



THE
SCANDINAVIAN
CLUB of TOLEDO

OLAV GJESDAHL, founder

SEPTEMBER, 2015

ERIC SLAWSON, editor

Scandinavian Surprises in Iowa...

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Here it is already September and back to working on a schedule for the members which hopefully will stimulate your interest in the upcoming dark and colder months. We are working on the program for September and hopefully will have something definite in the next week. For myself I have begun reading the most recent adventure of Lisbeth Salander, the famous Girl With The Dragon Tattoo, "The Girl In The Spiders' Web". So my Swedish interests are captured, at least temporarily. I also managed to see The Hundred Year Old Man, which was funny, but not really as funny as the book. If any members would like to see the film, I made a copy which is very good. We should all start preparing for the release of member Jan Wahl's newest book about the giraffe given to the King of France. The release will be at the Toledo Museum of Art on October 11, with a parade of children in the Museum followed by a reading by Jan and signings. A nice turnout by the membership would be good support for Jan's artistic efforts. Today Carol and I are getting prepared to head to Stratford, Ontario, for a few days of theater, food and a little golf. See you all at the next meeting.

John

Dues are due

Its that time of year again, when we begin our new fiscal year. And with that, we ask that you renew your membership to our Scandinavian Club of Toledo. Dues remain the same as last year, at \$15 per adult; children are free. With your membership, comes this newsletter, chock full of news from and about the five Scandinavian countries; as well as social access to a network of scandinavian-minded people with whom you may share cultural distinction, regard, and friendship. We are a non-profit, all volunteer social club, and we concentrate all of our efforts on Scandinavian culture, news, and history. We meet each month, from September through June, and we'd love to see you! Please send your dues to our treasurer today. Details are at the top of the next page.

Our September Meeting

will be held at

The 795 Diner

on Friday, September 18th, at 6:00 pm.

Program :: We return to our monthly meetings this month with a program by our own Ruth Alteneder with a program she's calling "**Scandinavian Surprises in Iowa, and Other Places.**" This will start our program, and may likely turn into an experience sharing event! You won't want to miss it.

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.

Location :: **The 795 Diner**, located in Perrysburg, is the old Honey Diner on Rt 795 that we've met at a few times before. Its under new management. We will be ordering individually off the menu.

DIRECTIONS: From I-75, exit at Rt. 795 in Perrysburg, near the Ohio Turnpike, and head East on 795 for about 2 1/2 miles. The restaurant is on the Left side of the divided highway, just after the Oregon Rd. intersection.



Scandinavian Book Club

Do you like to read? To be taken away to other places and times? So do we! Join us for our new book group, meeting bi-monthly, to discuss thought-provoking books and share insights and opinions. We meet at a wonderful used bookstore, Encore Books, at Heatherdowns and Key. Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at 7:00 pm. We'll discuss "**Out Stealing Horses**" by Per Petterson.

Proud Scandinavian Shirts

We've decided to replicate an event from the past. Several members have expressed an admiration for Judy's Scand Club t-shirt from decades past. So, we're doing it again. We're having t-shirts made with our Scandinavian Club name and viking ship logo on the front, so that we can proudly wear them around town. These will be pre-ordered, and printed locally. Details to follow, and at the next meeting. Start thinking about how many you want to buy.

On the Big Screen

By now, you've seen at least one Alicia Vikander movie in theaters this summer. Well, another Dane, Osa Massen, is featured in the 1950 film "Rocketship X-M", hosted by Jan Wahl on Sept. 27 at the Gish Theater at BGSU at 3pm. He hosts 3 others on the 13th, 20th, and on Oct. 4. Check the Gish website for details.

Upcoming Meetings

October 6, Book Club

*October 11, Sunday 2pm
at Toledo Museum of Art.*

November 20, Friday

December: Julfest

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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**

Migrants in Scandinavia

The recent fighting in the Middle East has had enormous repercussions throughout Europe, and its effects are being felt all the way through Scandinavia. The nordic proclivity to offer asylum to those in need is widespread, yet reaction to the presence of "foreigners" is growing. Many factors affect the balance: local economies, politics, migration histories, the migration policies of the European Union (to which each country has a slightly different arrangement), and growing religious tensions.

In Finland, the Prime Minister has said that he is opening his own house in central Finland to migrants, because he and his family are not currently using it. No indication on how to apply to use the house, or how many people it can hold, though — or even how long they could stay. So this seems to be mostly a gesture.

