

Traditions and heritage through fellowship, educational and entertaining activities

# SCANDINAVIAN CLUB OF COLUMBUS

FEBRUARY 2018



- FEB 10 6pm Scandinavian Night @ The Blue Jackets
- FEB 22 9:30 ScandiKaffe @ La Chatelaine/Worthington
- FEB 24 5pm Nordic Fastelavn
- MAR 5 8pm ScandiDance Group Clinton Height Church
- MAR 10 Uncovering our Scandinavian Club Future
- APR 14 9:30am Breakfast at IKEA  
for the young, and young at heart!

## SISU

It's a small word with a majestic meaning. If you are Finish, or have spent any significant time in Finland, you are probably very aware of how the spirit of this word lives within the very fiber of the Finnish soul.

Sisu is the core of survival. When pushed back into a corner, or left alone without resources, it is energy of sisu that will help you back on track. It is the enigmatic strength that lives deep inside each one of us, and gives us the conviction and power to push through any hardship.

Even though the construct of sisu has its roots in Finland, it is relevant to all human beings anywhere in the world. It is a potential which we all share and

which can have a powerful impact on our daily lives. Sisu is embodied by people everywhere who defy the odds and hold on to hope when there at first seems to be none.

To describe the difference between sisu and other constructs which describes tenacity, but relate more to the duration of the task, you could say that 'sisu' begins where perseverance and grit end. It is the 'second wind' of mental toughness after the individual has reached the end of their observed mental or physical capacity.

Despite the undercurrent of harshness in sisu, it is very fitting that this beautiful mental strength originates in Finland amongst the lakes, gorgeous winters, and the Northern Lights.

## FASTELAVN Scandinavian Mardi Gras

Feb. 24 5pm  
Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
Members \$15/\$12/\$8 (\$50 family max)  
Non-members \$20/\$15/\$10

February is the time to dress up for fastelavn, whether you are 8 or 80. The Scandinavian Club carnival celebration is always full of spirit, colors, and great costumes!

There is no better way to shake the winter up a little with dressing up as your favorite character, and come watch the

children take a shot at the Fastelavn barrel. As usual, we will also have good Scandinavian food.

- Wear your costume
- Help decorate
- Smash the barrel
- Enjoy the food
- Meet with friends
- Celebrate Fastelavn





## "ALKU AINA HANKALA, LOPUSSA KIITOS SEISOO"

"The beginning is always difficult,  
in the end stands the tank."

In the final phases of World War I, Finland separated itself from Russia when the Parliament of Finland approved the declaration of independence on 6 December 1917. This made Finland an independent country, and the day is still celebrated as Finnish Independence Day. The independent Finland became a republic where laws are passed by a parliament elected by the people. The head of state is the president, instead of an emperor or king.

At the end of November in 1939, the Soviet army attacked Finland. During World War II, Finland fought two wars against the Soviet Union: first the Winter War from 1939 to 1940, followed by the Continuation War from 1941 to 1944.

The wars caused Finland to lose areas to the Soviet Union. Over 400,000 Finns left the lost areas as refugees to escape to the Finland that still remained. However, the most important thing to the Finns was that Finland maintained its independence.

After the wars, Finland transformed from an agricultural country into an industrial one. With this industrialisation, Finns could sell more and more industrial products abroad. Finland especially exported paper and other forestry products.

Many things in Finnish society changed. Plenty of people moved from the countryside to cities, and an increasing number of women began to work outside the home. The development of public services began, which led to public health care, social welfare and comprehensive school. In the 1960s, hundreds of thousands of Finns moved to Sweden as there was more work there and the pay was better.

In the 1990s, an increasing number of people began to move to Finland from other countries. Refugees arrived in Finland from many countries, along with people from the former Soviet Union who had a Finnish background. Many also moved to Finland for studies, employment or family reasons.

In 1995, Finland became a member of the European Union (EU). In 2002, Finland adopted the common EU currency, the euro, among the first EU countries, thereby relinquishing its own currency.

## SHAPING OF A NATION

Approximately 10,000 years ago, people began to move to Finland. They came from the east from current Russia and from the south through the Baltic region. The roots of the Finnish language are in Central Russia, but the language has elements of Baltic and Germanic languages, too. Swedish-speaking people have lived in Finland for over 800 years.

Finland was a part of Sweden for over 600 years from the Middle Ages until the early 19th century. During this time, Sweden and Russia fought frequently over their influence in Finland. Finally in 1809, Finland in its entirety came under Russian rule after Russia won its war against Sweden. The language, culture and economy of Finland developed greatly during the period under Russian rule. However, in the early 20th century, Russia began to restrict Finnish autonomy, which the Finns did not accept.



