



Club Elections & “Vikings!”

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy Spring. I feel that I can now say that after looking in my backyard and seeing all the bright blooms. Tulips, and daffodils, and waiting for the rose blooms about the first week of June. I hope everyone had a chance to celebrate Walpurgis Night, although I doubt many of us do. I have seen several photos from Sweden of the bonfires and think that perhaps that would be a good way to enter the warmer months. May be next year. The club had a very good meeting at the Way Library and watched the Making of The Viking Sword, courtesy of Eric Slawson. It was the perfect fika meeting with snacks and the ever present coffee. I hope to be able to report back to the club about the sword as I visit the Exhibit in Chicago this week and can share it with the members at Belmont Country Club on May 17. For those members who are interested, today's New York Times says the movie version of *The Hundred Year Old Man* will be released to theaters in the US this week. I, for one, am looking forward to it, especially to see who plays the elephant. Sorry that this column is so short, but I have to pack for Chicago.

Tack så mycket,

John

Next Month's Meeting:

*MidsommarFest at Eva's House,
on Sunday, June 21st at 1pm.*



In Memoriam

• Long-time Club member, **Barbara Duncan**, died last month, a few days after taking a fall. She was 80. Barb was preceded in death by her husband, Dale, whom she married in 1955.

They have two children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. She was an RN at Toledo Hospital for many years, and was very active at First Unitarian Church of Toledo. Our condolences go out to her family.



In Memoriam

• Long-time Club member, **Wayne Johnson**, died unexpectedly but peacefully in his sleep on May 1st. He was 77. For our Club, Wayne had been co-vice president (with his wife, Marie) and a member-at-large. He belonged to many organizations through the years, and for a time was Director of the MBA program at BGSU. He and Marie were married in

1962, and have two children, and one grandchild. He was very active at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in BG, where a service was held on May 6, 11am. Our condolences to Marie and their family.

*Our May Meeting will be at
Belmont Country Club
on Sunday, May 17th, at Noon.*

Elections :: May is Election Season in our Scandinavian Club of Toledo. The Nominating Committee will present its slate of candidates for approval by attending club members.

Program :: President **John Jacobson** will present his impressions of the special exhibit "**Vikings!**" that he went to see at Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History recently.

Reservations :: Advanced Reservations are required this month. 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.

Reservations are due by Friday, May 15th, Noon. Current Scand Club members may pay Kris in person at the door. Others, please use the reservation form (or equivalent) mailed in advance with your check. See Reservation Form for details. Cost is \$17 for Scand Club Members, or \$20 for guests or non-members, all of which includes tax and tip.

Menu :: We're having a spring-time cookout: Grilled Hamburgers and Bratwursts, with all the fixin's, are on the menu.

Location :: **Belmont Country Club**, is located in Rossford, south of downtown Rossford, not far from East River Rd. We'll dine downstairs off the Putting Green, then move to a private room for our Elections and Program.

DIRECTIONS: Take I-75 to the Buck Rd. exit (between Toledo and Perrysburg). Exit 75 at Buck Rd., turning West toward McDonalds. At the stop sign, go straight past McD's. At the bottom of the hill, turn Left onto Bates Rd. Cross the creek again and go up the hill, then begin to look for the entrance on your right. Turn Right onto Carnoustie Rd., which will be marked with a small stone sign for Belmont Country Club. Follow this winding street all the way back to the club's parking lot, or pull up to the covered entrance for drop off. Valet parking will likely be available. [This map](#) shows where to turn in; the club is actually between all of the small lakes.

RESERVATION FOR MAY

Name(s): _____

Number of **Current Members**: ____ @ \$17 each = \$ _____

Number of **Guests or Non-Members**: ____ @ \$20 each = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Please make check payable to:
SCANDINAVIAN CLUB OF TOLEDO and mail to:

**KRIS JOHNSON, PO Box 355,
WILLISTON, OH 43468**

Reservations due Friday, May 15th, Noon.
Current Members may email reservations to
cjohnson143@woh.rr.com

Club Contacts

John L Jacobson, President

Lois Staber, Vice President

Kris Johnson, Treasurer

Katherine Thompson, Secretary

Members at Large:

Jan Wahl, Ruth Alteneder, and Judy

Jokinen Nickoloff.

