



THE  
**SCANDINAVIAN**  
CLUB of TOLEDO

Gott Nytt År!  
Godt Nyttår!  
Gleðilegt nýtt ár!  
Ja Onnelista Uutta Vuotta!  
Godt Nyttår!  
Happy New Year to All!

OLAV GJESDAL, founder

JANUARY, 2012

ERIC SLAWSON, editor

# January

*Our January Meeting will be held at  
The Black Pearl restaurant  
on Friday, Jan. 20, at 6 p.m.*



**Program** :: Club member **Jan Wahl** will present "**Terje Vigen**," a silent film by Swedish director **Victor Sjöström** (known as Seastrom in the USA). This 1917 film is based on a poem by **Henrik Ibsen** — a Norwegian who many critics consider the greatest playwright since Shakespeare — and is the dramatic story of a fisherman who is so desperate to get food to his starving family in Denmark, that he tries to break through a British blockade in a rowboat. Later directors, such as Ingmar Bergman, were greatly influenced by Victor Sjöström's work as he is considered to be the father of Swedish film itself, with his *Terje Vigen* kicking off the first Golden Age of Swedish films. Also known as "A Man There Was".

**Menu** :: We will order off their menu individually this month.

**Location** :: **The Black Pearl** is across from the Stranahan Theater at 4630 Heatherdowns, Toledo, OH, where HJ's Prime Cut was, which is about 1.5 miles east of Reynolds Rd.

**Reservations** :: Please Phone or Email Kris Johnson with your name and number attending at 419-836-7637 or [cjohnson143@woh.rr.com](mailto:cjohnson143@woh.rr.com).

## Upcoming Meetings

January 15th — Board Meeting at Panera, Perrysburg. 3pm.

Members are welcome.

February 17th — Travel to Scandinavia with members Geoff & Marna Slawson.

## A Life Identified With

The original *Terje Vigen* (on which this film is based) is a poem written by **Henrik Ibsen**, published in 1862. Much of the story is set in the area around the town of Grimstad, in southern Norway, where Ibsen lived for a few years in his youth. It describes the dramatic saga of Terje, who, in 1809, tried to break through the English blockade of Norway's southern coast in a small rowboat, at a time of Napoleonic Wars, and how his life is tragically altered.

It is noted that Ibsen had befriended an old Norwegian Man of the Sea; and it is thought that this poem was likely based on the Seaman's life experiences.

The poem (and the character of Terje Vigen) has become a core icon of Norwegian coastal culture and taken on a sense of a national identity. Every year the poem is read at festivals, and included in dance and music performances. Best known are the wood boat festival at Risør and the Ibsen festival in Grimstad. Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, NRK, also broadcasts on the radio a reading of *Terje Vigen* on New Year's Eve, at midnight, each year.

—info & poster from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terje\\_Vigen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terje_Vigen)

## Scandinavian Club Board

President	Eva Slawson	534-2230
Vice President	Lois Staber	872-7232
Treasurer	Kris Johnson	836-7637

## Scandinavian-Club@hotmail.com

Send articles or submissions for the newsletter to [eslawson@wcnet.org](mailto:eslawson@wcnet.org).

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

You may have heard, our Christmas party at the Inverness Club was fabulous! We feasted on some typical Scandinavian holiday foods, and were treated to a Swedish teen-ager who graced the hall as Lucia. Our raffle table offered a wonderful variety of gifts, and we had such a bounty of cookies for dessert. We will be discussing all this and more at our next board meeting on Sun., Jan. 15, and we would welcome your input, as well.

For our January 20th meeting, film historian Jan Wahl will show us the 1917 film, "A Man There Was," by Swedish director Victor Sjöström, based on a poem by the Norwegian, Henrik Ibsen.

Hope you will join us at the Black Pearl restaurant, across from the Stranahan Theatre on Heatherdowns Blvd., in Toledo.

Planning ahead to next month, please join us on February 17th for a travelogue by Geoff and Marna Slawson who recently travelled to Finland, Sweden, and Norway.

We have a good time, eating together, and talking about things Scandinavian. Even if you have never ventured out to our get-togethers, please know that we would welcome you warmly, anytime.

Eva Slawson,  
President, Scandinavian Club of Toledo.