



Making Finnish Pasties

*Our March meeting
will be held at
Ruth Alteneder's home
on Friday, Mar. 20th, at 6 PM.*

Program :: **NORDIC CUISINE:** Home-made **Finnish Pasties** are on the menu — but they are also the **program**, because we'll have to **make** them first! Our Finnish-descended Vice President, **Lois Staber**, will show us how it was done in her family, going way back. Come on out and learn how very important these little stuffed pockets were to the immigrant Finnish Community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. You'll have the opportunity to roll up your sleeves and lend a hand in the kitchen, before we all enjoy the "fruits" of our labor for dinner. This is a program that's right for all ages! Arrive a few minutes early, if you can, as we'll be starting promptly at 6:00 PM in the kitchen.

Menu :: After we're done in the kitchen, we'll sit down to dinner of our fabulous Finnish Pasties, macaroni salad, and a vegetable salad. Coffee or Tea will be served with dessert.

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 Ruth know how many to expect. Price: Club members helping in the kitchen are \$5 each. Members **not** helping in the kitchen are \$8. Non-members are \$12 each. Please pay Kris at the door.

Location :: **Ruth Alteneder's house**, is located at 920 Bexley, in Perrysburg.

DIRECTIONS: From Interstate 75 in Perrysburg, exit onto Fremont Pike (Rt. 20), and head towards town. Turn Right at the first stop light (Three Meadows Drive). As the road curves, turn Left at the third street (Apple Creek Dr.). Drive to the end of this street and come to the stop sign. At the stop sign at the end of the street, look straight ahead across the street and a little to the left — that's Ruth's house, a yellowish two story with garage on the left side. Park on her side of the street.



Pasties

—noun, plural / Finnish cuisine /

Finnish Pasties (rhymes with "at", "mat", or "smash") are pockets of goodness. Made to be portable, a **pasty** would last unharmed all day in a pocket as the owner worked in the mines, then give up a variety of fillings when it was lunch-time. Made famous by the Yupers of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Club News

- :: Great turnout, food and program at February's potluck meeting at Katherine's. What adorable movies Jan showed!
- :: Next Board Meeting — March 17th at 10am at Panera in Perrysburg.
- :: Pencil in June 20th for Midsummer at Eva's

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Sitting at home on a Sunday afternoon and watching the snow continue to fall, and wondering if we will ever see spring. Looking at the Blade international temperatures I see it is warmer in Denmark and Sweden than it is here in Northwest Ohio. Will global warming make traditional living in Scandinavia different than it is now, or than it was in the past? I grew up with visions of the cold, Viking north where men were men and women were women, whatever that means. But through it all a vision of people warring against the

environment and trying to eke out a living. This view may have been colored by family friends who were first generation immigrants to the United States and who left situations, both politically and economically negative, to start over here. In most cases they succeeded, but their views of the "Old Country" continue to color how I view Scandinavia. We know now that the Northmen, who cast terror in the hearts of those in Ireland, Northern England, and as far south as Ukraine, were also traders and not just "berserkers" as they have sometimes

been described. What does this all mean for those of us who trace our families back to Denmark, Norway, Sweden or Finland? Well, you can have a chance to see your ancestors at the Field Museum in Chicago from February 7 through October 4, 2015 at the exhibit titled "The Vikings". For myself I will be there the first week of May, and intend to see it first hand. I hope those of you who can see it, do so.

Tak så mycket
John

...in the news...

Sveriges Television

Need to brush up on your **Swedish**? Here's a way to watch Swedish language news on **Sveriges Television** at home on your computer: <http://www.svtplay.se> (Notice their logo on the top of page one of this newsletter.)

Paper Beats Screens

Neo-Luddites rejoice: Studies show that when you read a text on paper your understanding is better than if you read it on a computer.

A **Norwegian** study of 10th graders, carried out last year by **Anne Mangen** and her colleagues at the Reading Centre of the **University of Stavanger**, clearly demonstrated that those who had read on computer screens had understood less than those who read on paper. Perhaps surprisingly, this disparity was encountered with both the fiction and the factual prose. —More at ScienceNordic.com

Danish Meat Code

Supermarkets in **Denmark** have experimented with adding a second bar code to packages of meat. Shoppers can pass those labels under a special scanner in the middle of the store. When they do, information about the food appears on a monitor. The information includes details about the exact type of cow or pig, what kind of feed it was given, what drugs, if any, when it was slaughtered, and more. There's even a photo of the farm on which the animal was raised. Most of the meat in US supermarkets simply couldn't withstand that degree of transparency.

—from *"The Omnivore's Dilemma"*, by Michael Pollan.

