



THE  
**SCANDINAVIAN**  
CLUB of TOLEDO

**Merry Christmas  
and Happy New  
Year!**

OLAV GJESDAHL, founder

DECEMBER, 2016

ERIC SLAWSON, editor

# 2016 *Julfest* at Inverness Club

***Sunday, December 4, 2016. Beginning at 2 pm.***

*Our traditional Christmas celebration begins with catching up with old friends around the fireplace with some warm Glögg. Then we'll delight our senses with a Smörgåsbord of Smoked Salmon, Nordic Cheeses, Herring, Hardtack & Limpa, along with pickled Cucumbers. For something hot, we'll have Meatballs and Potatoes, with Lingonsilt to go with it. We'll have Lucia and sing Yuletide carols. Then for dessert, it's Rice Pudding with our very own Cookies. And we'll wrap it all up with our annual Raffle. It's the same fun-filled evening we always have, so bring some friends and let's all enjoy Julfest in the wonderful Living Room at the Inverness Club!*

***Reservations Are Required. See page two for details.***

## **Glögg**

Our traditional holiday drink will be on hand. After you put your coat away, come in and warm up your innards!

## **Raffle**

Please be sure to bring something Scandinavian or holiday-related in nature to donate to our Raffle Table.

## **Cookies**

Also, please remember to bring some home-baked Cookies for our Dessert!

## **Location of Julfest**

*We are pleased to be returning again to the **Inverness Club** for another wonderful Julfest celebration.*

**Directions:** Inverness Club is in west Toledo, on Dorr Street. Get yourself to Reynolds and Dorr, then go east for half a mile. Inverness is on the right (south) side of Dorr Street. Valet parking is available. Or, drop your guests at the front door, then park in either parking lot. You may leave your coat in the men's or lady's rooms, and find us in the Living Room, where your member name tag will be waiting for you.

## **Membership Dues**

If you have not yet renewed your membership for this fiscal year (July through June), please make your check out for \$15 per person to "**Scandinavian Club of Toledo**", and send it to our treasurer at:  
**Kris Johnson, PO Box 355,  
Williston, OH 43468.**

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Hej all, it is my pleasure to let you know that the 2016 Julfest will be held on Sunday, December 4 at 2:00pm at the Inverness Club. It is our hope that the turnout will be as good as last year with old and new members partaking in the festivities. There will be good food, it goes without saying. There will be some singing, and hopefully a Lucia. Please contact Kris Johnson to let her know you will be attending. Also, for those who are interested, the Scandinavian Club Book Group will be reading *A Man Called Ove*, a funny and poignant story of an old curmudgeon whose heart grows like the Grinch. For those who may be interested, Ove is also a very well made Swedish film which I had the pleasure of seeing a week ago in Ann Arbor. The movie is very well cast, and very funny in part. I highly recommend both the book and the movie. The weather outside is changing rapidly and the winter season will be upon us soon. This change should make us all look forward to holiday festivities including our Julfest, and I hope to see you there on December 4.

Tack så mycket, John

# RESERVATION FOR JULFEST

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Annual Membership Dues per **Adult**: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Julfest** Number of **Members**: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Julfest** Number of **Non-members**: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Reservations due **Thursday, Dec. 1st.** **Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to:  
**SCANDINAVIAN CLUB OF TOLEDO** and mail to:  
**KRIS JOHNSON, PO Box 355,**  
**WILLISTON, OH 43468**  
Reservations with checks are due **Thursday,**  
**December 1st.** Members may email  
reservations to **cjohnson143@woh.rr.com**



## Finland and Estonia - closer than ever

HELSINKI, FINLAND — With Britain's shock vote in June to depart the European Union (EU) and the principles of free movement of people and cross-border cooperation under fire elsewhere on the Continent, some have warned that the EU is dying and headed for break up.

But that's not the way it looks in the EU's northeastern corner: In the eastern Baltic, a frenetic scene takes place every day at **Helsinki's** gargantuan western ferry terminal. Several times a day, in fact, the vast structure is filled with thousands of Finns lining up to board the fleet of slow cruise ships and fast hydrofoils bound for **Tallinn**, 50 miles to the south across the Gulf of Finland in Estonia. At the same time, an increasing number of Estonians – nearly 10 percent of that country's population – arrive in Helsinki each day, after having made the long nautical commute (1.5 to 3 hours) from the equally busy Port of Tallinn.

"It's almost as if what is happening with Britain and Brexit is happening in another world," says Kirsti Narinen, the Finnish Ambassador to Tallinn. She's witnessed the commonalities since her first posting to the Estonian capital in 1993. "We don't make a lot of noise about it, but the two countries are virtually integrated," she said.

To be sure, Finland and Estonia have a lot more in common than many EU neighbors. The languages are very similar: both Finnish and Estonian belong to the Fenno-Ugric language group, so most Finns can at least somewhat understand Estonian, even if they don't speak it, and vice versa. The two countries also have a shared political history: both were Imperial Russian provinces before becoming republics after World War I. The two countries bonded during the "golden time" between the great wars, but that process stopped when the USSR re-subjugated Estonia during World War II, while its Finnish relative retained its independence.

Then in 1991, the Iron Curtain fell and

the two countries began building on their common ties again. Finland enthusiastically trained Estonian police, military, and border guards, while Finnish businesses were busy opening up shop across the gulf. And Estonia was grateful for the assistance. The process accelerated when Estonia became a member of the EU in 2004, alongside Finland which had joined a decade earlier.

Hannele Valkeenimieji, the press and cultural counselor at the Finnish Embassy in Tallinn sees "the two countries as two branches of the same tree which lies at the bottom of the Baltic, with the Finnish branch growing up on the northern coast, and the Estonian branch shooting up on the southern." Gunnar Okk, the former CEO of the national utility Estonian Energy says, "Finns and Estonians commute to work, study, shop, use public and commercial services, and visit each others' countries as if they were traveling around the same country rather than traveling abroad."

There are still differences, of course: Estonia is part of NATO, while Finland has shied away from the alliance. But the overwhelming trend is toward connectedness between the brother nations as the populations realize how similar they are. And the EU is helping by funding a wide range of infrastructure projects between the two: There's an undersea pipeline in the works; and the two governments' databases are pointed toward the same standards to make exchange easy and permanent. There's also a proposal for an underwater railway tunnel — though this is a long way off, it shows the commitment the two countries have for one another, and the confidence the European Union has in this flowering relationship.

—read more at <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2016/0908/Is-EU-in-decline-Ever-closer-Finland-and-Estonia-beg-to-differ>

—by Gordon F. Sander, September 8, 2016.

## Club Contacts

[ScandClubToledo@gmail.com](mailto:ScandClubToledo@gmail.com)

President: John L. Jacobson  
Vice President: Lois Staber  
Treasurer: Kris Johnson  
Secretary: Katherine Thompson  
Members at Large: Ruth Alteneder, Jan Wahl, and Judy Nickoloff

## Scand Book Club

The book to read for January's book club is "*A Man Called Ove*." See last month's newsletter for a good write-up on this book and the movie of the same name, now in limited release. Meet at Encore Books, at 7 pm on January 10th, 2017.

## Holidays

The 6th of December is **Independence Day in Finland**.

The 13th of December is **St. Lucia Day in Scandinavia**, and especially Sweden.



**Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!**