



We're Off to See the Wizard

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Here it is, February 2, and I am trapped at home with over a foot of snow outside my door. What a good time to sit down with a good book and go somewhere other than here.

At the last club meeting it was surprising how many people were reading, or had planned to read, "The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared" by **Jonas Jonasson**. If you read this book and do not laugh out loud, you may want to have someone check your sense of humor. Written by a Swede, it is very funny, and apparently been made into a movie in Sweden. I also recommend "A Man Called Ove" by **Fredrik Backman**. It is the story of a Swedish widower whose life is changed by his wife's death and a family of foreigners moving into his staid neighborhood. It is not as humorous as *The Hundred Year Old Man*, but it is funny and very poignant. I highly recommend it. For other Scandinavian writers, I would recommend **Stieg Larsson's Millennium Trilogy**, beginning with "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo." If you are interested in mysteries, **Jo Nesbø** writes very well about Norway and the Capital, Oslo. Also, there is **Håkan Nesser** whose characters live and work in a fictional Scandinavian country. And for those who want to go back to Swedish crime fiction, there is always the Martin Beck mysteries by **Maj Sjöwall** and **Per Wahlöö**. Any of these should help keep you warm on the cold, snowy nights here in Toledo, and you can just imagine you are in Stockholm, Malmö or Oslo solving crimes, or doing your own escape with the *Hundred Year Old Man*.

Hoping to be able to discuss these with you at our next meeting at Katherine's house on February 20 (pot luck), and to view Jan Wahl's 1915 *Wizard of Oz*.

Tack så mycket,

John

*Our February meeting
will be held at our Secretary,
Katherine Thompson's home.
on Friday, Feb. 20th, at 6 PM.*

Program :: Longtime Club member and film expert **Dr. Jan Wahl** will show a short 15 minute movie on the *Wizard of Oz*, which predates the theatrical release with which we are all familiar.

Menu :: This is a **Potluck** affair in Katherine's home. Please bring a dish for the smörgåsbord. Those **not** bringing a dish to share, pay Kris at the door: \$7 for current members, \$10 for non-members.

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 Katherine know how many to expect. If you know what dish you'll be bringing, leave that information too.

Location :: **Katherine Thompson's house**, is located at 2132 Sherwood Ave., in Toledo, south of the zoo, between River Rd. and the Trail.

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of the Anthony Wayne Trail and Glendale Ave., drive south on the Trail to the next traffic light, which is Sherwood. Turn left (east) onto Sherwood, and go about eight houses down on the left side. There is a big tree in the front yard, while the neighbors have no trees. The driveway is to the left of the tree, or street parking is available on the opposite side from her house.

Club News

Next Board Meeting: *Tuesday, Feb. 10th at 10 AM at Panera in Perrysburg. All members are welcome to attend.*

Next Month's Meeting: *Friday, March 20th at 6 PM. Finnish Pasties Cooking Class at Ruth's House.*

Club Contacts

**scandinavian-club
@hotmail.com**

John L Jacobson, President

Lois Staber, Vice President
Kris Johnson, Treasurer
Katherine Thompson, Secretary

Members at Large:

Jan Wahl, Ruth Altneder,
and Judy Jokinen Nickoloff.

Past Presidents

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-current

If you get this newsletter by email, be sure to click on the links in some of the articles for further reading. There's too much good info to fit on these two pages! On the other hand, if you get this in print only, send me your email address so you can be included. —Editor

Sweden in the News

>> **CURATORS OF SWEDEN.** The [@sweden](#) account on Twitter is run by a different Swede each week, with about 150 ordinary Swedes having held the megaphone over the last three years. Swedish marketing consultant Patrick Kampmann conceived of the project at the ad agency Volontaire. He says national branding is often superficial and clichéd. "Like a fake dating profile," Kampmann says. "Whereas this is, I would say, it's just Twitter and it's just a small thing, but it's proving our society's view on democracy." He wanted to disprove the stereotype that Swedish people are perfect, superficial and a bit boring, IKEA-ish in his words. The project is called Curators of Sweden. These "curators" can express their personal taste, as opposed to being ambassadors which are supposed to always be diplomatic. It has been controversial at times, but it seems to have been a success. Other countries, including Ireland, have followed Sweden's lead.

Watch this [video of Amanda](#) (who was @Sweden during the first week of February) talking about [Swedish literature](#), (since John brought it up in his President's Corner this month!).

—from <http://www.npr.org/2015/02/02/383214906/swedens-social-experiment-on-twitter-celebrates-third-anniversary>

>> **CASHLESS** is the new black. All across Europe, cash is disappearing, and now 95 percent of all monetary transactions in **Sweden** are electronic, with or without a card. Churches pass a digital payment system with collection plates; homeless people accept credit cards on their iPhones to sell the *Situation Stockholm* magazine. Seamless is a company that designs payment systems for cell phones based in Stockholm.

