



THE  
SCANDINAVIAN  
CLUB of TOLEDO



OLAV GJESDAHL, founder

JUNE, 2014

ERIC SLAWSON, editor

# IT'S MIDSOMMAR !!!

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Fellow Scandinavians and Friends,

Several years ago on a Friday evening, the Scandinavian Club of Toledo gathered at Maggie's family-style restaurant in Perrysburg. After dinner, club members elected me President. I was honored and humbled at your trust.

Since then, we've had some very interesting programs: We've had programs on Finnish birthing practices, the milkmaids of Lapland, and the Faroe Islands, Our recent "Swedish meatballs" cooking class at board member Ruth's home was quite well-attended. And, putting program information to good use, I recall learning about Iceland from club member Earl Campbell, and feeling that I could recognize the geography when that country was on the front pages, the very next week!

Over the last several years, we've also added some special events: we hosted a concert featuring a young professional Swedish pianist, Magnus Martensson, at the Collingwood Arts Center theater, and staffed info-tables at the Old West End Festival, and at the Sister Cities International Festival at the Erie Street Market/Civic Center. We created a May Pole for our Midsummer picnics, and a brochure to serve as a membership piece, as well as a banner to let people know we are here. Board member Jan Wahl made it possible to have a map of "Norden" (donated by past-club-president Olga Christina Boone) dry-mounted onto foam-board for easier viewing. The club has issued news releases, and placed quarter-page ads in local magazines and newspapers, to get our name out. We have a web-page and an email address. Even our newsletter offers links to additional interesting stories. And, for our personal edification, we have taken day-trips to IKEA and to Cranbrook. All this is in addition to our regular, monthly, dinner meetings, where we, vicariously, travel all over the world. You can see that we have been very busy!

It has been a pleasure to serve as your President. I am grateful for your patience and your confidence. Many thanks to both past and current officers and board members for all your hard work. And, now, since a new President was elected at our May 2014 meeting, I am happy to step down. You will find in John Jacobson a man who was familiar with the club and our founder Olav Gjesdal, many years ago. He brings the unique perspective of a new member with old roots in the club. I know the Scandinavian Club of Toledo is in good hands.

With warm regards,  
Eva Slawson.

## Club Board 2013-2014

President: Eva Slawson  
Vice President: Lois Staber  
Treasurer: Kris Johnson  
Secretary: Katherine Thompson  
Members at Large: Jan Wahl, Ruth  
Alteneder, and Judy Jokinen Nickoloff  
scandinavian-club@hotmail.com

Get a jump on the new year. Dues are just \$15 per person. Send a check to Kris or see her at the Midsummer picnic.

## *Our Midsommar Fest will be held at the home of Kris Johnson Sunday, June 22, at 4 PM*

**Program** :: Midsommar celebrations include a cookout, possible raising of the may pole or burning of a bonfire, singing and dancing, and good scandihoovian cordiality.

**Menu** :: Bring a dish to share at our table. Basics provided by the club.

**Reservations** :: Please contact our treasurer, Kris Johnson, at [cjohnson143@woh.rr.com](mailto:cjohnson143@woh.rr.com) or at 419-836-7637. Let Kris know your name and how many of you will be attending, so that we know how much basic food to provide. Cost is \$5 if you bring a dish to share; \$12 if you do not. Couples can bring one dish. Children are free and welcome.

**Location** :: **Kris's home** is located at 21410 West State Route 579, Williston, Ohio.

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-280, exit at Rt. 51 (Woodville Rd.) in Northwood, near the Northwood High School, and head SouthEast on Woodville Rd. for about a mile. Turn left where the old Woodville Mall used to be, onto SR 579 (Williston Rd.). Drive six miles straight east to Williston. Kris's house, on the right, is the second house after the Williston sign. It is a brick house with a split rail fence and a "wild" front yard. It's just after an old white barn on the right. Driveway is after the house. Here's a map to [Kris's house](#).

## Club News

**Elections:** At last month's meeting, club members voted in our new Board of Directors for 2014-15. After some discussion of just how the club should be structured, President Eva made a nomination from the floor that John Jacobson be considered as President, with all other posts remaining the same. Agreement was unanimous, so now we'll have a new President! Welcome a-Board, John! And thank you President Eva Slawson, for your many years of service to our Club!!!

**Summer Break:** After we celebrate the longest day of the year, we usually take a break from formal meetings in July and August. But we sometimes have informal gatherings in the summer, so if you have an idea, let us know!

**Next Fall:** We resume normal meetings in September, so please plan to join us as we have a travel program in store that will take us to **Norway**.