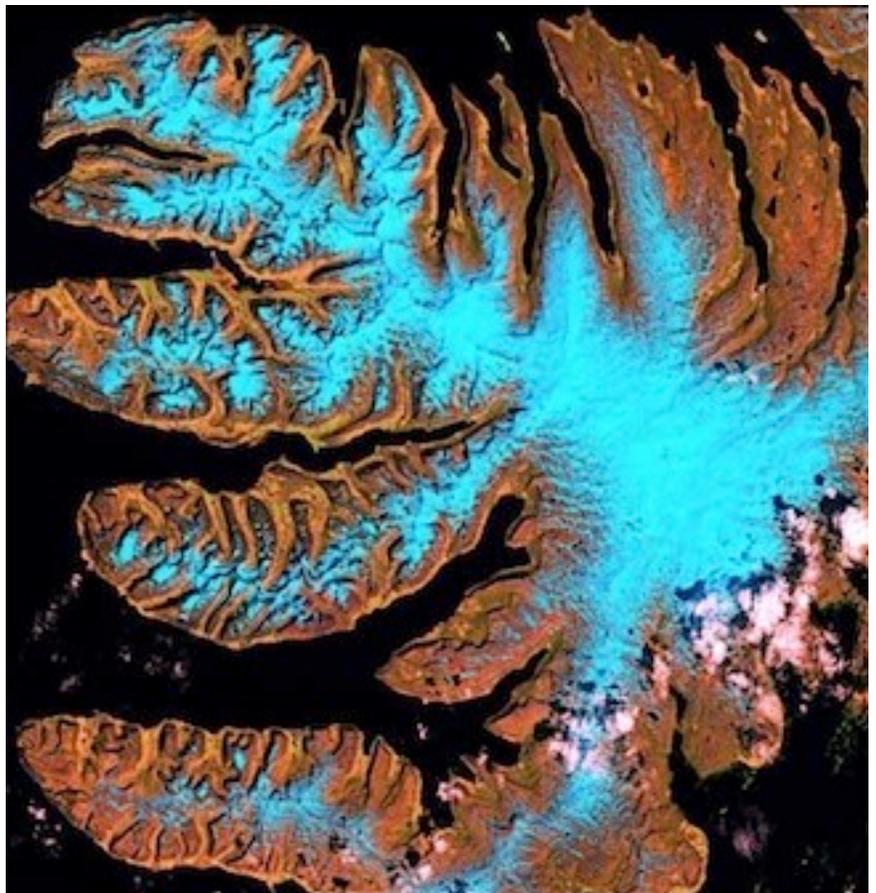
Extremism Exporter

Denmark has now produced more foreign fighters per capita than anywhere else in the world, and is home to what officials have labeled as one of the most radical houses of worship in all of Europe. Jacob Bundsgaard, mayor of **Aarhus, Denmark**, who attended a White House summit recently on countering violent extremism, takes the stance that returning fighters will be prosecuted if there is evidence of crimes. But as there is not always evidence, he says the government will then try to reintegrate them into society better than they have been. Danish detractors say that even believing in the violence should be enough to be tried for treason. —Listen to interview at: hereandnow.wbur.org

Jews Not New

In a similar vein, **Swedish** and **Danish** Jews say they won't be pressured to move to Israel, even though they have increasingly been the targets of verbal and physical assault. A century ago, Jews walked the streets of **Malmö** without having to worry about such encounters. So did Jews in **Copenhagen**, Malmö's twin on the other side of the **Øresund Sound**. Indeed, since arriving primarily from Central and Eastern Europe some five centuries ago, Denmark's Jewish community has been an integral part of the country. In 1943, some 7,800 Jews were smuggled by good-willed Danes to neutral Sweden, away from German occupying troops. After the war, they quickly became part of Swedish society. But decades later, anti-Semitism has arisen.

The two cites are showcases of globalization. Modern and affluent, Malmö is home to people from 175 different countries, making up 30% of its population. **PET**, Denmark's highly efficient counter-intelligence agency is charged with protecting everyone. —Read the full article at Newsweek.com



NASA image of Iceland's western fjords. This false-color image shows the snow-covered areas in blue, ocean in black, and land in browns. Notice the puffy white clouds in the lower right hand corner.

Reykjavik on the Cheap

Iceland is no longer prohibitively pricey – the country's 2008 currency crisis took care of that, and the exchange rate for Americans (about 133 ISK to the dollar) is still good even after its economic recovery. And there are good U.S.-based flight deals to be found: Recently, WOW air promoted \$99 one-way trips from Boston and Baltimore. While those sold out quickly, a spokesperson for WOW says they will have similar fares in the Fall. Plus, if you're willing to give up the midnight sun of summer, in winter, things like lodging and car rentals can be a whole lot more affordable.

—more at Yahoo Travel.



GOSleep Pods in Helsinki Airport

A **Finnish** creation, the new sleeping pods are cozy, comfy seats that can be converted into beds. Users can simply stow their hand luggage under the seat and pull up a cover that isolates them from the light and noise, making the pods a sleepy traveler's oasis in a hectic airport. Looking to feel really tucked in? Pillows and blankets are also available to add extra comfort.

“We wish to provide passengers with an opportunity for stress-free travel and a nap between flights. Helsinki Airport has many transit passengers, who may not have had any sleep for a day, or are suffering from jet lag. I believe that the service will have genuine demand,” says Heikki Koski, vice president at Finavia, operator of Finland's airports and air navigation systems, at Helsinki Airport, which is the first European airport to offer the service. —More at Yahoo Travel.

Reminder: if you get this newsletter by email, be sure to find the **links** in the articles to more information and even videos. They're in blue and underlined, or may be otherwise highlighted. Click on them!