



THE  
**SCANDINAVIAN**  
CLUB of TOLEDO

OLAV GJESDAHL, founder

MAY, 2016

ERIC SLAWSON, editor

## The Sami of Lapland

*Our May Meeting will be held at  
Perrysburg's Way Public Library.  
on Sunday, May 22nd, at 2pm.*

**Menu** :: This is a pot-luck affair. Please bring a dish for the smörgåsbord. Coffee and tea will be provided.

**Program** :: **The Sami of Lapland.** Join us as we view videos about the state of the Inuit, Laplanders and Sami peoples who live in the far north, from Greenland all the way across to Norway, Sweden and Finland.

**Reservations** :: Please contact our treasurer, Kris Johnson, at [cjohnson143@woh.rr.com](mailto: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. This meeting is free, but if you don't bring a dish, you may like to contribute a little something to the "tip jar."

**Location** :: **Perrysburg's Way Public Library** is located in downtown Perrysburg at the corner of Louisiana Ave. and Indiana Ave. Park in the parking lot and take the elevator downstairs. We'll be in the large meeting room.

### Annual Elections in June

Normally we do have elections in May. But this year, the Board has decided that Elections of members to the Board of Directors of our Scandinavian Club of Toledo will be held at our Midsummer party in June. Please join us then to vote on next year's board.

### Calendar

- May Meeting, May 22nd, at 2pm, Perrysburg Way Library
- Board Meeting, June 8th, at 11am, Perrysburg Panera.
- Midsummer Party, June 18th or 25th, at Eva's house.
- Young Swedish Singers, a 34-member group of children and teenagers from Hässleholm, Skåne, Sweden, will perform a concert of gospel, hymns and Swedish folk tunes. The concert will be at Zoar Lutheran Church, in Perrysburg, on Friday, July 1, at 7:30pm.

## Smørrebrød

—noun, Danish

also Norwegian smørbrød, Swedish smörgås (or macka), and Finnish voileipä.

A combination of smør (butter) and brød (bread), together referring to an open-faced sandwich, usually of a slice of dense dark rye or sourdough rye bread (*Dan: rugbrød; Swe: rågröd*), which is buttered and topped with a variety of meats, fish, cheeses or spreads, then often decorated with appropriate herbs or vegetables on top to create a tasty and visually appealing presentation.

Common in all Nordic countries, there are many variations on the sandwich, and there are even special stores, cafés and restaurants (especially in Denmark) that specialize in them. —wikipedia

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hej everyone. Carol and I just returned from a long weekend in Toronto, and I have good news to report. We found a great Scandinavian restaurant after a search on the internet. It is called Karelia Kitchen, and it is run by a family that introduced Nordic style to Toronto in their shop, Karelia (notice a trend here?). We had lunch at Karelia Kitchen on Friday, and the menu was wonderful. It consisted, in part, of several smørrebrød, including samplers. Carol had one consisting of three open faced sandwiches with house smoked pork, house made gravlax and her favorite, Skagen toast, consisting of small shrimp, greens and creme fraiche. I had always wanted to try pytt y panna, a hash dish, which they also had on the menu, and consisted of house smoked pork, crispy potatoes and two eggs. All the food was great and this restaurant is highly recommended to those of you who consider Toronto a travel spot. On top of it all, they did have aquavit on the menu, the perfect topper to a great meal. Thanks for letting me ramble.

Tack så mycket, John

### Club Contacts

[scandinavian-club@hotmail.com](mailto:scandinavian-club@hotmail.com)

**President: John L. Jacobson**

Vice President: Lois Staber

Treasurer: Kris Johnson

Secretary: Katherine Thompson

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

### Festivals in Ohio

[A World A'Fair](#)

Dayton International Festival  
Dayton Convention Center  
May 20, 21 & 22

Contact Esther Charlton for  
more information at  
[esthersofn@aol.com](mailto:esthersofn@aol.com)

## Syttende Mai — 17 May

**Norway's Constitution Day** celebrates Norway's long road to independence — freedom from **Swedish** control, and **Norwegian** control before that. After the Napoleonic Wars, two-hundred years ago, Norway found itself on the verge of freedom from Denmark only to be handed to Sweden. In 1814, a defiant Constitution was drawn up declaring independence, but it would be another 91-odd years before the King of Sweden would formally dissolve the union in 1905, releasing Norway to run its own affairs. Ironically, within a month, Norway had named Prince Carl of Denmark as the new King of Norway. **Syttende Mai** celebrates the initial spirit of independence that was set down in writing on 17 Mai, 1814.

