends gathered to honor her; the cottage was full to the last seat. We were so happy that pastor Hans Hernberg had time to come down to hold a last service with us, before he returns to Sweden in June, after four years at the Swedish Seaman Church in Los Angeles. He and his wife Viveka have done a fantastic job during these last COVID years, helping people all over California in so many different ways. They will both be dearly missed.

As always, pastor Hans was joined by cantor Michael Sandgren and his wife Lola, who sang beautiful hymns for us.

It was a wonderful spring day, sunny and warm and after the service we all enjoyed coffee and homemade goodies on the patio.







Helping Ukraine

In regards to the Russian invasion of Ukraine there was a Candlelight Vigil on the patio between House of Ukraine and House of USA in Balboa Park, on February 25th at 7 p.m. It was crowded!

Many people had fought the Friday traffic and were standing in silence, close to one another, holding candles, posters and Ukrainian flags to show their support.

It was wonderful to be part of this heartfelt gathering.

Since then, the House of Ukraine has been open daily to receive donations in terms of money, clothing, diapers etc. and the House of Sweden has, as Anne-Marie mentioned, donated \$ 500 to show our support.