MORE AT <http://www.npr.org/blogs/parallels/2015/02/02/383321605/cash-is-definitely-not-king-for-card-carrying-swedes>

>> **MUSIC STREAMING.** Swedish music streaming service **Spotify** has 60 million users worldwide. Similar service Pandora has more users, but Spotify has more paying users (as opposed to free users). American rapper Jay Z's company Project Panther Bidco Ltd. has acquired **Swedish** music streaming startup **Aspiro** for 56 million US dollars (464 million SEK). Aspiro controls subscription music streaming services **Tidal** and **WIMP**. In the scheme of things, iTunes Radio competes with Pandora, but the new Apple-Beats service will compete with Spotify and Tidal & WIMP.

>> **REMOTE CONTROL.** When pilots land their airplanes at the **Sundsvall** airport in **Sweden**, they have no idea whether they are being guided in by controllers there in the tower, or by controllers in a room a hundred miles away. New technology created by **Saab** allows airline controllers to land planes remotely, with large computer screens layered with information about their charges (planes, not credit cards!). —NPR News

>> **FLOWER-BOMBING.** When three mosques in **Sweden** were firebombed recently by people reacting to tensions in the Middle East and France, the next day, many mosques were flower-bombed. That is, flowers appeared, anonymously, at many mosques across the country, to show support. —NPR

>> **CYBORGS.** Bio-hacker Hannes Sjoblad has organized "implant parties" where volunteers get a small RFID (radio frequency identification) chip put under the skin in their hand. People use them to control their door locks and computer gizmos.

MORE AT <http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-30144072>



Holuhraun lava field, Iceland

The largest volcano eruption in 200 years at Iceland's Holuhraun, in central Iceland, is occurring right now. One hundred cubic meters of magma per second are rising from the earth, causing rivers of lava to flow across the barren landscape. Holuhraun, and nearby Barðarbunga, recently in the news, are located roughly in the middle of Iceland, about 150 miles east of Reykjavik, while Eyjafllajökull, of 2010's air-travel-disrupting fame, is located in the southwest, near the coast. Holuhraun and Barðarbunga have been active for months, releasing magma and poisonous gasses, but so far, no large ash clouds. The Holuhraun eruption is big, eight times bigger than 2010's Eyjafllajökull; but it is swamped by the 1783-84 Laki eruption, which measured 10 times bigger at 13 cubic kilometers (more than 3 cubic miles). The two current eruptions have a long way to go to match that, but some experts say that seismic data indicates that Holuhraun could continue for 5 to 16 months, while others suggest much shorter time.

MORE AT: <http://icelandreview.com/news/2015/02/01/holuhraun-eight-times-bigger-eyjafllajokull> AND AT <http://icelandreview.com/news/eruption> AND AT <http://www.volcanodiscovery.com/bardarbunga/seismic-crisis-2014/updates.html> ALSO AT http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/06/science/predicting-what-a-volcano-may-or-may-not-do-is-as-tricky-as-it-is-crucial-as-iceland-well-knows.html?_r=1

Danish Workers go home when work time is up, because employers want employees to have a fuller life outside of work. As overtime is seen as inefficient, you get in trouble at work for working too much.

—from interview with Brigid Schulte on her book "Overwhelmed: Work, love and play when no one has the time".

Chef **René Redzepi**, of acclaimed **Noma** restaurant in **Copenhagen**, has a new book, "A Work in Progress", which includes recipes. Redzepi's 2010 "Noma: Time and Place in Nordic Cuisine" was hailed by *The Wall Street Journal* as "the most important cookbook of the year." Since then, he has become one of the world's most influential chefs, with his famed restaurant Noma claiming the number one spot at the World's 50 Best Restaurants awards three years in a row. Listen to an interview with him on the Splendid Table podcast 1-10-2015.

Practically Fashionable: Originally designed for **Swedish** school children in 1978, the **Kånken rucksack** (below) by **Fjällräven** has become a beloved icon for kids and adults. The company, founded in 1960 by Åke Nordin, specializes in outdoor clothing, rucksacks and equipment. Its name, Fjällräven, means arctic fox (see the red logo on the front page). But there are many other Nordic-based companies also making high quality outdoor clothing and equipment, such as **Haglöfs** since 1914, the largest supplier of outdoor equipment in Scandinavia (Wikipedia), though recently sold off to Asics; and there's **Didriksons** which began in 1913. All design beautiful and practical outdoor gear.