**“Love conquers all — even if it means moving to Sweden!”**

Get ready fend off questions about Sweden from your inquisitive friends this summer. The new television comedy “Welcome to Sweden” premieres Thursday, July 10, at 9pm, on NBC, and promises to bring contemporary Swedish culture, or at least a TV sit-com version of it, directly into your living room. The

show is filmed predominantly in Stockholm and features some real Swedish actors of note: Josephine Bornebusch, (from the Swedish hit drama “Solsidan”), Lena Olin (from “Chocolat”), Claes Månsson, Christopher Wagelin, and Per Svensson, as well as Swedish-born, Canadian-raised Malin Åkerman. The story follows a Swedish woman, Emma (played by Josephine Bornebusch), who decides to move from New York back to Sweden, and her boyfriend, Bruce (played by Greg Poehler), who decides to move with her to Stockholm, despite his lack of Swedish language ability — which could, of course, lead to all sorts of comical misunderstandings.

The show is based on events in the life of Greg Poehler (brother of

comedian Amy Poehler) who moved to Sweden in 2006, and left his day job as a lawyer to be a comedian there. The show was commissioned by Sweden’s TV4 as the first ever English-language series. The show is produced by Amy Poehler and Greg Poehler through their production company, Syskon (which in Swedish means “sibling”).

Read an interview with Greg Poehler on [The Local](http://www.thelocal.se/20131217/its-time-the-world-laughed-with-sweden) at [www.thelocal.se/20131217/its-time-the-world-laughed-with-sweden](http://www.thelocal.se/20131217/its-time-the-world-laughed-with-sweden).

Read more about the formation of the show and [how it came to NBC](#) from TV4 and Syskon and others at [www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/nbc-acquires-greg-poehlers-welcome-644556](http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/nbc-acquires-greg-poehlers-welcome-644556)

**THE OLD:** There are only three surviving examples of the medieval **nyckelharpa** in existence today: one found in the town of Mora, in Dalarna, Sweden, dated to 1526; one found in Vefsen, Norway; and one found in Esse, Finland.

**THE NEW:** There are now four main varieties of **nyckelharpor** that have evolved and are being played today.



## The Nickelharpa

The **Nyckelharpa** is a stringed instrument played with a bow like a violin, but which has keys that can change the pitch, and resonance strings that contribute to its unique sound. It has 16 strings, and about 37 movable, insertable keys. It is part of a pan-European heritage, dating back more than six hundred years. Artistic representations of its use in the late Middle Ages can be found in Sweden, Germany and Italy, where it was quite common. Since the Baroque era, though, it has been played only in Sweden, mainly around Uppland, and there only as a folk instrument. It nearly died out in Sweden, too, by the first part of the 1900s, but, luckily for us, made a come back in the 1960s and '70s, thanks in large part to the efforts of innovative musicians in Sweden, notably August Bohlin (1877-1949) and Eric Sahlström (1912-1986), and a few inspired musicians in Continental Europe in the 1980s. Now, the Nyckelharpa is being rediscovered all over, with about 10,000 players. >> **One nyckelharpa; many nyckelharpor.**

MORE: [www.encore.nyckelharpa.eu/encore---nyckelharpa-orchestra/nyckelharpa](http://www.encore.nyckelharpa.eu/encore---nyckelharpa-orchestra/nyckelharpa) and at [www.nyckelharp.org](http://www.nyckelharp.org)

Depiction: The **Nyckelharpa** has been portrayed, lovingly, in many ways: In addition to old engravings and carved stone reliefs from the Middle Ages, such as the relief at Källunge church from about 1350 on the island of Gotland, in Sweden, it has been shown in modern ways as well: above, a Swedish postage stamp from 1981 showing the top and side views of a nyckelharpa as well as the range of musical notes achieved by the instrument; at right, the back side of the current Swedish fifty kronor currency note shows very much the same image with each note on the scale linked to the appropriate sliding key on the instrument; at top of front page, another Swedish postage stamp, date unknown, showing a classic Swedish player.

MORE: Read a history of the instrument at the [American Nyckelharpa Association's](http://www.nyckelharpa.org/about/what-is-a-nyckelharpa/nyckelharpa-history/) website at [www.nyckelharpa.org/about/what-is-a-nyckelharpa/nyckelharpa-history/](http://www.nyckelharpa.org/about/what-is-a-nyckelharpa/nyckelharpa-history/)



Musical Note — modern day Swedish fifty kronor currency, back side. The front side of this note shows a popular Swedish opera singer.