



THE
SCANDINAVIAN
CLUB of TOLEDO

OLAV GJESDAHL, founder

JANUARY, 2015

ERIC SLAWSON, editor

Gott Nytt År!
Godt Nyttår!
Ja Onnelista Uutta Vuotta!
Godt Nyttår!
Happy New Year!

January, 2015

*Our First Meeting of the
New Year will be held at
The Grape Leaf Diner
on Sunday, Jan. 25th, at 4 PM.*

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As we venture into 2015, that date still looks like something out of a science fiction novel, we can look back on a successful 2014, with the fellowship of the Julfest and the season. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who took part in Julfest, especially those who set up and took down the decorations, chairs and tables, and those whose homemade foods were especially nostalgic of Scandinavian meals past.

I look forward to an interesting and informative year for the club and the members as we start with tours of the Nordic countries. The January meeting will be Sunday, January 25, at 4:00 PM, at the Grape Leaf Diner on McCord Road, and I hope we have many members who will come and start us on a new and prosperous year.

Gott Nytt År

John

Program :: **23 Days in Scandinavia**

Long-time Club member **Beverly Miner** will discuss her recent travels in **Norway, Denmark**, a bit of **Sweden** (and possibly a resort island in Germany), in a program she's calling "**Twenty-Three Days in Scandinavia.**"

Reservations :: Please contact our treasurer, Kris Johnson, at cjohnson143@woh.rr.com or at 419-836-7637. Let Kris know your name and how many of you will be attending, so that she can inform the restaurant. **Reservations due by Noon, Friday, Jan. 23. Cost is \$21 per person.** Members may pay Kris in person at the restaurant. Non-members mail reservations to Kris Johnson, PO Box 355, Williston, OH 43468.

Location :: **The Grape Leaf Diner**, located at the corner of McCord Rd. and Angola Rd.

DIRECTIONS: From Spring Meadows shopping area, go north on McCord Rd. to Angola Rd. Turn Right just before the intersection, into the parking lot of the restaurant. We will meet in their special meeting room, to the left as you enter the restaurant, down a short hall. We were here about two years ago..

Menu :: We will be dining buffet/family-style, which will include Chicken, Kafta (beef), and Veggie Kabobs, as well as Rice, French Fries, Fattoush and Hommous; coffee, tea or soft drink too.

Upcoming Meetings

February 20, Friday, 6:00pm Potluck at Katherine Thompson's house. Bring a dish to share. Jan Wahl will show a 15 minute movie on the Wizard of Oz.

March 20, Friday, 6:00pm Cooking Class At Ruth Altener's house. Finnish Pasties cooking class led by Lois.

Club Contacts

scandinavian-club@hotmail.com

John L Jacobson, President

Lois Staber, Vice President

Kris Johnson, Treasurer

Katherine Thompson, Secretary

Members at Large:

Ruth Altener, Judy Jokinen Nickoloff,
and Jan Wahl.

MEMBER NEWS

New Members for 2014: We are pleased to welcome some additions to our membership: **Janilyn Kronk** (Swe,Nor) joined us at our meatball meeting last February; **Dr. Lawrence Sven Anderson-Huang** (Swe) and his wife **Ciping Huang-Anderson** joined us in September; and **Amy and Brian Sigurdson** (Ice) joined us last month at our Julfest. Welcome to you all!

Julfest Lucia: We all want to thank **Mikaela Myers** (Den), who was our Lucia at Julfest this year. You were Wonderful!

Past Presidents (1968 to 2015)

Olav Gjesdahl 1968?-1982?

Jack Tongring 1982-1985

Lotta Harsh 1986-1988

Sakari Jutila 1988-1989

Betty Wachter 1989-1991

Paul Ericson 1991-1992?

Charles Napp 1992-1993

Ingrid Slawson 1993-1997

Olga C. Boone 1997-1998

Ingrid Slawson 1998-2005

Bill Johnson 2005-2006

Dick Nelson, pro-tem (2006)

Eva Slawson 2006-2014

John Jacobson 2014-present

Who Are We?

We are the **Scandinavian Club of Toledo**, founded by Norwegian immigrant Olav Gjesdahl (with others) around 1968. Our mission is to promote the cultural heritage of the five Scandinavian (or Nordic) countries of **Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden** — who share a long history of various unions with each other, but maintain a certain distinction from continental Europe and Britain.

