



THE
SCANDINAVIAN
CLUB of TOLEDO

OLAV GJESDAHL, founder

FEBRUARY, 2014

ERIC SLAWSON, editor

Making Swedish Meatballs

*Our February meeting
will be held at
Ruth Alteneder's home
on Friday, Feb. 21st, at 6 PM.*

Program :: *NORDIC CUISINE*: Home-made **Swedish Meatballs** are on the menu — but they are also the **program**, because we'll have to **make** them first! Come out and learn how these iconic, tasty beauties are made. You'll roll up your sleeves and get right into it — chopping, mixing, rolling, cooking — and enjoy the “fruits” of your labor for dinner. This is a program that's right for all ages! Please arrive a few minutes early as **we will be starting promptly at 6:00 PM** in the kitchen.

Menu :: After we're done in the kitchen, we'll sit down for the full dinner accompaniment: Classic Swedish Meatballs with gravy, boiled Red Potatoes, a vegetable, and Lingonsylt. Coffee or Tea will be served with a little dessert.

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 let Ruth know how many to expect. Price: Club members helping in the kitchen are \$5 each. Members **not** helping in the kitchen are \$8. Non-members are \$12 each. Please pay Kris at the door.

Location :: **Ruth Alteneder's house**, is located at 920 Bexley, in Perrysburg.

DIRECTIONS: From Interstate 75 in Perrysburg, exit onto Fremont Pike (Rt. 20), and head towards town. Turn Right at the first stop light (Three Meadows Drive). As the road curves, turn Left at the third street (Apple Creek Dr.). Drive to the end of this street and come to the stop sign. Sitting there at the stop sign, look straight ahead across the street and a little to the left — that's Ruth's house, a yellowish two story with garage on the left side. Park on her side of the street.



Köttbullar

— noun, plural / Swedish cuisine /

Swedish Meatballs, of course! A staple of classic Swedish food culture, served in varied ways; as part of a smörgåsbord, or as a main dish, with gravy or only a thin meat juice. Small, about one inch. Traditionally served with boiled potatoes and always lingonberry jam.

—from sweden.se

— image from IKEA

In Memoriam

Club member **Lee Murray** has died. A good friend of Jan Wahl, Lee was very active in city relations with Spain, and travelled there many times.

Club Contacts 2013-2014

scandinavian-club@hotmail.com

Eva Slawson, President

Lois Staber, Vice President

Kris Johnson, Treasurer

Katherine Thompson, Secretary

So, Where Do You Get Good Scandinavian Food Around Here?

Unfortunately, there are no Scandinavian restaurants in Toledo, and I don't know of any this side of Chicago, where there are at least three. Here in Toledo, we have to make it ourselves, or go to the grocery store. So, for supplies, grab your grocery bags and head out. /// Meijer in Perrysburg has a small Scandinavian foods section where you can get hardtack, different mixes to bake, and lingonberries, while

other Meijers do not have Scandinavian food sections anymore. Anderson's is good for WASA, though the Monroe St. store has a better selection than the Maumee store, but only Meijer has the big round hardtack. But both Anderson's have good cheese selections. If you like jarlsberg, go to the Anderson's deli. The meatballs at Meijer are about as good as what IKEA sells and a lot closer. Which brings us

to IKEA: everything they sell, supposedly, is to be Swedish. IKEA is the place to go for jars of lingonberry (it's good and they're relatively cheap), meatballs, of course, and their cheeses are good. They also have some frozen foods. Your best bet for herring is Meijer at the fish counter. If you know of more places, let us know!

—Editor

High Speed Stockholm

Stockholm's Internet connection is eighteen (yes, 18) times faster than New York city's but just one quarter the price. Internet providers have their own high speed networks, as in the USA, but there is a third, wholesale fiber network, that the city of Stockholm built 20 years ago, to which these providers may lease access from the city. When you move into an apartment in Stockholm, you have a choice of five different sources for your internet connection. Norway and Korea also have very low cost, very high speed access.

—from interview with Susan Crawford, author of "Captive Audience: The Telecom Industry and Monopoly Power In The New Gilded Age", on NPR's Fresh Air, 2-6-2014.



Luscious Leather

The \$300,000 flagship Bentley Mulsanne luxury sedan has leather seats that are made using only **Scandinavian** bulls. The sumptuous leather comes handpicked from herds in the cooler climates where the lack of insects means blemish-free hides; thus a lack of bad spots unequalled in other leathers. And they use bulls because the quality is even higher.

