



THE  
SCANDINAVIAN  
CLUB of TOLEDO



OLAV GJESDAL, founder

JANUARY, 2011

ERIC SLAWSON, editor

# Swedish Paradise

*Our next meeting of Scandinavian Club of Toledo will be:  
Friday, January 21, 2011  
Gather at 6:00 p.m. Eat at 6:30 p.m.  
at the Clubhouse at Village at River Place*

**Reservations** :: Please mail your reservation to our treasurer, Kris Johnson. Reservation forms are on the back page, and are due by Wednesday, Jan. 19th. You may also call or email her.

**Program** :: **Swedish Paradise**. Club member Chris Weisfelder will present a program on why her little slice of Sweden, and her summer home there, is such a wonderful place.

**Menu** :: We will be having a simple dinner that includes a traditional Yellow Pea Soup with crepes (swedish pancakes), prepared by our board members. \$8 per person.

**Location** :: If you remember, we were at the Village at River Place's community Clubhouse in October for the Stave Church video. It is located on Turnbury Lane, in Perrysburg, even though the official address is 12095 Eckel Junction Rd.

**Directions:** In Perrysburg, exit Interstate 475 at Dixie Hwy (Rt. 25) and head North to the first intersection, turning Right at the gas stations onto Eckel Junction Rd. Go about half a mile and turn Right onto Turnbury Lane. The clubhouse is immediately on the right with its own small parking lot.



*Many thanks to Gina, who was wonderful as our Lucia last month at The Inverness Club.*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Kara Vänner!* Dear Friends!

It's January in Ohio, and it's snowing outside. I think of how fortunate we are to live in the Midwest in this era, a time of electricity, sturdy homes, and dependable cars with heaters. I am reading a book that our club secretary, Nathalie Givens, lent me, called *The Children's Blizzard*, by David Laskin, a relatively new book, copyrighted in 2004. The author has researched the early settlers of the Dakota-Nebraska prairie, groups that came from the Ukraine, Swiss-Germany, and all over Norway. The prairie land was free, if you stayed for five years, but the weather was abysmal. This well-written book details the lives of several families that settled on the prairie, in the area where Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, and the Dakota Territory come together, and describes the impact of prairie winters on those families. The book is called *The Children's Blizzard*, because of the snows that came on January 13, 1888, to that region, and how cunningly a break in the cold wooed the residents outdoors to care for their farm animals, and allowed them to send their children to school that day, only to cut them down in a terrible snow-storm. It is fascinating reading!

Speaking of winter, I want to thank all who contributed to make our Christmas party at the Inverness Club in December a lovely event! From Ruth Alteneder and Lois Staber's artful arrangement of the table decorations, to the many generous raffle gifts, from the gentle harp that played in the background, to the aromatic *glögg*, from our young Lucia, to the lusty rendition of *Nu Är Det Jul Igen!*— we had a wonderful time! Thanks go to Geoff and Marna Slawson, who brought Limpa (bread) fresh from the Swedish bakery near their home in Illinois, and to Eric Slawson, who not only helped me shop for cheeses and hard-tack for our meal, but also created souvenir programs for the tables. Thanks go to Board member Jan Wahl and Bettye Jo Hansbarger, who helped clean up and repaint the bright red wooden birds that graced our dinner tables. Many thanks also go to Jon Slawson, who made the *glögg*, and brought it for the party, at no charge to the club. If you didn't make it to JulFest in 2010, I hope you'll put it on your calendar for 2011 — not to be missed! The living room at the Inverness Club was a delightful venue for visiting with our friends.

Our meeting this month will be a simple, winter supper of Swedish yellow-pea soup, *ärtsoppa*, followed by Chris Weisfelder's discussion of her summer home in Sweden. I hope you'll join us!

*Med Varmliga Hälsningar,*  
Eva.

*TOP RIGHT: The yellow lion on the blue and white background is the shield of the City of Göteborg, Sweden.*