



THE  
**SCANDINAVIAN**  
CLUB of TOLEDO

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— News and Culture of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden —

# Spring Elections

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well it appears as if Spring may actually be here, although the weather today may cause me to revise that statement. Last month's meeting at the Toledo Museum of Art did not quite go as planned, so in May we are doing a make up by offering the membership an opportunity of seeing *A Man Called Ove*. We will be meeting at the Library in Perrysburg on May 21 at 2:00pm. For those of you who have not seen the film, you are in for a real treat. The movie was one of the nominees for Best Foreign Film at the Oscars. Hope to see you there. On another note, we have unfortunately lost an active member of the club in April. Willard Misfeldt passed away after being injured in an auto accident in Bowling Green last month. He will be missed along with his smile and dry sense of humor. The Book Club is currently reading Norwegian author, Jo Nesbø's *The Redbreast*, a very well written detective novel starring Nesbø's detective, Harry Hole. Nesbø will be reading from his most recent novel in Ann Arbor on May 14 at 6:00pm.

John L. Jacobson



Our entertainment for May is the movie "A Man Called Ove." This is in Swedish with English subtitles, and will be projected on the wall screen. We read the book, now let's watch the movie! They're both very good.

*Our May Meeting  
will be held at*

**Way Public Library in Perrysburg  
Sunday, May 21, at 1 PM**

**Program** :: Our annual **Club Elections** for our Board. Afterward, a screening of the Swedish movie **A Man Called Ove**. We read the book, and the movie is just as good.

**Menu** :: This will be like a picnic in the library! Bring whatever you would like to share with the group, whether it's cookies, cakes or sandwich makings.

**Reservations** :: Free. No Reservations.

**Location** :: **Way Library** is located on Louisiana Ave., in downtown Perrysburg, Ohio, just east of the train tracks. We will be meeting in the first floor Mercy Health activity room. As you go in past the circulation desk, it's around the corner to the left near the children's area.

## Club Elections

Please make a point to attend our May meeting and cast your vote for next year's Board. We do this annually in accordance with our constitution which sets our fiscal year to begin on July 1.

## In Memoriam

Long-time Club member **Willard E. Misfeldt** died last month as a result of injuries sustained in a car accident. He was 87.

He was the third of four children raised in Minnesota, and is survived by many nieces and nephews, and many more great-nieces and -nephews.

After proudly receiving his Bachelor of Science in 1952, he joined the army and served two years as a Howitzer training instructor, honorably discharged as a Sergeant.

He then continued his education earning an MFA, then a Ph.D. in Art History. He taught at Gustavus Adolphus College (Minnesota), then art history at BGSU for 30+ years. In 1982, he published a book on the works of artist James Tissot.

Willard also had a lifelong passion for Community Theater, where he acted and designed sets, as well as directed and produced stage plays, involving himself with Toledo Repertoire, Village Players, Fort Findlay Playhouse, and Black Swamp Players. Just last year, Willard received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ohio Community Theater Association.

He was also a member of the Archaeological Institute of America, and sat on the board of Wood County Committee on Aging. He and his dry wit will be missed.



## Norway's Syttende Mai

**Syttende Mai (or 17 May) is Norway's National Day** (Nasjonaldagen) or Constitution Day (Grunnlovsdagen) though the latter is less frequent. It's like our 4th of July.

This was the day the original constitution was signed in 1814 (declaring independence from **Denmark**), but full independence was not gained until the same day in 1905 when **Sweden** ceded its claim. From then on, celebration was directed toward the Royal Family of Norway, and today Syttende Mai is very much about children and is quite non-militaristic.

Across the country, cities and towns hold their own slightly different parades, but all have marching bands, traditional costumes and children, all waving the Norwegian flag as they make stops at schools, senior homes and war memorials.

In Oslo, the parade stops at the Royal Palace. In Asker, outside Oslo, the children gather outside Skaugum Estate to wave at the Crown Prince and his family. Bergen's parade includes comic troupes. In Trondheim, firefighters, sports teams, and various associations have a second parade later in the day. Kristiansand is known for its evening festivities of dancing in the streets ("Tapto") and spectacular fireworks.