—from bentelymotors.com and 13abc news at the auto show in Detroit, Jan. 2014



Those Medaling Norwegians!

At this writing, **Norway** leads the count of total medals earned, at 13, in the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. Sweden has 7 and Finland only 1 medal so far. This was expected of Norway, really, because before this year's Olympics even started, Norway had earned more winter Olympic medals than any other country, a total of 303. Norway had more gold medals than 100 other countries have total medals, and Norway had more golds and silvers than any other country. A nation of only 5 million people, Norway had one medal for each 16,556 citizens. The USA had one per 1,237,154.

—from USA Today

LEAST CORRUPT

Transparency International's 2013 study finds that **Denmark** and New Zealand are the least corrupt countries in the world. Next are **Finland, Sweden, and Norway** is 5th least corrupt. **Iceland** is 12th least corrupt, and the **USA** is at number 19 out of 177 countries.

—from cpi.transparency.org

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Asylum In Sweden — And Its Consequences

Sweden is the only European Union country to offer permanent residency to **Syrians** who are fleeing the civil war in their country. Some Swedish towns are struggling to cope with a steady influx of refugees. The city of **Södertälje** lies just 20 miles southwest of **Stockholm** situated between Lake Mälaren and the Baltic, and is small, only 83,000 people.

Yet more than 22,000 of its residents are **Assyrian/Syriac** immigrants (arriving since the 1960s and '70s), more than any other city in Europe. Since the early 2000s, large numbers of **Iraqis** immigrants have settled in Södertälje. With a reputation as a haven for orthodox Christians fleeing violence in the Middle East, the town boasts that it took in more Iraqis than the United States and Canada combined, earning it the nickname Mesopotalje.

Södertälje also has the fifth largest number of Finnish-speaking **Sweden Finns** in Sweden at 11,000, or around 13% of the city population, who began arriving as refugees from the Finnish Winter War with Russia in the 1940s. Thus, taken together, Assyrians/Syriacs and Finns account for 40% of the inhabitants of the city.

The latest influx of refugees fleeing the fighting in Syria has strained resources and is affecting politics, giving a boost to a right-wing Democrat Party and its anti-immigration policies ahead of coming elections.

Boel Godner is Södertälje's **Social Democratic** mayor. Despite her absolute pursuance of Sweden's open door policy, her administration is struggling to accommodate an estimated 1,000 Syrians who arrived in 2013. The mayor would like to remove the right of newcomers to choose where to live, so that other

towns in Sweden can share the burden.

The effects of the immigration are evident: in one elementary school math class, there is not one blonde head to be seen — 98% of the school's 800 pupils are from immigrant backgrounds. Only five indigenous Swedes remain at the school after parents of 24 ethnic Swedish seventh to ninth graders withdrew their children. Some fear immigration seeing it as diluting the purity of Swedish culture, while others, such as the school's principle, Lena Axelsson, welcome outsiders seeing it as enriching Swedish culture and improving education.

Either way, Södertälje is expecting to receive 2,000 more Syrians during the coming year. Those numbers will add to the unemployment rate for this region of 14 percent, which is twice the national average. That means more generous welfare checks, much to the indignation of Tommy Hanson, Södertälje leader of the **anti-immigrant Swedish Democrats**, whose poll ratings are rising nationally in this election year.

The Swedish national government, though, says it will not be deflected from its guarantees to the refugees, despite criticism that the country is in denial about the impact. It's promised extra cash to struggling municipalities, but it will not restrict refugees' freedom of movement. The expansion of the town, nicknamed Mesopotalje, will continue, and it may well become a significant political battleground as September's elections draw closer.

—from wikipedia.org AND the BBC's Malcom Brabant reporting from Södertälje on NPR's Here and Now, Jan. 2014.

Borgen

The Danish TV show, Borgen, is a drama about contemporary Danish politics. Its like the West Wing, but better. It follows the first woman prime minister of Denmark through her trials and tribulations, but has nearly 20 other well-drawn characters; there are politicians, ideologues, and even bullying billionaires. Borgen is in its 3rd and final season, but its worth starting at the beginning. In danish with english subtitles.

—Reviewed and recommended by John Powers on NPR's Fresh Air. Feb. 4, 2014.