



THE
SCANDINAVIAN
CLUB of TOLEDO



OLAV GJESDAHL, founder

SEPTEMBER, 2014

ERIC SLAWSON, editor

Majestic Norway

*Our September meeting
will be held at
Pam's Corner
on Friday, Sept. 19th, at 6 PM.*

Program :: We're kicking off our new year with trip to **Norway**. Come along as we sail up the beautiful fjord-filled coast with our travelling friends, **Jan and Gary Samples** (pictured above), as they share a portion of their recent trip through Scandinavia.

Menu :: We'll be eating family style this month, with bowls full of Betty's salad, Chicken Marsala, Red Skin Potatoes, and Green Beans, with assorted cookies and brownies for dessert, and coffee, tea or lemonade.

Reservations :: Please contact our treasurer, Kris Johnson, at kris.johnson@ecunet.org or at 419-836-7637. Let Kris know your name and how many of you will be attending, so that she can inform the restaurant of our number. **Reservations due by Noon, Wednesday, Sept. 17th.** Cost is \$16.00 per person, tax and tip included.

Location :: **Pam's Corner**, at 116 10th Street, Toledo, Ohio. 419-243-2081.

DIRECTIONS: From West Toledo, take I-475 east to I-75 south. Exit at the main downtown exit (202A), which puts you onto Indiana Ave. Curve left, at stoplight, onto 11th St. Go one block, and turn right onto Monroe St. Go one block, and turn left onto 10th St. Turn right into parking lot before the orange brick building next door. The restaurant's parking lot is right outside what looks like the back door of a building the next street over. This white building is Pam's Corner, and makes it easy to park and walk right in. From the south, take I-75 north to the main downtown exit (201B). At the stoplight, curve left onto Erie St. Turn left onto Monroe St., and right onto 10th St. Parking lot on right.

Club News

• At our May meeting, last spring, Eva Slawson retired as President after seven terms, and so we elected a new President of our Scandinavian Club of Toledo. We are pleased to have **John L. Jacobson** as our new leader. Many of you know John, as he has been with us at many occasions this last year. But many of our older members who have not attended recently may also remember him, as he was a member of our club way back when Olav was president. He drifted away for a while, but has returned to us, bringing us a bit of the old with a bit of the new. Welcome, John!

• Also, it's the start of a new fiscal year for our Club, as you know. Please, send your **Membership Dues** to our Treasurer at the address below.

DUES ARE DUE

Name(s): _____
Country: _____ @ \$15 per adult = \$ _____

Please make check payable to: **SCANDINAVIAN CLUB OF TOLEDO** and mail to: **KRIS JOHNSON, PO Box 355, WILLISTON, OH 43468**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is with a little trepidation that I write this first column in my new role as President of the Scandinavia Club of Toledo. I feel as if I am taking over a family business from the capable hands of the Slawson family. I grew up in a city which had a very high Scandinavian population and, growing up, was always told about and reminded of my heritage by my father, whose parents had come to Youngstown in a round about way from Sweden. My grandmother, who was still alive until I was 10 years old, would be at family gatherings and spoke almost no English, giving me one of my first contacts with what I consider to be a lilting dialect, but whose words I could not understand. We had Midsommar Fest parties at the VASA Lodge, and Christmas never occurred without Lucia and her crown of candles.

I have been reminded that this is the dues paying time of year, and we would certainly appreciate it if those of you, and I hope its all of you who read this attempt at a column, would re-up as members and help me out in my first term as President of the organization. The next meeting of the Club will be Friday, September 19, and, unfortunately due to scheduling, my wife, Carol and I will be in Stratford, Ontario, at the Shakespeare Festival. Hamlet, the melancholy Dane, is not there this year, so I can't use that as an excuse for nonattendance.

I would, however, hope that I can get good participation in helping me with suggestions, both for sites to hold meetings as well as topics to be presented.

This September meeting will be held on the 19th at Pam's Corner, 116 10th St., the meeting will begin at 6:00 and dinner will be Chicken Marsala, red skin potatoes, green beans, Betty's salad and cookies and brownies for dessert.

In future issues I would like to discuss the success or failure of Welcome to Sweden which has been playing on NBC this summer. I have my opinion, and I'm certain that those of you who have seen the show have yours.

Tak så mycket

John L. Jacobson

Club Board 2014-2015

scandinavian-club@hotmail.com

President: John L. Jacobson

Vice President: Lois Staber

Treasurer: Kris Johnson

Secretary: Katherine Thompson

Members at Large: (still to be chosen)



In Memoriam

Long-time Club member **Raleigh Ashbrook Slawson** died on Sunday, August 31, 2014, after a day of happy visiting with his children. He was two weeks away from his 100th birthday.

He was preceded in death by all of his siblings and their spouses, and his loving wife of 58 years, Ingrid Johansson Slawson, who was president of our club for more than ten years.

Surviving are their loving children, Eva Slawson (partner Bettye Jo) (Toledo), Kent Slawson (Dayton, TN), Geoff Slawson (wife Marna) (Homewood, IL), Jon Slawson (Toledo), and Eric Slawson (Northwood), along with grandson Matthew McCormick.