Parades conclude with the stationary singing of the national anthem "Ja, vi elsker dette landet" (typically verses 1, 7 and 8), and the royal anthem "Kongesangen".



Russ girls wearing traditional costume during the children's parade in Trondheim. Wearing of traditional costume had fallen slightly out of favor but has become very popular again.

### Constitution Days next month:

Denmark on June 5.  
Sweden on June 6.

Norwegian best-selling author **Jo Nesbø** will be in Ann Arbor on May 14th at 6pm supporting his latest book, "The Thirst", at the Terrace Ballroom at The Graduate Hotel in downtown Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$30 which includes a hardcover of the book. Details [here](#). Presented by Literati Bookstore.



The graduating class from the Norwegian equivalent of high school, known as russ, has its own celebration on May 17. They have their own parade later in the day, where they drive around in a russebil (russ car), then they stay up all night making the rounds through the community — though police have been limiting these lately.

Everyone is out celebrating, eating cream and hot dogs, and lately kabobs too. Foreigners are welcome to join in, as the parades are focused on the children of each school, so all parents and family are welcome. Foreign flags, however, have raised some issues lately — initially banned, many are now allowed. So the face of National Day in Norway is changing somewhat, but is still focused on the children which are the future of Norway.

Syttende Mai is also celebrated all around the world, from Scotland and Ireland, to places all throughout the USA where lutefisk, rutabaga, meatballs, cranberries, and lefse are all heralded. Festivals take place in much of the upper midwest in and around Wisconsin, but are as wide ranging as Brooklyn, NY, and Petersburg, Alaska. All celebrate their Norwegian roots on May 17th.

—from Wikipedia

losers in the transition, including those set to lose their jobs as fossil fuels are displaced. Other potential obstacles to be overcome are a lack of understanding among some citizens about energy and climate topics, and the impact of outsourcing of embodied carbon emissions to overseas manufacturing.

—Benjamin K. Sovacool, University of Sussex, England. ScienceDaily, 27 January, 2017.

## Nordic Energy Transition

—from University of Sussex, via [Science Daily](#)

What can we learn from the Nordic low-carbon energy transition, considering the new US leadership vacuum on climate change? A new study offers some important lessons.

National and local planners looking to bring about energy transitions can no longer look to America as the standard given its recent policy changes. The five Nordic countries could hold answers for how to make the transition to a more efficient society, generating energy through renewables. About 83% of electricity generated in Nordic countries is low-carbon, of which 63% comes entirely from renewable sources. The Nordic countries are also facilitating other low-carbon transitions across other sectors including heat, buildings, industry, and transport.

The total estimated cost of the Nordic energy transition is roughly \$357 billion more than business as usual, which comes to a total of less than 1 percent of cumulative GDP between now and 2050. But almost all of these costs will be offset by future fuel savings, and savings in health impacts of air pollution alone in the Nordic countries makes it worthwhile.

Trade and interconnection with Europe are instrumental. Nordic electricity trade must expand considerably, underscoring the need for

paralleled, coordinated grid development and interconnections with surrounding countries.

Cities and municipalities will need to invest in new buildings, sponsor retrofits, erect electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and optimize heat networks, given that urbanization across the Nordic region are expected to be double previous decades.

Across Generations: The transition will take at least three to four more decades, even for the Nordic countries which are relatively wealthy, small, and committed. Its success rests upon a number of compelling technological contingencies or breakthroughs, each of which will take time. A few such breakthroughs include continued phase out of nuclear power; while increasing wind and bioenergy production, use of electric vehicles, and the commercialization of industrial scale carbon capture and storage, as well as a host of improvements in industrial manufacturing.

For all of its promise, the Nordic transition is contingent upon, and unique to, its own socio-technical environment. All the Nordic countries are endowed with plentiful fossil fuels that they can export to generate revenue that they then can funnel back into domestic decarbonization process.

While the Nordic low-carbon transition has generally been successful and has benefited most within its society, the study also identifies