We fulfill this in the form of social meetings with programs and events designed to educate our own members and the public at large. We strive to connect back to our roots in these old countries by learning about the peoples and their cultural traditions — past and present — all the while appreciating their similarities, as well as their differences.

It is through this practice that we seek to preserve our Scandinavian heritage.

Do you have Nordic blood in your veins, or just have an interest in Scandinavia? Join us, and learn more!

<http://www.mercyviewmeadow.org/ScandClub/ScandinavianClub.htm>

[[tidbits]]

- In **Denmark**, employers want employees to have a fuller life outside of work, so they are more productive while on the clock. As overtime is viewed as inefficient, workers are encouraged to leave work on time, or face a penalty for staying. —Brigid Schulte interview, author of "Overwhelmed: Work, Love and Play When No One Has the Time" on Fresh Air, NPR, 1-2-2015.
- If you missed our September meeting, you have another chance to go to **Norway** with Jan and Gary Samples, at Wildwood MetroPark, Pavilion, on January 10th at 2pm.
- In **Iceland**, a lot of people have mortgage loans whose rates adjust with inflation. When the financial crisis happened a few years ago, many were hit with astronomical rate increases. The Progressive Party in Iceland is promising to "correct" certain mortgage loans to before-crisis status. The money to pay for this would come from a tax on three dead Icelandic banks, the banks that many people blamed for Iceland's part in the financial crisis. This is great for those with certain mortgages, but it does not apply to everyone, and to no student loans, so it has a mixed reception. —NPR 12-11-2014.
- A large **Viking Hoard** has been found in southwestern **Scotland** by amateur metal detectors. In total, more than 100 items were unearthed, including armbands, a cross and brooches which date from the ninth century. —Read more at www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-29582866
- Finns borrowing less: According to the Bank of **Finland**, the average interest rate on a mortgage is about 1.45 percent. In November 2014 Finns took out 1.2 billion euros of new mortgage loans, which is less than for the same time the previous year. —Read more at yle.fi

Just heard of us? It's not too late to join our Club for the 2014-2015 year!

Name(s): _____
Country: _____ @ \$15 per adult = \$ _____

Please make check payable to: **SCANDINAVIAN CLUB OF TOLEDO** and mail to: **KRIS JOHNSON, PO Box 355, WILLISTON, OH 43468**

Epiphany & Julgransplundring

Epiphany, on Jan. 6th, is an official holiday in **Finland**, and marks the Twelfth Night of Christmas and the end of the Holidays. Julgransplundring is a family event to celebrate the end of Christmas and take down the decorations. It is a tradition in **Sweden**, and parts of **Finland**, to plunder the Christmas tree on Tjugondag Knut, or St. Knut's Day, on January 13. The tree is happily sung and danced around, stripped of its ornaments (many of them eaten), and then it is ceremoniously thrown out the front door!



Julgransplundring, Nordiska Museet, Stockholm

IN THE MOOD FOR A CRUISE?



Norwegian Fjords & Iceland Cruise

AAA Northwest Ohio invites you to join them in celebrating 50 years of Princess Cruise Line, with their 2015 Member Appreciation Cruise aboard the Caribbean Princess. To learn more about this spectacular departure from Princess and AAA, join them at their Main Branch on Thursday, January 29th at 6 pm. Call AAA at 419-517-7146.

Finland Ranked Most Stable Country

The Fund for Peace (FFP) has ranked **Finland** the most stable country in the world for the second consecutive year, this time placing the country in a league of its own in its Fragile States Index.

Sweden, in turn, was ranked the second most stable country in the world despite being downgraded from the "Very Sustainable" category by the American think tank. Last year, Sweden was the only country in the highest category in addition to Finland.

This is despite the troubles that Russia, on the Finnish border, is causing for itself with Ukraine and oil prices. The Russian Ruble has hit historic lows, and interest rates there have been hiked to 17 percent. The FFP annually ranks countries according to their performance across a total of 12 indicators, such as security, income inequality and political climate. —More at [Helsinki Times](http://HelsinkiTimes) and [Washington Post](http://WashingtonPost)