



THE
SCANDINAVIAN
CLUB of TOLEDO



OLAV GJESDAHL, founder

JUNE, 2015

ERIC SLAWSON, editor

MidsommarFest

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I must say that I was pleased by both the turnout for the May meeting and the spread put out by Belmont Country Club. Of course, I know the actual draw for the meeting was the anticipation of my presentation regarding the Viking exhibit at the Field Museum in Chicago. I still recommend it as a good summer trip for those interested in seeing things that we have only read about related to Scandinavia and the Vikings. I now look forward to Midsommarfest which will be held on Sunday, June 21 at Eva Slawson's. This is an occasion heavily observed in Sweden, for when Carol and I were in Stockholm over Midsommar, everything was closed so people could celebrate. I hope that we have an opportunity to do that in the same fashion. I want to thank the members for their confidence in me as President, and allowing me another term to enjoy our communal Scandinavianness (is that a word?), and I hope to be able to assist in providing some educational and fun programs for the membership in the upcoming year.

John

Our Midsummer Festival

will be held at

Eva's Home

on Sunday, June 21st, at 1:00 pm.

Program :: MidsommarFest — a Scandinavian celebration of the longest day of the year. We'll decorate the Maypole with vines and flowers beginning at 1pm, then sing and dance around it (to the best of our ability), enjoy a wonderful smörgåsbord, and have relaxing conversation with old friends new ones. We'll wrap it all up by 5pm **Please remember to bring some decorative vines and flowers from your garden for the Maypole!**

Menu :: Potluck: Please bring your best scandinavian dish to share with the group. The Club will provide the basics.

Reservations :: Please contact our treasurer, Kris Johnson, at cjohnson143@woh.rr.com or at 419-836-7637. Please let Kris know by Saturday, June 20th, how many of you will attend (and what dish you might bring), so we can make appropriate plans. **Cost** is \$3 if you bring a dish to share, or \$12 if you do not. Children are welcome and those under 16 are free. Please pay Kris with your check made out to Scandinavian Club of Toledo.

Location :: Eva and Bettye Jo's back yard, located in west Toledo, near Dorr and Reynolds.

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of Dorr and Reynolds, head West on Dorr Street. At the next stop light, turn Left onto Harrow, a small neighborhood street. Continue straight until it dead-ends. Turn right onto Fryer. Eva and Bettye Jo's house is on the left side with lots of trees and bushes, just before the big overhead power lines. Here's a [Google Map](#).

Scand Music

A **Nyckelharpa** Trio will play on the radio show "A *Prairie Home Companion*", on the July 4th at 6pm, on 91.3 FM, NPR. Refer to your June, 2014, newsletter for a good rundown on this cultural icon.

Northern Lights

There are some beautiful videos of **northern lights** captured over Iceland recently to be seen. Click [HERE](#) to see a selection of videos, then click on one of the pictures on the left to start watching. You'll want to watch them repeatedly!

Seal Hunting Ban

The EU's ban on the sale and trade of seal meat and skins has adversely affected the **Inuit of Greenland** and Canada. GreenPeace, who campaigned against seal harvesting in the 1970s and '80s, has said that they got it wrong when it comes to the Inuit, and are siding with the Inuit of Greenland as they appealed last month to the EU in Strasbourg to lift the ban. It is a clash of cultures, one which is forcing many in these hunting societies to turn to **Danish** welfare for survival.

—BBC —More at [The Guardian](#)

"Re-Elections"

Last month, at our delicious Brunch at Belmont Country Club, members unanimously re-elected our entire slate to another year. Congratulations! They are: **John L. Jacobson** as President; **Lois Staber** as Vice President; **Kristen Johnson** as Treasurer; and **Katherine Thompson** as Secretary. Members at Large also remain Jan Wahl, Ruth Alteneider, and Judy Jokinen Nickoloff.

Contact Us!

Questions? Send email to scandinavian-club@hotmail.com

Swedish Fish / Pastellfiskar

—noun: commercial "food"
product

a candy-confection of gummy, chewable consistency shaped like a small fish, but tasting somewhat like lingonberry. Originally only available in red, they are now come in different pastel colors and flavors. Swedish Fish brand is not available in Sweden, but are marketed there as Pastellfiskar. —from wikipedia



Prepare for Alicia Vikander

"I could stop traffic," said Alicia Vikander, sliding out of a banquet at Koi in the Trump SoHo New York, as a roomful of diners



collectively paused, forks aloft, and gaped. The Swedish Actress was commenting on the safety-orange colored Victoria Beckham trousers adorning her whisper-thin

physique. But the unintentional reference to her own ravishing physicality — the gamin bone structure, that sullen pout, those velvety fawn eyes — would not be lost on moviegoers at any of her films, be it Ava, the exquisite embodiment of artificial intelligence in "Ex Machina"; Gaby Teller, the '60s spy in "The Man From U.N.C.L.E."; or Vera Brittain, the profeminist British pacifist in "Testament of Youth."

