coming soon

**May 16 noon**
Norwegian Constitution Day

**Jun 20 5pm**
Midsummer

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this month **European Fika**

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**Saturday April 18 2-4pm**
Mozart’s
4784 N. High St
Columbus, OH 43214

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**ScandiKaffe**
Thu Apr 23 @9:30am
La Chatelaine
627 High Street
Worthington

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Princess Turns One
Princess Madeleine was excited to celebrate as her daughter Princess Leonore turned one years old on February 20th.

Her mother Madeline announced in December that she will be expecting a second child in June 2015. Leonore was born in New York City. The new baby will be born in Stockholm.

The family moved back to Stockholm last summer. Leonore is fifth in line to the Swedish throne.

In other Royal News, Madeleine’s older brother Prince Carl Philip will wed Sofia Hellqvist on June 13th in Stockholm.
Happy spring, and happy belated Easter! After a long winter, it’s refreshing to enjoy the colorful daffodils and tulips popping up from the flower beds in search of a little sunshine. This weekend, 15-month old Henrik enjoyed his first Easter egg hunt. As he "captured" each egg, he was so excited with the find that it took some persuasion for him to store it in the basket while collecting more.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make our Swedish Night such a success. Our dinner committee served delicious homemade Swedish meatballs and Sunday layer cakes with fresh strawberries. In addition to serving on the dinner committee, Ruth Briland presented exciting and authentically Swedish program. We were treated to a special viewing of documentary film, "Chronicals of the Hinterland" by Ruth’s sister, Sarah Briland.

This month’s European Fika at Mozart’s will be a nice opportunity to sit back, relax, chat with fellow Scandinavians, and enjoy some delicious desserts and coffee. After some busy events, are you ready to join me for a break?

Sincerely,
Caitlin

Last Event

What a great presentation about the Briland family history along with an education experience and a chance to view the beautiful landscape of Sweden.

Easter Witches

Has anyone seen any Easter Witches this year? The tradition comes from the old belief that witches would fly to a German Mountian the Thursday before Easter and on the way back Swedes would light fires to scare them away. Today that tradition is honored by bonfires & fireworks. In Finland and Sweden the little girls dress up in old clothes and then go looking for candy by going door to door.

Beer made by Girls

When Rebecca Singerer heard that all too familiar wording again that the beer she ordered from the bar was “too dark and too strong for you & have something sweeter” she decided that it was time to do something about it. She joined a group called “FemAle” and the group is about women in Gothenburg who are of like-minded drinkers. The group founder is Elin Carlsson, she paints cars outside the city in the Volvo Factory. FemAle came up with the name for the beer of “We Can Do It” based on the iconic Rosie the Riveter from the World War II propaganda campaign of women’s power in the workplace.

“We Can Do It” is a pale ale with three malts Maris Otter, Amber and Thomas Fawcett wheat malt and Galaxy and Cascade are the hop varieties. The IBU level is 65, IBU is the measurement of bitterness level. The head brewer at Ocean says it is their hoppiest beer. Ocean Brewery is a local independent micro-brewery. The first weekend they had started with 1600 liters and it was sold out before it was almost brewed. FemAle has already been approached by other independent breweries asking if they too can collaborate.

Could Finland’s baby box help Ohio Mortality Rate?

US Senator Sherrod Brown from Cleveland has recently introduced a bill to help combat Ohio’s infant mortality rate. Ohio has just been ranked 48th in the United States for infant mortality. Should Ohio look to Finland for guidance? For 75 years, Finland’s expectant mothers have been given a box by the state. It’s like a starter kit of clothes, sheets and toys that can even be used as a bed. Some say it helped Finland achieve one of the world’s lowest infant mortality rates.
Boda Borg in Boston

This summer entrepreneur Chad Ellis is planning to open an indoor “questing” center. “Questing” is a concept from Sweden called Boda Borg, and that means blending puzzle-solving with obstacle courses. Ellis says that only one percent of visitors typically can complete Boda Borg due to the difficulty. Boda Borg started in 1995 with locations only in Sweden and Ireland. Boda Borg Boston will be the first “questing” center to open in the United States.

Each quest is designed for groups of three people or more and consists of a series of rooms. After a quest there is a box that unlocks when you have been successful. Then you can stamp your card showing that you have completed that quest. Ellis explains there are guides in the central areas to help assist you, Ellis says, “you’re on your own in each room. A guide may give you a hint, but they’re not there with you, and you’re not told the rules. You have to figure them out.”

Boda Borg is designed to appeal to families, college students, and companies holding team-building events. There are three different levels of physical difficulty to the quests, from green (easiest) to black (toughest.) Quests can involve hanging on a ledge by your fingertips, decoding symbols, escaping from a simulated prison cell, or pretending to be spiders navigating complicated webs made of rope.

Ellis runs a small publisher of board and card games called Your Move Games; he was introduced to the Boda Borg concept through the Harvard Business School alumni network. Ellis went to visit Swedish Boda Borg locations to understand the concept.

The only outside investor in Boda Borg Boston is Matt DuPlessie, the founder and chief executive of 5 Wits, an operator of “reality gaming” attractions. Ellis said 5 Wits’s themed adventures “are more like living inside a movie, and I describe Boda Borg more like playing a video game. You can die, and then have to start all over.”

A two-hour admission ticket will cost $18, and for $28 you can stay all day.

Standing outside the future location of Boda Borg is Chad Ellis (on the left) with Stefan Kemi, who operates a Boda Borg in Sweden.

Ashville Viking Festival

Relive your Scandinavian history! Go back to the 9th to 11th centuries and be part of your ancestry at the Viking Festival in Ashville. Located just 30 miles south of Columbus on the weekend of April 25th and 26th. Entertainment will include juggling, musicians, dancers and jousting. Traditional crafts will be demonstrated and sold by members. Food will also be served.

A Viking funeral to honor the passing of festival founder Ed Velletta will be held Sunday night at the close of the festival.

Visit http://www.ashvillevikingfest.com/enter.htm for more information.
board business Brief

President – The program gave an authentic perspective on a Swedish family. Ruth’s presentation made the contact accessible to non-Swedish speakers.

VP – The continuation of planning for the May Event, Norwegian Constitution Day continues. The Park of Roses Shelter house is rented from 10am to 4pm on May 16. This is a Sunday.

Dinner – The food was delicious and plentiful for Swedish Night. Most all of the leftovers were purchased by the attendees.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting will be on April 19th at the Stevenson’s house.

Summer Road Trip

Would anyone like to take a quick trip this summer to the Field Museum in Chicago to see the Viking Exhibit? Please contact me if you are interested at hollyswanson@hotmail.com