10th Annual Ashville

VIKING FESTIVAL

April 27 & 28, 2013
10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Festival Admission:

We are asking that you **bring a food item** to be donated to the Ashville Food Pantry. Entry **Donations** will be accepted to help cover costs.

Events:

They typically have the big Viking ship on display, along with many vendor and exhibitor tents. They also have special programs, talks, dances and sometimes a movie on Saturday evening. It is primarily Viking, but there are other re-enactors there, too. Its a good day-trip.

Directions:

Ashville, Ohio, is just south of Columbus. Take 23 south through Columbus (or 270 around the west side to 23 again). From I-270 and 23, on the south side, go south 10 or 12 more miles to 752, which is at a stop light, as I recall. Turn left and go a mile or two into the town of Ashville. The Festival is located in the park.

Club Contacts

Pres.	**Eva Slawson**	419-534-2230
V.P.	Lois Staber	419-872-7232
Treas.	Kris Johnson	419-836-7637

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Wood Carving by Axel Petersson

This month's program is a study of wood carving by Swedish wood carver Axel Petersson, (later Axel Petersson Döderhultarn). He carved small figures in a traditional flat-plane style, and later in a more minimalist style, intentionally leaving knife marks on the carvings. He practiced his mastery in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, becoming one of Sweden's great artists.

Sweden's International Human Rights Organization

Civil Rights Defenders is an independent expert organization founded in **Stockholm**, **Sweden**, in 1982, with the aim of defending people's civil and political rights. Their work stretches from their own backyard to countries and regions all over the world. One of their main tasks is to empower their partners – brave human rights defenders, who often put themselves at great risk through their engagement for other people's rights.

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Revolutionary Kidnap Alarm for Human Rights Defenders at Risk

Civil Rights Defenders has announced a potentially life-saving personal alarm, the Natalia Project, that uses GPS and social media to inform of a kidnapping within seconds. The first five bracelets were distributed last week. "The Natalia Project" is an important addition to Civil Rights Defenders programs in support of human rights defenders at risk.
Like no other personal alarm available, the **Natalia Project Bracelet** has the capability to inform of an attack to potentially millions of people, within seconds, by using Facebook and Twitter. The bracelet uses a mobile signal to notify of an attack and issues a real-time GPS location of the victim directly to Civil Rights Defenders' headquarters. Nearby contacts will also be alerted, so that they can instantly act, and the alarm is also forwarded to social media followers.

www.civilrightsdefenders.org

Scandinavians Tops in Child Well-Being

Nordic countries are enviable in a Comprehensive Assessment of child well-being in 29 nations of the industrialized world produced by the UNICEF Office of Research. The report is based on data from 2009-2010, and released April, 2013. The Netherlands retained its top place, followed by **Norway**, **Iceland**, **Finland**, **Sweden**, Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Belgium and Ireland. **Denmark** has historically also been in the top ten, but was edged out this year.

The United Nations charity considered five areas, including children's ***material well-being***, which looked at how they were affected by poverty and material deprivation. It also assessed statistics on ***health and safety***, ***education***, ***behavior*** and ***housing conditions***.

All five Nordic countries are also in the top 11 in the category ***children's relationships with parents and peers***. Norway was eleventh, here, with all the other Nordics being in the top six.

Focus on Iceland: According to the assessment, Icelandic children place fifth when it comes to having breakfast but 21st when it comes to eating fruit. As for exercise, Icelandic children rank 20th, and when child obesity is considered, Iceland ranks 13th, ruv.is reports. Iceland places eighth in terms peacefulness and has a proportionally low rate in bullying, numbering fifth. Iceland tops the ranking in having a smoke-free youth and second for having a low rate of drinking among teenagers. However, Icelandic girls become pregnant relatively early, in which category Iceland lands in 20th place.

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, is active in more than 190 countries and territories through country programs and national committees.

—from www.icelandreview.com and http://www.unicef-irc.org (see link above)

Liberty and Justice for All

The World Justice Project — a bipartisan, independent group with honorary chairs including US Supreme Court Justices Kennedy, Breyer, Ginsberg and O'Connor – just released a report saying that Americans have less access to justice than most wealthy countries … and many *developing* nations.

Our **Scandinavian** friends do much better, with **Sweden** 3rd and **Norway** 5th in world ranking of access to legal justice for everyone. (USA ranked 20th; near bottom of all western nations.)

—worldjusticeproject.org

This Scandinavian House

The TV show This Old House, on WGTE (Ch. 30), is re-running the remodel of a Victorian house in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which has been rebuilt as **Scandinavian Modern** on the inside. The show airs Saturdays at 1 pm, or you can watch it at www.pbs.org. The owner's family is Swedish, and the architect on the project is half Swedish (and remodeled his own house in the scandinavian modern design sense, of which we get a good tour).