

# VIKING VISTA

October 2015

San Diego, California

## Words from Anna

What an event-filled year we have had in 2015!

Ushering in the Centennial celebration for Balboa Park with December Nights 2014, House of Sweden has enjoyed our annual Äggsexa, a special two-day Ethnic Food Fair, a full week of cultural presentations to kick off our June lawn program, Nordic Night plus activities shared with our sister Swedish organizations here in San Diego. Now we are starting to plan for our upcoming International Christmas Festival and Jul luncheon. This year certainly has provided many occasions for members to get together and show off the Swedish spirit.



It has been a pleasure serving you for the past five years. It has been an illuminating period for me and special thanks goes out to all the House of Sweden members for your help and shoulders to lean – and cry – on. It is that wonderful strength, support and dedication that make you all so very special to me and has provided innumerable memories that I will treasure my whole life.

I am eager to see what 2016 will bring. If any one of you has ideas for events for the House of Sweden members, it would be wonderful if you would share them with the board. Think of House of Sweden as your second home. If special activities will draw more people, I am certain that having these available to all our members would be a wonderful way to get larger turnouts.



So, as the days grow shorter – and hopefully cooler – I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during the remainder of 2015.

I will certainly still be around next year to see what the exciting new chapter for House of Sweden will bring!

## House of Sweden's First Film Festival

By Suzy Hagstrom, editor

Full of enthusiasm on joining the House of Sweden in San Diego, California, five years ago, I had what I thought was a brilliant idea to put the nonprofit educational organization on the map.

Let's have an Ingmar Bergman film festival, I suggested. Let's show his films nonstop -- 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Let's sell vodka 24-7, too. Such a fundraiser would not only finance numerous scholarships and cultural events, I reasoned, but would also make the House of Sweden famous around the world.

It might be a little ambitious to show movies for an entire week the first time, I acknowledged excitedly, but that should be the long-term goal. We could limit the inaugural event to a weekend, starting Friday afternoon and ending in the wee hours of Monday morning. I volunteered to apply for corporate and government grants to help launch my brainstorm.

## House of Sweden's First Film Festival continued

Alas! My brilliant idea was not to see the light of day. The House of Sweden, which is part of a “mini United Nations” in San Diego’s beautiful Balboa Park, does not have a liquor license. Only once a year are the city’s international cottages allowed to sell alcohol, and that occurs during the park’s “December Nights” open house which kicks off San Diego’s Christmas season.

Given I am a neophyte to Bergman, I fell into mildly disgruntled disappointment rather than utter despair. Without complaining I continued to fulfill my duties as the House of Sweden’s recording secretary.

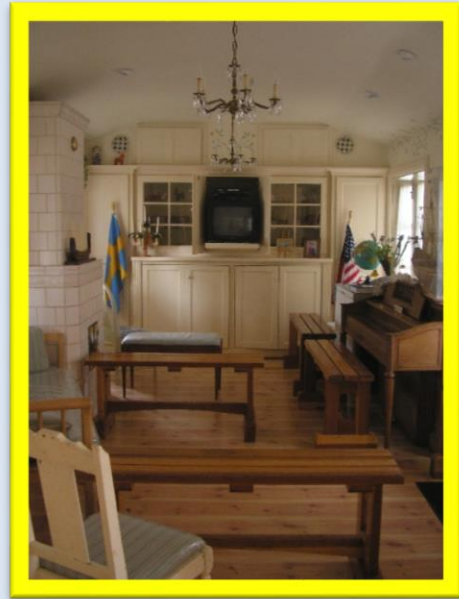
A glimmer of hope emerged early this year when the city of San Diego required the international cottages to expand their hours to help commemorate Balboa Park’s centennial. The House of Sweden was obligated to be open an entire week before its annual Midsummer celebration on June 21. While the house’s officers proposed various cultural activities for each day of the week -- such as reading Pippi Longstocking stories to children -- I saw a chance to revive my idea, which had been so quickly and cruelly extinguished five years ago.

Although the “mini” Ingmar Bergman film festival was only a shadow of my original grand plan for a movie marathon accompanied by a 24-hour vodka bar, I welcomed the low key, “under the radar” start.

I also welcomed the likelihood that no one would attend a film festival set for Monday June 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. That way no one would discover that I am woefully ignorant. I wouldn’t have to admit publicly that I didn’t understand the few Bergman films I had viewed while earning my two bachelor’s degrees at the University of California Berkeley.

