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2013 Event Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Contact
11/2/2013, 5 p.m.	Fall Banquet	Spindletop Hall	Jenny Berens
12/8/2013, 3-5 p.m	Lucia Rehearsal	Gethsemane Lutheran Church	Jenny Berens
12/14/2013, 7 p.m	Lucia	Gethsemane Lutheran Church	Jenny Berens

Spring 2013

I hope everyone had a pleasant summer! SHSKY elected a new slate of officers at the business meeting in April. Jenny Berens, Kristie Eubank, and Asmund Vego graciously agreed to serve another term as president, vice president and treasurer. The secretarial position remains unfilled at the moment. Anyone wishing to participate in quarterly Board meetings is welcome to attend. Currently, Bill Hedberg, Marion Soule and Anne Keating join the officers to plan activities. While the April meeting is designated for conducting a short business session, we might want to consider celebrating Denmark on that occasion as we do not have a meeting dedicated to that country. April 16 is the birthday of Queen Margrethe II. Perhaps anyone so desiring might bring open-faced sandwiches in the style of Denmark. The board is open to suggestions.

On May 18, we celebrated Syttende mai at the Baptist Church picnic area, and as usual had **warm fellowship and wonderful desserts following supper. We met at Anne Keating's house** for Midsommar on June 22d. We ate on the back porch where we could feel a few cool breezes, and enjoyed traditional dishes as we visited. Did you know that one can buy Midsommar porcelain? Spal Porcelanas sells a Midsommar Coupe Soup for \$11.99 that has Midsommar flowers on it! (Some of us have an affection, even an addiction, for porcelain!)



Lucia 2013

By Anne Keating

This year, we will celebrate the Luciafest on Saturday, December 14 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church at 7 pm.

As usual, the rehearsal will be on the Sunday afternoon one week earlier, on December 8 from 3 to 5 pm, and we ask everyone who would like to participate to attend this rehearsal and a final practice on December 14 at 5 pm. We always have a good time and may have several new tomtes this year!

The Customs of Coffee

By Anne Keating

Coffee holds a special place in Nordic gatherings. When I visited my Swedish relatives, we had coffee several times a day, but it was a separate event from meals. Whether in the morning, afternoon or evening, we would sit outside at a small table (the origin of the coffee table?), covered with a pretty table cloth and enjoy coffee in tiny espresso-size cups. Sugar and cream were available, but most adults drank it black. Often my relatives and other hosts would offer something to go with the coffee, like cookies or sweet buns. In the winter, we convened in the den, followed by the same ritual. It is conducive to conversation and sociability, and a lovely way to make acquaintance when visiting several households, and a good way to catch up on the news.

According to the author Lilly Lorenzen, [Of Swedish Ways](#), in 1657, the ambassador to Karl X Gustav travelled to Turkey where, he later reported, he was offered a dark bitter drink that he tried with apprehension, and finally learned to drink without burning himself. According to another version, by Franklin D. Scott, author of [Sweden: The Nation's History](#), Swedish soldiers who travelled to Turkey with Karl XII in 1709, discovered the brew and brought it home.

Ms. Lorenzen indicates that initially, coffee was not very popular and people regarded it as medicinal. Reportedly, Carl von Linne, the well known botanist, who was also a doctor, found coffee to be very helpful. Once, he returned home after treating sailors aboard ship, which visit had proved to be particularly unpleasant. As a result, feeling unwell himself, he ordered three cups of coffee which he said restored him immediately!

By 1728, Ms. Lorenzen states, there were many coffee houses in Stockholm, and they became favorite gathering spots for travelers, merchants, artists and poets. Gradually, coffee became popular at home and even was celebrated by poets.

Early on, the government banned coffee and strong drinks more than once, which did nothing to dissuade people's interest in the beverage. The bans ceased around 1822, Ms. Lorenzen adds, and coffee has been an integral part of entertaining ever since.



For special occasions, a hostess may present seven kinds of cookies served after presentation of coffee cake, and one is invited to sample one of each kind. On a birthday or name day, a cake is served last which may be glazed with marzipan and marzipan fruit. Karin Kristiansson has treated our book club several times to this splendid assortment. Tack so mycket, Karin!



Fn 1 [Of Swedish Ways](#), by Lilly Lorensen, Dillon Press (1964) pp 125-130.

Fn 2 [Sweden: The Nation's History](#) by Franklin D. Scott, University of Minnesota (1977), p. 349.