scandinavian-club@hotmail.com

Syttende Mai — 17 May

Norway's Constitution Day

TWO CENTURIES ago, two rounds of Napoleonic Wars turned Europe upside-down. Denmark-Norway and Sweden had both been neutral through most of it. But Denmark was pushed to side with France, seeing an opportunity to regain territories it had lost to Sweden decades before. In the end though, Denmark, was on the losing side, and thus lost Norway to Sweden. In 1814, on 17 May, a Constitution was signed declaring independence from their new overlord, Sweden, but celebrations were banned or discouraged for many years, slowly growing, until the King of Sweden formally dissolved the union in 1905. Less than a month later, Prince Carl of Denmark was named King of Norway, and much celebrating was to be had. —wikipedia.org



Nokia Merger

Finnish firm Nokia will buy its smaller French rival Alcatel-Lucent, and will become the world's second-largest telecom equipment maker, with a 35% global market share, behind Sweden's Ericsson, which has 40%. —Reuters

Cuban Crocs

STOCKHOLM — The Skansen Aquarium and Zoo is giving ten baby Crocodiles to Cuba. Their parents originally came from Cuba, by way of Moscow and a Russian Cosmonaut in the '70s, then to Sweden in the early '80s. They are a rare, endangered variety, and the meter-long youngsters will be used to boost the breed, which are threatened by inbreeding with American Crocs. —www.nytimes.com



THE FINNISH NATIONAL ANTHEM

Above is **Eero Järnefelt's** sketch for a fresco in the Helsinki University great hall, painted in 1919 and owned by the Gyllenberg Foundation. The painting shows the celebrations in Gumtäkt on May 13, 1848. The original fresco was destroyed in a bombing raid in 1944, but several sketches remain.

The Finnish national anthem, with words by Johan Ludvig Runeberg and music by Fredrik Pacius, was first performed in 1848 by students celebrating Flora Day (May 13) in a meadow belonging to Kumtåhti Manor in Helsinki.

J.L. Runeberg, headmaster of Borgå Lyceum in Porvoo, had written the original text in Swedish, called "Vårt land" (Our Land), two years earlier. (and published as the prologue to Runeberg's *Fänrik Ståls sägner* (The Tales of Ensign Stål), a collection of 35 heroic ballads set in the days of the War of Finland in 1808-09. As a result of this war, Sweden ceded Finland to Russia in the 1809 Treaty of Hamina.

Runeberg's aim was to stir Finnish patriotic feeling with his epic. He is said to have been inspired to write "Vårt land" by Mihaly Vörösmarty's "Szózat," the Hungarian national anthem published in 1836. Until well into the 20th century, Finns responded strongly to the idealistic and political idealism of *Fänrik Ståls sägner* and "Vårt land." Runeberg was promptly elevated to the status of national poet.

Runeberg was a conservative and moderate nationalist, and loyal to the powers that be. The main concern of the authorities was to prevent the emergence of radical ideas; the revolutionary spirit of the Marseillaise was finding some support

in Finland at the time. "Vårt land" helped appease the patriotic yearnings of the students, and the bloodshed seen in other parts of Europe was averted in Finland.

Several composers had already attempted to set Runeberg's lofty poem to music before Fredrik Pacius, a German-born composer and music lecturer at the University of Helsinki, but his was the first version to gain widespread popularity. The composer himself conducted the university choir in a slow, majestic first performance, *andante maestoso*, which moved the crowd to tears. Pacius's tune was later also adopted for "Mu isamaa" (My Country), the Estonian national anthem from 1918 to 1940 and again since 1990.

Historians like to say that Finland was born on Flora Day, May 13, 1848. Fredrik Cygnaeus, chairman of the student body, made the main speech at the celebration, concluding with the toast "To Finland." The student body had a flag, representing a laurel-crowned lion on a white field, made specially for the celebration; this can be said to have been the first Finnish flag. At the end the audience, several hundred strong, jubilantly joined in with "Vårt land." For the first time, the idea of a distinct Finnish national identity had been put forward.

"Vårt land" rapidly won general acceptance as an expression of patriotic sentiment, especially after Paavo Cajander published his polished Finnish translation ("Maamme") towards the end of the 19th century.

Click to Listen: [The Finnish national anthem](#) "Maamme" performed by The Polytech Choir.

—from www.finland.fi