Despite my expectation of an empty house with empty chairs, I publicized what I deemed an historic event: the House of Sweden’s very first “mini” Ingmar Bergman film festival. I prepared by asking cultural experts and House of Sweden members which Bergman films were their favorites and which movies would be less intimidating for beginners.

By seeking such advice, I was admitting that I am a Bergman lightweight. However, one has to start somewhere; after all, infants crawl before they stand upright and walk. I thought of this project, my first “mini” film festival, as “Baby Bergman.” I realized I was taking a “negative” -- my own feelings of intellectual inadequacy about the Bergman genre -- and making a “positive” -- creating a learning opportunity for myself. How un-Bergman-like, I thought. I should have been ashamed that I wasn’t becoming depressed.



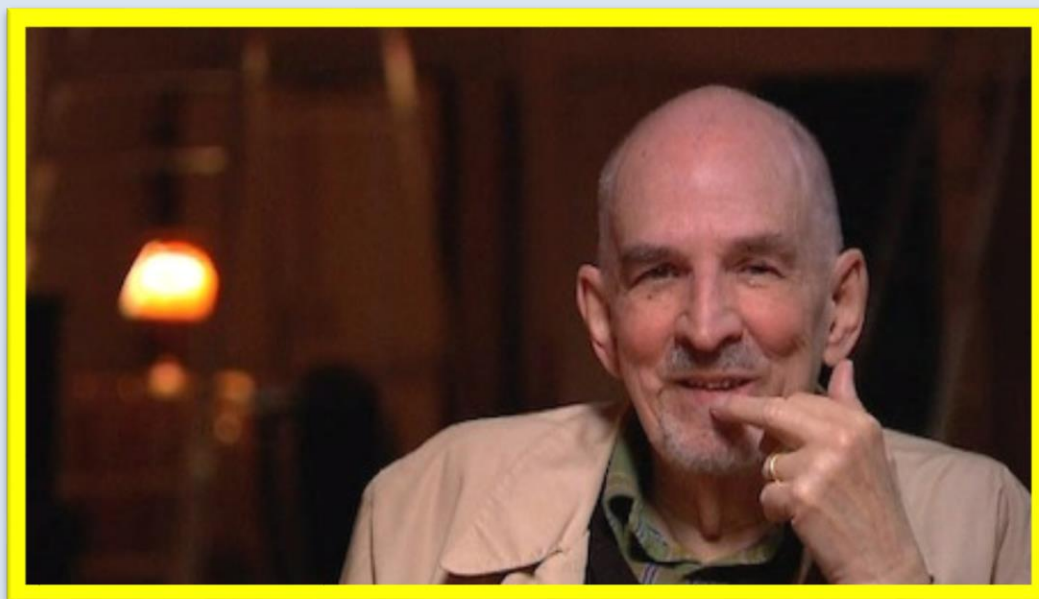
## House of Sweden's First Film Festival continued

Based on the results of my informal survey, I decided to show a lighter side of Bergman – “Smiles of a Summer Night” -- with a decidedly deeper and heavier work – “Autumn Sonata.” Such a sampling would placate two audiences, serious film connoisseurs and Bergman novices.

To accommodate special requests -- in the remote chance that someone knowledgeable would show up -- I checked out other films, including a collection of documentaries, from San Diego's Public Library.

To my pleasant surprise, on Monday June 15, people did show up. Granted, there were a homeless man sleeping on the House of Sweden's veranda when I arrived and dozens of tourists wandering aimlessly through the park's campus of international cottages -- all oblivious to the special event. But to my astonishment, several individuals came in response to my publicity about the House of Sweden's first “mini” Ingmar Bergman film festival.

The first customer, Eva Lantz, a Swede who lives in San Diego, arrived about 11:30 a.m. However, she and I became so engaged in discussing our respective connections to



Sweden with other visitors, it was nearly impossible to start a film.

About an hour later when Donna Swing, a La Mesa resident, arrived with her two out-of-town guests, we agreed on a short documentary: a 2002 interview with Bergman when he was 84 years old.

We enjoyed watching Bergman take charge by directing the cameraman and interviewing the interviewer. Bergman's comments, made in Swedish with English subtitles -- “Aren't you going to have a camera on him? . . . I would prefer to question you.” -- made us laugh.

