



THE
SCANDINAVIAN
CLUB of TOLEDO



OLAV GJESDAHL, founder

JUNE, 2016

ERIC SLAWSON, editor

MIDSOMMARFEST!

*Our Midsummer Party will be held in
Eva & Bettye Jo's House & Back Yard
on Sunday, June 19th, at 4pm.*

Program :: Midsommar Festival. Join us as we sing songs and dance around the Maypole, in celebration of the longest day of the year. Then sit back and enjoy the company of friends.
Be sure to bring flowers and trimmings for the Maypole if you have them in your yard.

Menu :: This is a pot-luck affair. Please bring a dish for the smörgåsbord. Coffee and tea will be provided.

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 we know how many to expect. This meeting is free if you bring a dish for the smörgåsbord. But if you don't bring anything, give Kris a check for ten dollars!

Location :: Eva & Bettye Jo's house is in west Toledo.
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. Their house is on the left with lots of trees and bushes, just before the big overhead power lines. Here's a [Google Map](#). Event is rain or shine!

Time To Vote

Annual Elections: It's time again to elect members to the Board of Directors for our Scandinavian Club of Toledo. Please join us at the Midsummer Party to discuss candidates and vote on next year's Board.

A Julfest Pole: We're thinking about where we want Julfest to be this year. At our midsummer party, John will be taking a pole to see if we want to return to Inverness this year or not. Put your vote in for that too!

Hygge

—noun, Danish
pronounced: hue-gah

fundamental quality of Danish culture which refers to the pleasures of everyday living; by making ordinary, everyday activities more meaningful, beautiful, or special. Visiting with friends, enjoying good food, creating a cozy evening with candle light, or taking a walk on a beach are all examples of how Danes strive to make ordinary events less stressful and more meaningful and special.

How can you experience **Hygge**? Be mindful of the present, reject the stresses of work, and take time to celebrate the simple, wonderful moments in your life, your home, and with friends. Be proactive to turn everyday activities into special moments.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hej, everyone, summer is quickly approaching, although it seems it has already made an appearance. Our annual Midsommar Fest is coming soon, June 19 at the home of Eva Slawson, beginning at 4:00. I understand that the Maypole is still there, so we should have a great celebration. At our house we have just completed the annual Old West End Festival and next year we are planning to decorate our golf cart like a Viking long ship. Design recommendations are welcome. The Club book group is reading "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" for those who are interested.

Tack så mycket, John

Calendar

- Midsummer Party, Sunday, June 19th, at 4pm.
- Young Swedish Singers, a 34-member group of children and teenagers from Hässleholm, Skåne, Sweden, will perform a concert of gospel, hymns and Swedish folk tunes. The concert will be at Zoar Lutheran Church, in Perrysburg, on Friday, July 1, at 7:00pm.
- Scand Book Club, July 12th, at 7pm, Second Hand Books, "The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo."
- Board Meeting, July 14th, at 10am, Perrysburg Panera. Members welcome.

MIDSOMMAR

The longest day of the year is the biggest holiday of the year, after Christmas, in all of Nordica. Celebrations vary from maypole dances, to crawdad boilings, to huge midnight bonfires, all of which pay homage to life-giving sunshine. From Iceland to Finland, these are the lands of the midnight sun — this time of year that is. In winter, being north of the arctic circle means night-time for many weeks straight, with no sight of the sun. But in June, at Midsommar, the sun is high in the sky and everyone is outside at some sort of festival or party to relax in the warmth of summer with friends and family. Join Us!

Club Contacts

scandinavian-club@hotmail.com

President: John L. Jacobson

Vice President: Lois Staber

Treasurer: Kris Johnson

Secretary: Katherine Thompson

Members at Large: Ruth Altener, Jan Wahl, and Judy Nickoloff

Listening to Nielsen

Have you tuned in? All this week at 11am, on FM 91.3, WGTE, the Music of Danish composer Carl Nielsen has been featured. Tune in on Friday!

Carl August Nielsen was a Danish musician, conductor and violinist, widely recognized as his country's most prominent composer. He wrote six exuberant symphonies, which are said to be both great and quirky. There are harmonies and melodies that don't quite align and ambiguous phrases that seesaw from major to minor keys. But as unconventional as Nielsen is, there's much beauty and mystery to be found in his music.