The first-born of Clara (Lowry) and Mervin Slawson, Raleigh experienced a

great deal of change in the century that he lived. His formative boyhood years in Dayton, TN, saw the "Scopes Monkey Trial" that put the teaching of evolution on the defense, when he was ten. He planted trees for the Civilian Conservation Corps. in BG for a summer in his teens. The rest of his teens and twenties saw the decade of the Great Depression of the 1930s. He enlisted in the US Navy at the beginning of World War Two, serving as a Radioman (the I.T. guy of his day) aboard a PBM Mariner flying boat with VP-201 that helped find German submarines in the Atlantic, and then did air-sea rescue of downed pilots in the Pacific.

After the war, through mutual friends at BGSU, he met the future love of his life, Ingrid, a Swedish student nearing the end of her one-year scholarship. Their intellects meshed easily, and they corresponded for a year and a half while she pursued her journalism career back home in Sweden, until he convinced her to come back from Sweden to marry him. "He was a very good letter writer!" she said. They were married in 1951 at the First Unitarian Church of Toledo (then at Collingwood and Bancroft in Toledo, OH), where they both remained very active. They were happily married until her death from cancer four years ago.

Raleigh worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad for many years, retired, then worked at UT's Tech-Media until he retired from there at 70. Still with plenty of life left in him, he took up work as a

security guard, until he retired from that, too.

He had many interests, dabbling in Ham Radio, and serving as a Boy Scout Troop Leader and as Troop Commissioner for a time. He was an avid reader with a life-long love of the written word, and collected thousands of books of all types and genres. Science, math, history, literature, geography, archaeology and nature all fascinated him.

He and Ingrid were also very early members of the Scandinavian Club of Toledo, in which the family remains very active.

They both enjoyed travel to Europe, Hawaii and Alaska, and were able to take each of their children to Sweden to meet Ingrid's family there, as he remained in exceptional health for his years.

The last few years were harder, though, as his strength declined in small steps. But he was steadfast through it all, and remained intelligent and witty to the end.

His influence is felt. He will be deeply missed.

Raleigh's Memorial Service will be at 3 PM on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014, at the First Unitarian Church of Toledo, 3205 Glendale Ave, Toledo, Ohio 46314. Immediately following will be his 100th birthday party. Please come and celebrate his long life with us, as we will be telling stories and enjoying all of the foods he loved.

Donations can be made to the First Unitarian Church of Toledo.

Engagement

The **Swedish Royal Court** has announced the engagement of **Prince Carl Philip** to **Sofia Hellqvist**, a former model and reality TV participant, to take place next year. The 35-year-old prince is the second oldest child of **King Carl XVI Gustaf** and **Queen Silvia**, and is third in line to the throne.

—from The Toledo Blade, June 30, 2014.
contributed by Willard Misfeldt

Ragnar Kjartansson: The Visitors

at the Institute of Contemporary Art / Boston, until Nov. 2, 2014.

"A Generational Masterpiece" —Boston Globe

A celebration of creativity, community, and friendship, "The Visitors" (2012) documents a 64-minute durational performance Kjartansson staged with some of his closest friends at the romantically dilapidated Rokeby Farm in upstate New York. Each of the nine channels shows a musician or group of musicians, including some of **Iceland's** most renowned as well as members of the family that owns Rokeby Farm, performing in a separate space in the storied house and grounds; each wears headphones to hear the others. As the music begins and repeats, individual players stop, start, and move between rooms. Viewed together, the individual videos present an ensemble performance Kjartansson calls a "feminine nihilistic gospel song." The piece itself sets lyrics from a poem by artist Ásdís Sif Gunnarsdóttir, Ragnar's ex-wife, to a musical arrangement by Kjartansson and Icelandic musician Davíð Þór Jónsson. The title, *The Visitors*, comes from a 1981 album from Swedish pop band ABBA, meant to be its last.

MORE: icaboston.org



Iceland Erupts, Again

Nature Active in Iceland

FIRE & ICE: A lava field of magma along a one kilometer fissure in the Bardarbunga volcano system, north of the Vatnajökull glacier, glows orange as molten rock squirts into the air, causing large blooms of steam clouds to drift off in the wind. The threat of new volcanic activity caused airline flights to be diverted. But the molten rock turned to the northeast, digging a long channel which surfaced near the toe of Dyngjufjökull glacier, in the 200-year-old Holuhraun lava field, between Bardarbunga volcano and Askja volcano. Lava is emerging at 3,500 cubic feet per second, and now covers nearly 3 square miles, said the Icelandic Met Office. It has a smooth, ropy surface, known as *pahoehoe*. Scientist believe that the fiery Holuhraun eruption may soon tunnel under the nearby glacier. If the spouting lava migrates south into the rift valley, the melting could unleash a mighty flood called a *jökulhlaup*, causing the first ash clouds.

WIND & RAIN: And from the south, the post-tropical remnants of Hurricane Cristobal, which took five lives in the Caribbean, took dead aim on Iceland as only an "extra-tropical cyclone", which still packed high winds and heavy rain. Since 1960, only two former tropical cyclones have taken a path close to Reykjavik.

MORE: www.independent.co.uk and <http://en.vedur.is>
and www.cbsnews.com/news/iceland-volcano-sparks-new-flooding-threat/