—wikipedia.org

## Greenland Suicides

In 1974, **Denmark** withdrew its long-time support for small towns in **Greenland**. People could stay if they wanted, but they were urged to move to larger towns, to consolidate, as there would be no more electricity, government support, or stores in those far-flung areas.

The rural people, who were mostly Inuit, were not accepted in the larger towns, and because they were bullied and otherwise not accepted, began to kill themselves. The suicides spread like a plague. Grieving publicly was not accepted either, and they had nowhere to turn for counseling and guidance.

In 1990, the first suicide hotline was founded by Atsa Schmitt and Anda Poulsen, who felt they had to do something about it. They had no training as social workers, nor as councilors, but they did the best they could, and it did help to prevent some suicides in Greenland. The

## Finland's Flora Day

Historians like to say that **Finland** was born on **Flora Day**, May 13, 1848. The land of a thousand lakes had been owned by either Sweden or Russia for centuries, but nationalist sentiments were growing, egged on by J.L. Runeberg's recent poem "Vårt Land", which had just been set to music by Fredrik Pacius. Students gathered in Helsinki, celebrating Flora Day, had brought a flag with a laurel-crowned lion on a white field, made specially for the celebration, which can be said to have been the first Finnish flag. At the end of a long speech, concluded with a toast "to Finland," the audience of several hundred jubilantly joined in with singing of "Vårt Land." For the first time, the idea of a distinct Finnish national identity had been put forward.

—www.finland.fi

hotline shut down in 2008, but in the same year the government started up a public hotline. Ms. Schmitt said people need love and acceptance from a young age or they will feel like outsiders and will tend toward suicide.

The largely Inuit culture which moved to the larger towns had none of this, and because of this, for decades, Greenland has had one of the highest suicide rates in the world. Nearly everyone in Greenland knows someone or has someone in their family that has committed suicide.

—Rebecca Hersher, reporting from Greenland for NPR's All Things Considered, 4-21-2016

—Listen to or read the whole story at: <http://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2016/04/21/474847921/the-arctic-suicides-its-not-the-dark-that-kills-you>

## Sweden and Migration

*An interview with Morgan Johansson, Sweden's Minister for Justice and Migration:*

Sweden has taken in the highest number of immigrants of any country in Europe, per capita — 160,000 last year alone, with 100,000 coming in just four months last autumn. Border controls had to be instituted to stem this unsustainable flow.

Migrants want to go to Sweden because there are already quite a large number of them there and the word has gotten out that Sweden treats immigrants very kindly with very generous welfare benefits. It is

also known to be a country with very high tolerance for individual freedoms and differences. Two-thirds who apply for asylum are accepted. But a third of the applications are denied because individuals must prove to the courts that they came from a persecuted region (a war zone or conflict zone) that has been deemed too dangerous to stay in. Most of those accepted have come from Syria, parts of Iraq, and Afghanistan.

But, in an effort to stem the tide and endure the economics of the situation, there is new legislation making its way through Swedish

## EcoDay or Organic Day

A Sunday in mid April when many **Danish** families put on their boots and go tramping around dairy farms, jumping on bails of hay and learning about cows. Its a nation-wide open house of sorts, of the farming variety — a celebration of the organic way of farming, and has almost become a national holiday of late.

Organic dairy farmers in Denmark are doing very well these days, compared to their non-organic competitors who recently have had to sell their milk at a loss. Last year, 160 farmers went bankrupt in Denmark, and this year could be worse. Converting to organic could be an answer for many of them, since the economics for organic farms has been steadily rising over the years.

The public seems to be embracing organic, and more and more families are also enjoying a good muddy romp in organic dairy land.

—NPR, All Things Considered, 4-19-2016

## June Travel

Norwegian Airlines, a small start-up international airline, has some tempting rates this June: under \$300 to Bergen and just over \$300 to Stockholm or Copenhagen. Pack your bags!

—[norwegian.com](http://norwegian.com)



Greenland Ice Flow

parliament that will cut back on benefits making it less generous to the immigrants in the future.

Labor minister Johansson said that this is a dangerous time in Europe, as they are seeing the highest migration rates in Europe since World War 2, and he warned of the dangers of groups playing against other groups. Hungary, for example, has said that it will not take any refugees or asylum seeking immigrants, claiming that Hungary is a christian nation and that it will not take any muslims.

—NPR's Here And Now, on 4-21-2016