Ms. Vikander, 26, is having quite a Moment: Designers want to dress her, women want to look like her, and filmmakers want to partner her with their most bankable leading men. How does it feel being a sensation? "Things don't happen overnight," she said, leveling her flutery gaze.

Some of her films have taken upwards of three years to reach the screen. In all, no less than eight of her films will be released this year, resulting in an apparent onslaught to the theater-goer. By the end of the year, she will be a house-hold name — and to think how she may compete with herself at next year's Oscars.

The daughter of a stage actress and psychiatrist in Göteborg, Sweden, Ms. Vikander, who is three quarter Swedish and one quarter Finnish, was not yet 7 when she persuaded her mother to let her audition for a musical about Swedish emigration by the creators of "Mamma Mia!" The production ran three years, with Ms. Vikander performing before an audience of around 1,300 twice a week, maturing into successive roles.

Next, she enrolled in the Royal Swedish Ballet School, moving to Stockholm on her own at 15, studying for many years. But the allure of the camera proved irresistible. "I still love the ballet," she said, [but] "I don't think I could have gone on and done it my entire life."

At 19, just weeks before she was to begin studying law, she snared her first film lead as an unsettled young woman indelibly transformed by the strains of Mozart in Lisa Langseth's "Pure." She won a Guldbagge Award, Sweden's equivalent of the Oscar, for best actress.

But it was the Oscar-nominated "[A Royal Affair](#)" (2012) that captured the attention of filmmakers beyond Scandinavia. She learned Danish to portray Queen Caroline Mathilda of Denmark, who succumbs to a rakish court physician while the infantile King Christian VII flounders in mental illness.

Its been no where but up from there. Catch one, or several, of her films this year. You won't be able to avoid her.

—more at [New York Times](#)

NORWAY 110

The dissolution of the Union between Norway and Sweden was carried out by the Storting (Norwegian parliament) under the House of Bernadotte on June 7, 1905. After some months of tension and fear of war between the two neighboring nations, negotiations between the two governments led to Norway's recognition by Sweden as an independent constitutional monarchy on October 26, 1905. On that date, King Oscar II renounced his claim to the Norwegian throne, effectively dissolving the United Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway.

This event was quickly followed by an offer to Prince Carl of Denmark of the Norwegian throne, which he accepted, taking the name Haakon VII of Norway.

In the following ten years, Parliament passed a series of social reforms, such as sick pay, factory

inspection, a ten-hour working day and worker protection laws.

Waterfalls for hydroelectricity became an important resource in this period and the government secured laws to hinder foreigners from controlling waterfalls, mines and forests. Large industrial companies established in these years were Elkem, Norsk Hydro and Sydvaranger. The Bergen Line was completed in 1909, the Norwegian Institute of Technology was established the following year, and women's suffrage was introduced in 1913—as the second country in the world to do so.

From the 1880s to the 1920s, Norwegians carried out a series of polar expeditions, with Roald Amundsen's expedition in 1911 becoming the first to reach the South Pole. —wikipedia



ROYAL WEDDING

The wedding of Swedish Prince Carl Philip and Miss Sofia Hellqvist will take place in the Royal Chapel at the Royal Palace of Stockholm, this Saturday, June 13, 2015. The Prince is third in line for the throne.

Look here for more information: www.kungahuset.se/royalcourt

•• Missing Umlauts ••

Lindström, Minnesota —

They are polite, in a Scandinavian sort of way, but folks in Lindström would really like their missing umlauts back.

The Swedish diacritical marks graced the community's twin highway population signs for close to 20 years, until they vanished when the signs were recently updated by the state.

Some haven't noticed, but those that have say the double dots over the second to last letter are critical in it's spelling and pronunciation, and are an important symbol for a city tucked in an area that draws some 3,000 Swedish tourists annually.

Swedish-born Lena Normann, who alternates between teaching Swedish at the U. of Minn. and living in Sweden, said that the distinction between an o and an ö is critical for students learning the language. "These are two completely different letters," she said, "representing two completely different sounds,".

Swedes started arriving here as early as the 1850s, and Daniel Lindström, after whom the town is named, had an umlaut. The name means "linden stream" in Swedish. It doesn't mean anything without an umlaut, Normann said.

"It's a big deal to us," said John Olinger, the city administrator, who has tried to get the MnDOT to fix the sign. But MnDOT is firm: no apostrophes, no tildes, and, for sure, no umlauts.

The town will, for now, have to rely on its two water towers to convey its correct spelling. The new one is painted in Swedish blue with a yellow stripe, while the old one was modified to resemble a giant Swedish coffee pot, proudly bearing the greeting "Välkommen till Lindström" circled in rosemary, complete with spout and handle.

—from Star Tribune, Minneapolis / St. Paul, MN, April 2015. Thanks to Sylvia Pecsénye for the article.

SWEDISH FICTION: Here's a collection of short stories from the new wave of Swedish speculative fiction writers. Look for a free sampler on [this page here](#). <http://www.affront.se/english-books/waiting-for-the-machines-to-fall-asleep/>