# SUMMER LIFE



## AH, NATURE

Finland is a country of extreme contrasts - for example, the cold and dark winters alternate with warm and light-filled summers. Both seasons come with great splendor, which may perhaps be one of the reasons why Finns have a deep-rooted appreciation for mixing hot saunas with a quick swim in the icy nearby waters.

Nature is never far away and Finns have a close connection with it. Getting away from civilization is greatly valued and walking in the woods is a simple, yet terrific way for collecting your thoughts and hearing yourself think every once in a while.



local markets and fairs is simply astounding, and the white nights make sure revelers never run out of steam.

Finland is often called "the land of the thousand lakes", but the truth is that the total count is almost 200,000, and accounts for 10% of the country landmass. It is no wonder why they are so comfortable with diving into them, summer or winter. The nature around you shapes your thoughts.

Covering almost 75% of the landmass, green forests are a great source of all kinds of treasures - with berries, mushrooms, game, fantastic scenery, and dotted with idyllic places to recharge your inner batteries. If you are lucky, you may also catch a glimpse of Mielikki, the goddess of the forest. According to folklore, she is also known as Metsä nemä , Mother of the forest. But you are more likely to observe many of the 460 kinds of birds, deer, or the occasional moose.

There are also brown bears and wolves around, but they tend to be quite shy of humans. At the very unlikely chance that you should come across a couple of dancing cubs, take a quick picture and start walking away backwards slowly while looking unafraid.

Backpacking is a great way to see Finland on a very reasonable budget, whether you select the urban route or explore the great outdoors. Where else can you pitch a tent in great natural beauty, and watch the Aurora Borealis au naturel.



## IT SHAPES YOUR THOUGHTS

At some point of the summer, escaping to the countryside is a must for every Finn. Ideally staying at a cottage by water, time there is mostly spent doing nothing save for barbecuing, the occasional dip in the lake and just general hanging about. With round-the-clock sunlight, cottage life is the best way to recharge your batteries and forget about everyday worries like schedules and appointments. Simply being is a weirdly wonderful feeling.

The Finnish summer is short, only about three months, but it is celebrated with all the more zest. The amount of events from large-scale music festivals to

# SCANDINAVIAN CLUB OF COLUMBUS

PO Box 14296 Columbus OH 43214

Postage

Name label

DIVERSITY  
MATTERS

## TAKE NOTICE



### FOR SALE

Scandinavian Folk  
Costumes Male - Swedish  
Female - Finnish

Contact **Norma Johnson**  
for questions on sizes &  
price **(614)327-7713**

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Harry & Carol Wickstrom  
3110 Evergreen Ridge Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45215  
513-918-4279

### SCANDINAVIAN FOLK DANCING

**Mon March 5 \$3/each**

**8pm** Beginner/Intermediate class

**9pm** Open dancing & requests

Clinton Heights Lutheran Church

Contact **Lea Ann/Tom (614)268-6689**

### NEW MEMBERS

**Sofia Luther (S\*)**

**Lea Ann & Tom Kangus (F)**

**Maryann Rinch**

**Suzanne Rizer & Tom Hixon**

**We welcome you to the club!**

### SCANDI-18

**Task force for guiding the  
club into the future**

- Membership
- Participation
- Events
- Activities
- Digital automation
- Other great ideas

**Look for the special mail  
invitations soon!**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's a new year and we are getting closer to a new way of looking at and operating our club. Åke Hellström has been leading the **Scandi -18 Go Futures** process and will be sharing with members on March 10th at a special get together. Look for your personal invitation.

I hope you attended and enjoyed the beautiful Julefest and Lucia on December 9th, 2017. Thanks to Ann-Louise and the many who helped with this event. Over 160 attended including many guests and 35 children 12 and under. We received many compliments and four new membership applications.

Promoting Scandinavian traditions through fellowship, educational and entertaining activities

is our Club's Mission. I am pleased that many of us have stepped up to help with tasks and some to host new and exciting 2018 events:

- **Skandikaffe** - 4th Thu/month 9:30 (Le Chatelaine /Worthington)
- **Scandidance** - Mon 8 PM (Clinton Heights Lutheran Church)
- **Scandinavian Night @ the Blue Jackets** Feb 10
- **Fastelavn** - Feb 10 (Gethsemane Lutheran Church)
- **"Uncovering our Club's Future"** Mar 10 (Holy Trinity Lutheran)  
Special invitations will be sent in by mail
- **Viking Festival** - Apr 28-29 Ashville OH
- **May** - still open
- **Midsummer** - Alum Creek Sailing Club