## House of Sweden's First Film Festival continued

The artist Bergman is highly acclaimed for exposing on film his personal demons, which include a preoccupation with death, sexual relations and the quest for and loss of religious faith – what colleague Woody Allen calls “the battlefield of the soul.”

The conversationalist Bergman is light and bright, charismatic and funny, surprisingly accessible even while discussing the reality, darkness and foibles of the human condition. Later in the afternoon, after more visitors arrived to the House of Sweden, I showed another interview with Bergman, conducted in English in 1970, when he was 52 years old at the pinnacle of his career.

Like other visitors at the film festival, Joan McNamara said she learned something new. Although she has seen some of his films, she said, she knows little about Bergman. McNamara, who happens to be taking a world religion class at San Diego Community College, said she was especially interested to hear Bergman talk about how his concept of God changed.

Personally, it was refreshing to hear Bergman equate making movies with doing any other job, such as making furniture.

I can relate to his approach to work because it's similar to what I experience with almost anything I do, including writing. “It's always the first time (with each film). I'm always trying, and I'm trying again. . . . I always have the same difficulties. . . . I couldn't express what I wanted to express.”

With that, please remain posted for details about the House of Sweden's second “mini” Ingmar Bergman film festival in 2016.

## Ingrid Englund's History of Pyssselgruppen

Over the years there have been many separate activities at the cottage i.e. Nordic Nights, Swedish language instructions, SWEA, VASA & SACC events. But the one that meets continuously is our Pyssselgruppen. Our first gathering of 20+ Swedish women was in November 2006. It started with a request to my lady friends to bake two batches of their favorite cookies, bring them to the cottage and put them into 100 gift bags. Everyone took great joy & excitement in the task. The large storage box on the patio was full of cookie bags. The cookie gifts were eventually given to each member attending the annual Christmas lunch. Does anyone remember receiving our “thank you for volunteering gift” at our Christmas luncheon 2006? We decorated paper cones for everyone one year, then papier-mâché hearts and smållkarameller.

Once we obtained our sales permit, we really started making and selling more crafts and can now report that after nine years we have donated over \$10,000 to the House of Sweden. This feeling of doing something fun together and sharing our crafts with fellow members and visitors inspired us to continue.



## Ingrid Englund's History of Pyssselgruppen

Ethelyn Tucker showed us how to make trolldag (salt dough). We made little figurines, Dala horses and hearts that were then hand-painted. I still hang my little Swedish couple in my Christmas tree every year. Ethelyn along with Anne-Marie Kocherga encouraged us to make greeting cards that we drew, painted, glued etc. Ingegerd Hansen donated the postage stamps we attached on each envelope. We could not keep up producing cards fast enough, so the most talented of us, namely Ethelyn and Anne-Marie, designed six separate greeting cards. We keep having these cards reprinted.

Anne-Marie taught us the art of papier-mâché, something she has done throughout her life. This unique skill is a method of building up layer upon layer of torn pieces of newspaper held together with homemade glue. You can make anything like this, large or small, flat or round. This is an art of recycling made around the world. At our last Egg Sexa Anne-Marie made her Easter hat using this crafting method.

Rose-Marie Mickelson joined our group a few years later. At the Antique Gas Steam Engine museum in Vista she weaves the most gorgeous carpets and table runners.

Rose-Marie has created the most unusual fantastic Tomtar and Troll (Santa's and gnomes) that we proudly sell during our annual Christmas market days. We all knit, crochet & sew



hats in a variety of colors and shapes. Anne-Marie provides the final touch by painting the tomtar and trolls with completely unique faces. Vera Bender knits wonderful scarves.

Pat Coffey, our beloved treasurer, is also an art major. Using modeling clay Pat designs and makes little people, Dala horses, hearts, birds, mushrooms, noses, etc. Additionally we all help with decorating tabletop-size Christmas trees and Maypoles that seem to be very popular.

Karin Coote crochets and is our superb designer of grytlappar (pot-holders). She uses 100% cotton yarns in any color, crochets them expertly making them the best hostess gifts ever. It takes her an evening to complete one! Birte Owenmark, Anne-Marie and I have also crocheted, but the queen is still Karin! Her husband Jim is our woodworker and creates items in wood with great skill, talent and perfection. His table trivets, candle holders, hearts, toast/olive tongs, cutting boards in the shapes of a mouse & pig sold in

## Ingrid Englund's History of Pyssselgruppen

minutes. I own one of each and use them almost daily. Anne-Marie designed and Jim made our new booth stands to be used both during our Midsummer and December celebrations – all in blue and yellow! You saw the beautiful display last Christmas.