Private groups of people in Iceland are suggesting that they fly migrants directly to Iceland to avoid the treacherous conditions most endure in their travels. Individuals are offering up their own spare rooms free of charge.

Sweden has the highest number of applications from asylum seekers per capita in Europe, and is taking a lot of migrants from the crises — and has raised taxes to pay for their shelter. Over the last decade, Sweden has taken in a large number of those fleeing the conflict in Iraq. Something like one percent of Sweden's population is now made up of immigrants. Sweden Democrats (the conservatives) don't like immigrants, and one says, "There will be a split in society," complaining of too many people coming in from predominantly Muslim countries.

Denmark, on the other hand, is taking far fewer. It is lowering benefits for immigrants to discourage them from coming. Threats against Danish cartoonists and other religious tensions over the last few years have placed the Danish populous on a more conservative track of late.

The Oresund Bridge between Copenhagen and Malmö has become a hot spot for the opposite stances the two countries have taken.

Long a favorite destination for immigrants, Norway's immigrant population is already quite large consisting mostly of Pakistanis. Its current oil-driven economy, with its extremely high standard of living, can sustain them, though home-grown right-wing terrorism has made its presence know.

— PBS News Hour, 9-4-15, and NPR 9-5-15.



Oresund Bridge (Øresundsbroen in Danish, Öresundsbron in Swedish). Movement between countries in the EU is not tightly restricted as it is in much of the world; once migrants enter one EU country, movement to another, across land borders, or bridges such as this one, is relatively easy with no passport needed. This bridge and tunnel combination opened in 2000, and is the longest in Europe. It has two railway tracks beneath four road lanes, and connects Malmö, in southern Sweden, to Copenhagen, in eastern Denmark, by a five mile long bridge section, a man-made island, and then a tunnel of about two and a half miles. The tunnel, on the Danish end, was submerged to maintain free movement of shipping in the straight, and unobstructed use of nearby Copenhagen Airport. In 2009 alone, more than 35 million people crossed the Oresund Strait in either car, coach or train.

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Members at Large: Jan Wahl, Ruth Alteneider, and Judy Jokinen Nickoloff.

scandinavian-club@hotmail.com

Fish Preservation in Norway

Traditional fish preservation has been done many ways in Norway: smoking, pickling, salting, and drying. It allowed the export of an abundant natural resource, ocean fish, which served as a primary income source for centuries, and in trade, fed much of Europe.

Gravlax is made with sugar, salt, dill, lemon zest, and aquavit. Its all pressed into the fish with heavy weights, turned every day, and after three days, served with dark heavy bread.

Smoked fish, smoked with indirect heat with hickory chips for one to three hours, is served with potatoes, cucumbers, dill, and sour cream.

In the north of Norway, dried Cod is salted and hung to dry. This form can last for years (even decades!) and still be good, but it must be soaked before it is eaten.

Pickling is popular, and pickled Herring is huge. Fresh herring is put in a brine of sugar, salt, mustard seed, and dill. Enjoyed on breads and hardtack.

— Listen to an interview on the Splendid Table radio show from August 23, 2015, with Paulo....

Lake Superior Herring Caviar

This used to be fed to mink, and was used as a fertilizer. Scandinavians started buying the caviar, shipping it to Estonia or Sweden. It comes from the west end of Lake Superior, but the herring numbers there are down now, so future export is in question.

— NPR 7-29-15

Scand TV

Borgen, a Danish TV show about Danish politics. Spoken in Danish with good subtitles. Three seasons are able to be seen on Netflix. <http://artery.wbur.org/2014/12/30/top-10-tv>

Welcome to Sweden, a comedic-drama about an American man and his Swedish girlfriend, and his awkwardness in Sweden. Great vistas of Stockholm. Spoken in English and Swedish, with English subtitles; in Sweden it has English subtitles. Second season is on Hulu Plus.

School Testing

Finland has 4 percent of kids in poverty. The USA has 50% of kids in poverty. With fifteen year old kids who take a certain standardized test, that is the same across the world, the kids in poverty only do half as well on the test as the kids not in poverty. This is true in every country, across the whole world.

— Elaine Weiss on the Diane Rehm show, February 18, 2015, second hour, school testing.

Recycling in Sweden

Consumers in **Sweden** must sort their own recyclables — clear glass, brown glass, etc. — into 16 different bins that then go to the recycler. The material is used to generate energy, some of which is used to fuel cars. In the last two years, though, Sweden has run out of recycling materials and has had to buy it from other countries.

— Diane Rehm Show, 7-7-15, hour two.

From a caller in to the show from Sweden.