The son of a house painter and amateur musician, Carl Nielsen was the seventh of 12 children and grew up on Funen, often called Denmark's "Garden Island." He pounded on logs as a child, then worked for 16 years as an orchestral violinist before debuting his first symphony in 1894 to great applause. He eventually became a national hero, gracing the 100 kronor bill, but international recognition would only come decades after his death.

Swedish Meatballs

Small Meatballs (Sma Kottbullar)
yields about 48 tiny meatballs

4T. butter
1T. onion, minced
1/3 c. fine dry bread crumbs
1/2 c. water
1/2 c. light cream
3/4 lb. ground beef
1/4 lb. ground pork (fat pork)
2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. white pepper
1/2 tsp. sugar
(optionally, add 1/8 t. each of allspice, ginger and nutmeg)

Melt 1 tablespoon butter in frying pan. Sauté onion in 1 Tablespoon butter over low heat until lightly browned. Mix bread crumbs, water and cream; let stand for a few minutes. Add ground beef, pork, salt, pepper, sugar and onion. Stir until thoroughly mixed. Shape into very small meatballs. Melt remaining 3 tablespoons butter in pan. Add meatballs. Brown slowly, allowing about 25 minutes for browning. Shake pan occasionally to brown evenly.

— Scandinavian Press, Summer 2016



Nordic Leaders in Washington

The leaders of Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland, all met with President Obama at the White House on May 13. Except for Iceland, all are part of the coalition to fight ISIS, and Denmark and Norway have nearly as many troupes on the ground in Iraq as does Germany. The primary topics of discussion were Russian aggression in the Baltic Sea, the refugee crisis in Europe, and Islamic State, as well as how the nations could further act as roll models with respect to international affairs. President Obama praised the Nordic nations for their humanitarian efforts and held them up as sensible and reliable allies, and has often been known to ask his aides, "Why can't all countries be like the Nordic countries?" Also discussed were matters of security, sustainability, and the Arctic.

In attendance with their spouses were Prime Minister [PM] Lars Løkke Rasmussen (Den), PM Sigurður Ingi Jóhannsson (Ice), PM Erna Solberg (Nor), PM Stefan Löfven (Swe), and President Sauli Niinistö (Fin). The Summit was capped by a large, simple but elegant State Dinner on the White House's south lawn.

—NPR News, 5-3-2016, [CNN.com](#), [NBC news](#). Photo; University of Washington.

Stugan – Game Changing

Many of the most popular computer video games of the last years have come from Scandinavia. You've heard of them at least, if you're not already addicted. *Angry Birds*, for instance, is the most popular game of all time. All of its incarnations are made by Rovio Entertainment, which headquarters in **Espoo, Finland**, and has offices in **Stockholm**, London, Santa Monica, Tokyo, Seoul and Shanghai. It had a minor downturn in 2014, but has come back with merchandising-galore (including park benches), and with the new *Angry Birds* movie. *Candy Crush*, another popular video game is made in Sweden, as is *Just Cause*, and the internet-based *Battlefield Heroes*, as well as many others that only the dedicated would know.

The wildly popular 'building' video game *Minecraft* was created by just one person, Markus Persson, from Edsbyn (then Stockholm, then Sollentuna), **Sweden**, and was the most profitable game of the last decade. Persson based the kid-friendly *Minecraft* on Lego blocks that he loved as a child; but ironically, **Lego** (a **Danish** company) now licenses *Minecraft* for their real-world Lego sets.

But most video games are not created by just one person. Most are far too complicated for that. Teams of game designers sit in rooms filled with computers, hashing out details and divvying up the programming task. It's well known that the video gaming industry takes in more cash than the movie industry each year, so its big, important business.

That's why "**Stugan**" was formed. Named after the Swedish rural vacation cabins or cottages called **stuga**, this nonprofit collaboration between the Swedish government and the Swedish Games Industry trade group is backed by executives from some of the country's top gaming talent, and aims to accelerate the development of the gaming industry in Sweden. Stuga will send 20 game developers, from anywhere in the world, to a stuga in the wilderness and supply them with food, shelter and mentorship for eight weeks as they try to accomplish a goal, which can be anything they choose from an alpha or beta version to a full launch of a full game, and the programmers will own their ideas. The executives funding the program don't take any equity. Stugan is an aid for people entering a competitive, often grueling industry, and is there to form the network necessary to succeed — and it may just provide Swedish companies with a stream of hot talent.

Also, read at [Quora](#) why there are so many successful game developers in Scandinavia.

—from Re/code, the [Guardian](#), and DnA podcast, and CNET.

