



THE  
SCANDINAVIAN  
CLUB of TOLEDO

OLAV GJESDAL, founder

MAY, 2012

ERIC SLAWSON, editor

*Our Meeting for May will be held at  
Belmont Country Club  
on Friday evening, May 25, at 6 p.m.*

**Menu** :: We will meet our hosts **Jan and Lee Odegaard** in the Living Room of Belmont at 6:00 pm for hors d'oeuvres of wine and cheese. After which, we will adjourn to our own dining room for a dinner of salad, chicken, and coffee or tea with dessert.

**Program** :: Our Hosts will likely discuss their recent trip to **Croatia**, since it was such an "eye-opener" for them.

**Location** :: **Belmont Country Club** is located in a pleasant suburb of Rossford. **Directions:** From Interstate 75, take exit 197 at Buck Rd. Turn west onto Buck Rd. Go straight at stop sign and then turn left at dead-end onto Bates Rd. Entrance to Belmont Country Club is on the right about 1/3 mile. Take this winding neighborhood street back to the Club entrance.

**Reservations** :: Reservations due by Wed., May 23rd. Please Phone or Email Kris Johnson with your name and number attending at 419-836-7637 or [cjohnson143@woh.rr.com](mailto:cjohnson143@woh.rr.com) by Wednesday, May 23rd. Price is Thirty (30) dollars, which includes tax and tip.

## Syttende Mai

In the early 19th century, Napoleon Buonaparte controlled a great deal of Europe. Most major powers had done battle with him and lost. But as the Napoleonic Wars came to a close, **Denmark** was caught on the wrong side, after siding with France, and was forced to give up their control of **Norway**.

**Norway had been absorbed into a union with Denmark** more than four centuries before. But after the treaty that ended the Napoleonic Wars was signed in April of 1814, **Norway was put under Swedish control** (as Sweden was one of the countries in the alliance against France). Norwegians resisted this and adopted a Constitution, which was signed on **May 17, 1814**. Sweden then invaded Norway to retain control, but the two, stalemated, agreed that Norway would keep its liberal constitution and institutions in return for accepting the union under the Swedish king.

**Syttende Mai**, which simply means the Seventeenth of May, is **Norway's National Day**, a national holiday in our time. But Norwegians were not allowed to openly celebrate it (as they were still under the Swedish rule) until 1865, when unrest was no longer put down.

Dissolution of the union between Norway and Sweden did not come until 1905, when, by referendum, the people of Norway decided that they wanted a constitutional monarchy over a republic, and so Prince Carl of Denmark was elected King of Norway. But Norway's liberal constitution remained and is now the oldest in Europe.

Syttende Mai is still a favorite national holiday of Norwegians and is celebrated each year with Norwegian flags, children's parades, happy graduating teenagers, and sometimes lutefisk.

—from variety of Wikipedia entries.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"Hurra for syttende mai!" The writers of the Norwegian constitution who gathered in Eidsvold in May of 1814 were courageous and independent, with a drive for self-determination. The seventeenth of May is the Norwegian national day, a day of celebration. There is much to celebrate: Norway has been a democratic monarchy for almost 200 years. This is a day of parades through the streets of cities and towns across Norway, as well in several places in the U.S. Norwegians and those of Norwegian heritage also celebrate "Syttende Mai" with picnics and family get-togethers.

I was reading a few back-issues of the Sons of Norway's Viking magazine the other day, and noticed on the back of one of them an address label showing the subscription of Olav G. Dahl, 2572 108th St., Toledo. Many of us knew him as Olav Gjesdal, but his work in the glass industry of Toledo led him to simplify his surname. A proud Norwegian with a thick accent, he was a long-standing president of the Scandinavian Club of Toledo. Olav and his lovely wife Janet often invited fellow Scandinavians to their home in Toledo's Point Place neighborhood for summer picnics and evening club gatherings.

Our Scandinavian Club of Toledo still gathers monthly, next month for a Midsummer picnic, and this month for an evening dinner meeting. Norwegians, Lee and Jan Odegaard have invited us to come to the beautiful Belmont Country Club on Friday, May 25th. We will join them in the clubhouse Living Room at six o'clock, as their guests, for a beverage and hors d'oeuvres. At six-thirty, we will adjourn to our meeting-room for dinner and the program. The Odegards are great travelers, and will treat us to a vicarious trip to Croatia. Please give Kris Johnson, one of our Norwegian-Swedes, your reservation to this fourth-Friday travelogue meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

"Hilsen,"

Eva Kristina Slawson



**SWEDEN** — **Crown Princess Victoria and Crown Prince Daniel** are the proud parents of a baby girl born Thursday, February 23, 2012, at Karolinska Sjukhuset in Solna, a suburb of Stockholm. The baby's name is **Estelle Silvia Ewa Mary**. She has not been given a last name. The little princess is the second in line to the throne, after her mother, Crown Princess Victoria. It was announced by **King Carl XVI Gustaf** that she will also be known as the **Duchess of Östergötland**, a province in southeastern Sweden. The family makes their home at Haga Palace, Stockholm.

## Scandinavian Club Contacts

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