



THE
SCANDINAVIAN
CLUB of TOLEDO



OLAV GJESDAHL, founder

JANUARY, 2014

ERIC SLAWSON, editor

January, 2014

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We had more than a week of snow, here in the Toledo area, in the first week of this month. As I was outside sweeping and shoveling the snow, I thought of a book that our club's past secretary, Nathalie Givens, had lent me, David Laskin's non-fiction book, *The Children's Blizzard*. "On the morning of January 12, 1888, a snow storm of unprecedented ferocity and suddenness swept down on the American prairie. One moment the air was clear and mild, the next a blinding wall of ice dust engulfed the landscape in an instantaneous white-out. Thousands were caught out on the prairie without protection. Children on their way home from one-room prairie schools, farmers taking care of their livestock, families doing errands in towns -- all were overtaken by this terrible storm. But the blizzard itself was just the beginning of their peril. In the wake of the front that propelled the storm, some of the coldest air ever recorded spread over the region. As darkness fell, temperatures from Montana to Kansas plunged to double digits below zero...." A description similar to what we have had over the past week or so. I hope you have been able to stay warm and safe. Some people locally have had burst water pipes and flooding, but the prairie didn't offer indoor pipes, or even proper home insulation. This is such a compelling book, crafted with a blend of historic references, meteorology, and intrigue.

You may also remember the Blizzard of 1978, thirty years ago this month, that brought the Toledo area to a stand-still. The Toledo Blade recalled: "The storm also proved deadly. Caught in stalled cars or unheated homes, men and women froze to death. Sixty-one people died in Ohio as a result of the storm, including nearly a dozen in northwest Ohio and more than 20 in Michigan. Three decades later, the 1978 blizzard's legacy can still provoke flurries around the milk and bread aisles of local grocery stores whenever rowdy weather looms. It has proven an unforgettable event for those who lived through it, many of whom emerged from the winter tempest with electrifying tales of survival."

So here we are, in January, in Ohio. We hope you will venture out to our January dinner meeting. There, we will ask our newly elected secretary, Katherine Thompson, to enthrall us with stories of her trip to Greece a few years ago, a warmer place, to be sure. Please bring a potluck dish, something Scandinavian, to share. Katherine's home is cozy and warm, and filled with memories of her Swedish family.

Hoppas vi ses!

Eva Slawson, President,
Scandinavian Club of Toledo.

*Our first meeting of the new year
will be held at our Secretary,
Katherine Thompson's home.
on Friday, Jan. 17th, at 6 PM.*

Program :: Katherine will not only be our host for the evening, but she will also present the program — a short video and show-and-tell she is calling "**Greek Antiquities**." Its not Scandinavian, but its sure to be interesting and will make for a wonderful evening.

Menu :: This is a **Potluck** affair in Katherine's home. Please bring a dish for the smörgåsbord. Those not bringing a dish, pay Kris at the door: \$5 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.



Ruins of the Parthenon in Athens, Greece.

Member News

Long-time Club members, and past secretary, **Nathalie and Clyde Givens** are moving to Roanoke, Virginia, to be near their son that lives there. We will miss them, but wish them well.

Club Contacts

scandinavian-club@hotmail.com

Eva Slawson, President

Lois Staber, VP

Kris Johnson, Treas.

Katherine Thompson, Sec.

Rick Steves video of Copenhagen

Enjoy a few minutes of the Danish capital with this summary video. Then, when its over, look for the image of Rick Steves in the assortment of videos that you can watch. Click on his face and watch a ten minute interview from the 60 Minutes TV show. Click on the link below to get started:

<http://www.ricksteves.com/news/travelnews/1401/vom.htm>

Danish and Norwegian ships haul Syrian chemical weapons

The first consignment of Syrian chemical weapons materials has left the country on a **Danish** cargo ship, the Ark Futura, escorted by Russian and Chinese warships. The hazardous cargo is to be taken to Italy, where it will be loaded onto a US Navy ship and shipped to international waters for destruction.

The mission is being run jointly by the UN and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

—from BBC News

Danish Drugs

In an effort to get drugs off the streets, some Danish cities have created safe rooms for addicts. In Copenhagen, and now Aarhus, illegal drugs can now be taken legally in special rooms where nurses are there to help if people overdose; injectors on one side and smokers on the other side. The **DCRs**, as they are called, were a response to an alarming number of overdoses two years ago. Police still go after drugs on the streets, but are in favor of the rooms because the users can get treatment for their addiction.

—from NPR 12-16-2013 All things considered.

FLY BY WIRE

When you get our newsletter via e-mail, you get it faster, its in color, there are clickable links to read more, it saves the club money, you can zoom in to make it easier to read, and you can read and store it on any computer, tablet, or app-phone!

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USA

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Giant mirrors

NORWAY — Giant mirrors have been installed atop a mountain to reflect sunlight down into the town of Rjukan. The valley town, 100 miles west of Oslo, which does not receive any direct sunlight between September and March, now has a sunlit square in the middle of town, where people can congregate and fight the winter blues. The idea to illuminate Rjukan was cooked up 100 years ago by a Norwegian industrialist, who built the town to provide homes for workers for a hydroelectric plant that he located at the foot of a nearby waterfall. Incidentally, this is the same location of a famous wartime escapade: During WWII, Germans occupied the plant, using it as a staging post in Hitler's quest for the atomic bomb. Twelve Norwegian saboteurs parachuted into the nearby tundra and survived freezing temperatures to destroy the factory's "heavy water" production, which inspired a 1965 Hollywood film "The Heroes of Telemark". A local artist revived the mirror project idea, which was funded mostly by the hydro plant.

—from <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/30/giant-mirrors-first-winter-sun-norway-rjukan>

Smoke Rings in Copenhagen

The new waste incinerator just three km from downtown Copenhagen, which will cost 500 million euros and has a 31,000 square-meter park with a ski slope on its roof, blows smoke rings out its short stout smoke-stack; one for each 250 kg of CO₂ it produces. The rings are 25 meters in diameter, and 3 meters high. The new Amagerforbrænding Waste-to-Energy plant is an innovative model in the fields of waste management and energy production. It will be complete in 2016.

—View the future-video on [youtube](#).

Norn

— *noun*

/Scandinavian Mythology/

1. an extinct Old Norse dialect, spoken until early modern times in the Shetland and Orkney Islands and in parts of northern Scotland. Declined after Norway pledged the islands to Scotland.
2. any of three goddesses of fate, the goddess of the past (Urd), the goddess of the present (Verdandi), and the goddess of the future (Skuld).

—from Dictionary.com and American Heritage Dictionary

• Images of the Parthenon and the "Porch of the Maidens" on the Erechtheion, on the front page, are from Wikimedia Commons.