In Sweden on June 21<sup>st</sup> we celebrate the longest day of the year by wearing flower wreaths in our hair, eating special foods and dancing around a midsommarstång (Maypole), singing songs and playing games. The House of Sweden celebrates midsummer in similar fashion providing the public an opportunity to view and participate in the event. This is one of our civic responsibilities as a member of the House of Pacific Relations in Balboa Park. At the cottage we make flower-hairbands using silk flowers in pink and purple; blue and yellow; red, white and blue. We also make table-size Maypoles and sell them and the head wreaths at the midsummer festival.

I have had the privilege and pleasure of hosting a luncheon at Vikingagården every year for our very kind, talented, creative, ambitious, hardworking, lovely, generous, gracious crafting friends. Anne-Marie, Anita, Berith, Birte, Britt-Carin, Carole, Eivor, Ethelyn, Eva, Gunnel, Ingegerd, Ingrid, Inger, Karin, Katarina, Kerstin, Lena, Lenna, Lillian, Lisbeth, Marie, Margareta, Marianne, Nancy, Pat, Rose-Marie, Sandy, Ulla, Vera and Vivianne are among many members who over the years have given so much of their time to the benefit of the cottage. Sara and Silja have recently joined our group. We all look forward to our Tuesdays at the cottage and keep working along as we still have fun and our crafts are appreciated.

When doing the right thing is a profitable thing, it's hard to argue against it. I encourage every member to get more involved in the activities at the cottage, come to the events and invite friends to join us as well and you'll be well rewarded.

## Bob Swanson's Contribution: Robotower

An aircraft approaches the Swedish town of Örnsköldsvik for landing at the local airport. The pilot requests a landing clearance by radio and proceeds to land following the clearance. On leaving the runway he calls the tower for a taxi clearance to the ramp and follows the ground controller's instructions to a parking place at the terminal building. In past years he would often stop by the tower for a cup of coffee. That option no longer exists because the controller is at Sundsvall airport, 77 miles to the southwest.

Development of a remotely operated control tower is a joint project of LFV, the Swedish civil aviation administration and Saab, the Swedish defense contractor. The project has been under development for over a decade with testing and operational use at Örnsköldsvik during the last three years. Örnsköldsvik airport is equipped with an array of high-definition pan-tilt-zoom video cameras whose default setting gives a 360-degree view of the airspace surrounding the airport. They are supplemented by infrared cameras, meteorological sensors, light guns, and microphones. The Sundsvall control room replicates the Örnsköldsvik view on display screens surrounding the remote tower/ground controller, who also has full radio communication with aircraft in the vicinity of Örnsköldsvik airport.

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It should be noted that Örnköldsvik handles an average of 14 takeoffs and landings per day. An American airport with this level of activity would not have a control tower. FAA assigns a common-use radio frequency to the airport; pilots in the airport vicinity handle traffic control by communicating with one another on this frequency. European air traffic is subject to a higher level of control than the USA, so developers of the technology hope it will revolutionize the air-traffic control business and allow airports to shrink costs by centralizing control services once geographical constraints are removed.

Saab is promoting remotely controlled airports elsewhere in the world. The Norwegian helicopter airport on the island of Værøy is working with Saab to develop a similar system. Værøy has about one fourth the traffic of Örnköldsvik.

Saab is testing a remote control tower at Leesburg Executive Airport in Virginia. Leesburg is one of the three busiest general aviation airports in Virginia, averaging about 275 takeoffs and landings daily without a control tower. It is also the closest airport to Washington D.C. where one can land or take off without going through the complex security procedures associated with the Washington D.C. airspace. The remote system will be based at the airport and will be operated by FAA controllers who have no windows to look out of. A Mobile Air Traffic Control Tower with human observer will be used during the test period to ease safety concerns. Saab claims that the technology can improve safety and lower costs. According to Saab CEO Håkan Buskhe, "Remote Tower makes it possible to have a network of airports operated from one location, and we can see a great deal of interest from many parts of the world."

