



THE
SCANDINAVIAN
CLUB of TOLEDO



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

OLAV GJESDAHL, founder

SEPTEMBER, 2017

ERIC SLAWSON, editor

Sharing Summer Stories

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Bravo at Franklin Park Mall
Friday, September 15th, at 6pm.

Program :: Share Your Summer Stories. This will be an informal dinner-meeting where we get reacquainted after our summer break.

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, so that we know how many to expect.

Location :: Bravo is at Franklin Park Mall, and can be seen from Sylvania Avenue. We'll have our own "room".

Menu :: We will be ordering individually off their menu.

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 on page 2.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, it's September again, and, hopefully the steamy, hot days of summer are past us. Anyway, I hope so. And, of course, it's time for the Club to get back in gear and share our summer experiences with each other. We will be doing that at Bravo at Franklin Park on Friday, September 15 at 6:00. This is scheduled to be an informal meeting to talk and renew acquaintances. I hope many of you will be able to join us. Programs have been scheduled for the remainder of the year including travel, a movie on the Finns in World War II, and, of course Julfest. Those of you who are fans of *The Girl Who.....*, also known as Lisbeth Salander, with the Dragon Tattoo, should be interested in knowing that **David Lagercrantz**, author of *The Girl In The Spider's Web*, will be in Ann Arbor on Sunday, September 24, for a reading and signing of his new book, *The Girl Who Takes An Eye For An Eye*, the next installment in the series. Again, I hope to see many of you at the meeting on September 15 and hope you are also enjoying the cooler weather as we move our way into fall.

Tack så mycket, John

Upcoming Club Meetings

We're concentrating on **Finland** for the next two months to honor that country's 100 years of independence this December. Plan now to join us at these coming events:

- **October 22nd** at 2pm. Ellen Pullins, PhD, will talk on **Finland**. Perrysburg's Way Library.
- **November 19th** at 2pm. Movie "*Mother of Mine*" about a boy sent from **Finland** to **Sweden** during WW2. Perrysburg's Way Library.
- **December 10th**: Julfest

Club Contacts

ScandClubToledo@gmail.com

President: John L. Jacobson

Vice President: Lois Staber

Treasurer: Kris Johnson

Secretary: Katherine Thompson

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

Scand Book Club

"*A Gentleman In Moscow*"
by Amor Towles.

Meet at Encore Books,
Sept. 12th at 7pm.

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**

This Day In History: 50 Years Ago



Kungsgatan in Stockholm on Dagen H, 1967

Swedish Traffic Switches Sides

You've heard of D-Day, but have you ever heard of **Dagen H**? It's **Swedish** for H Day. H stands for Högertrafikomläggningen, or the Right-Hand Traffic Diversion. Fifty years ago, on Sunday, September 3, 1967 (3.9.1967), **Sweden** changed from driving on the left-hand side of the road to driving on the right. As you might imagine, this switch was anything but easy.

The decision to move to the other side of the road was not taken lightly. In fact, the idea had repeatedly been voted down during the preceding decades. In 1955, a popular referendum showed that 83 percent of the Swedish population was opposed to the change. However, in May 1963 the Swedish Parliament voted overwhelmingly in favor of implementing the switch to right-side driving. With all of Sweden's neighboring countries driving on the right, it made sense for Sweden to do the same. Also, despite the left-hand driving rule, cars in Sweden typically had the steering wheel on the left, leading to many accidents, especially on narrow roads.

Preparing the country for the change was a costly and complicated endeavor. Traffic lights had to be reversed, road signs changed, intersections redesigned, lines on the road repainted, buses modified, and bus stops moved. A massive PR campaign was conducted to reconcile the public to the change and educate them about how it would be implemented. Dagen H even got its own logo (at top of p.1), underwear, and a song contest. The winning tune was "Håll dig till höger, Svensson" ("Keep to the right, Svensson"), by The Telestars.

Finally, everything was ready. At 4:50 a.m. on September 3, 1967, as crowds of people gathered to watch, all vehicles on the road were instructed to come to a halt. They were then directed to move carefully from the left side of the road to the right, and wait. At the stroke of 5:00, following a radio countdown, an announcement was made — "Sweden now has right-hand driving" — and traffic was allowed to resume. Time Magazine called the event "a brief but monumental traffic jam."

—more at <http://realscandinavia.com/this-day-in-history-swedish-traffic-switches-sides-september-3-1967>

Norway Goes All-Electric

How the Norwegian Government is Making Electric Vehicles Irresistible:

Norway wasn't always rich — its vast wealth today comes from decades of gas and oil production. Yet its citizens are turning their backs on fossil fuels and embracing electric cars like nowhere else. In fact, the Norwegian government is planning to end sales of gasoline and diesel vehicles by 2025.

To kickstart that goal, the government has made electrics very appealing to buyers by building charging stations around the country, and lowering much of the cost of ownership. Conventional new cars are taxed at 25% of vehicle purchase price, but electrics are exempt from this tax. They also don't have the same operating fees, with free parking in municipal spots, lower annual road-use fee, and no tolls.

All this has made Norway the world's fastest growing electric car market. Ownership is already the highest per capita in the world at more than 100,000 units. In comparison, there are only half a million in the USA; to have the same per capita, the USA would have to already have 6.25 million electrics on the road. But the USA fuel economy rule (car efficiency standards) put in by Obama, requiring 54 mpg by 2025, double the present level, was dropped in March by Trump.

There isn't the same political flip-flopping in Norway, and the government is firm in its plan to end sales of gas and diesel cars in just eight years. Members of the EU's European Environment Agency, based in Copenhagen, are dismayed that Trump wants to leave the Paris Accord.

Norway has the energy, with oil and gas production increasing, and renewable energy being 98% from hydroelectric plants. But there are critics who are unhappy about associated increased greenhouse gas production, and fossil fuel development in the arctic. Neighbor, Denmark, gets 40% of its renewable energy from wind power, and is on track to catch 50% by 2020.

There are a few models to choose from currently: VW's e-Golf and Tesla's Model X are the most popular. But Norway's Economics Minister is concerned that Norway's workforce remains competitive in the face of foreign competition. China, he sights, is investing heavily in electric cars, and across the border in southern Sweden, an electric car startup is reinventing the steering wheel to be like a game console. GM has teamed with South Korea's LG to sell an electric car as an Opel: the \$35,000 Ampera-e was launched in Norway in May, and boasts more than a 300-mile range. With gas at about seven dollars per gallon when it was launched, there was a fifteen month waiting list to get one. Coming next year are the Tesla Model 3 and the Audi e-tron quattro.

Government incentives have definitely influenced electric sales in the direction they want. In June, 42% of new car sales were electrics, with 27% being all-electric, and the remaining 15% being plug-in hybrids. But they won't last forever. Norway's Deputy Environment Minister, Lars Lunde, cautioned as long ago as 2015 that subsidies will start to phase out as about 50% electric density is reached.

—from [PBS News Hour video](#), May 29, 2017.

—also [electrek.co](#), and CBS News.