



# ScandiNews

Scandinavian Club of Columbus

PO BOX 14296

Columbus, Ohio 43214

December 2007

## 2007-2008 Events

LuciaFest	Dec. 15
Finnish Night	Jan. 19
Club Birthday Party	Feb. 16
Icelandic Night	Mar. 15
Danish Night	Apr. 19
Norwegian Night	May 17
Midsommar	June 21

## Celebrate Santa Lucia with the ScandiClub!



The holiday season is an exciting time of year, and the Scandinavian Club's Luciafest is a wonderful, traditional way to celebrate! This year's Lucia will be Ashley Brown, granddaughter of Bob and Mary Holm. Ashley is a junior at Worthington Kilbourne High School and the Linworth Alternative High School.

This year we will be singing carols, enjoying great food, and munching on delicious cookies. There has also been a rumor that two special guests in red suits may pay us a visit — but only if we are all very, very good!

We do not require prepayment for this dinner, however it is one of our most popular events, so it is very important to have your accurate reservation. Please be sure to let your caller know how many people will be attending. If you have not heard from your caller by 12/12, please call Grete Davidsen-Kidwell at 882-8391.

Also, don't forget to bring cookies for Lucia and the rest of the girls and boys to

pass out. And wear your National Dress if you have it — the colorful costumes add so much to the festive atmosphere!

Prices: \$10 for member adults, \$15 for guest adults, \$6 for students and guest children, and \$4 for member children. Under 4 years old are free.

**This year's dinner will start at an earlier hour**, out of respect for the bedtimes of our smallest members. Social Hour will start at 5:00pm, with dinner at 6:00pm, at the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Upper Arlington as usual.

### Santa Needs Your Help!

*If you are bringing member children under the age of 13, please let us know the child's name, age, and a gift suggestion to help out Santa! (Please provide a small, wrapped gift for guest children so they can be included.) You can give your caller this information, or call Marilyn Smith directly at 875-4566.*



## An Anniversary — 90 Years of Independent Finland



Each year on December 6, Finns, whose population numbers more than five million, proudly fly flags and light candles to celebrate their independence which began in 1917. The celebration of Finland's independence will be 90 years old this year, and the jubilee year slogan is "Me/Vi" (the Finnish and Swedish words for 'we'). Finland's independence is celebrated in a spirit of solemnity, by remembering and giving thanks for those who defended the country during the Second World War.

Although most countries' independence celebrations include a day-off for the people, to most visitors in Finland, it appears there is no sign of the sort of festivities most associate with this type of event. The streets are quiet, most restaurants and cafes are closed. As dusk falls in the afternoon, the first sign of celebration is a torch-lit procession of young people wearing the white caps that denote their student status. The students proceed solemnly from the national cemetery to Senate Square in the heart of Helsinki to listen to choral singing and public speeches.

Tourists spending time in the centre of Helsinki on December 6 may well wonder why the shops are closed and they see very few Finns on the street.



The Skandi-Kaffe Group will meet on Thursday, Dec. 20 at La Chatelaine, 627 High Street in Worthington from 9:30 am to 11:00 am. Come join us!





In every corner of the land, Finns place two lighted candles in every window of their home. This tradition dates back to the days before independence when lighted candles were placed in the windows to celebrate the birthday of the King, and later, the Tsar.

As the movement for Finnish culture and identity grew stronger in the late 19th century, the candles were lit to honor the birthday of Johan Ludvig Runeberg, the patriarch of Finnish poetry, rather than the Tsar, a proud demonstration of national identity. When Finland gained its independence, the custom of lighting candles became the symbol for Independence Day. Why two candles? One candle symbolizes home, the other, country. This silent custom, handed down from generation to generation, can best be described as Finland's greatest popular movement, having special meaning for all Finns.

There is a practical side to the quiet, dignified Finnish Independence Day celebration. December in Finland, to no one's surprise, is a cold, dark time of year. Not even the hardy Finns prefer to spend a great deal of time outside. That the Finns paid dearly for retaining their independence during the Second World War also explains the restraint and dignity shown. The Finns who gave their lives for their country are remembered on Independence Day and surviving veterans are honored.

Juxtaposed to the quiet and dignified Independence Day celebrations is the President's Independence Day reception and ball, the glamorous climax to the social year. Every year, the President invites between 1,600 and 2,000 guests including representatives of the diplomatic corps, members of Parliament, the government, top civil servants, representatives of the armed forces, the churches, the top echelons of business, deserving celebrities, artists and sporting heroes. The reception is a major television event, and watching it has become a popular Independence Day tradition.



The tradition of the Presidential reception and ball on Independence Day has spread to the local level. Similar celebrations are organized in the provincial capitals, in municipalities, in associations and in homes. Fourth-grade pupils in Helsinki comprehensive schools are given a taste of the festivities when the Mayor of Helsinki invites all 5,000 of Helsinki's ten-year-olds to an Independence Day reception at Finlandia Hall.

Press release by: Sari Cojan and Salla Korpela, May 2007  
 Edited by Karen Sobul and Tammy Carl, November 2007

Photos from: [www.finnguide.fi](http://www.finnguide.fi), [www.sauna.org](http://www.sauna.org), [www.presidentti.fi](http://www.presidentti.fi)

## Message from the Dinner Chair

The November Dinner was an organized pot-luck, but that still left a lot of work for this small Committee. Due to the Noon start of THE GAME, the dinner turned out to be a Post-Game Party at our regular meeting time, instead of a Tailgate Party like we had originally planned. Since it was a Pot-Luck Dinner, I guess that means that in some way, all of those that brought a dish were also a part of the November Dinner Committee. (Sorry folks, but that does not mean you'll be excused from your future Dinner Committee assignments, but thank-you for your participation.)

Thanks to our November helpers:

### Nov. 17, 2007 OSU Post-Game Party

Ed Kidwell & Grete Davidsen-Kidwell (Capts.)  
 Thomas & Constance Grimstad  
 Bob & Mary Holm  
 Tammy Carl

For December we can expect the largest attendance for the club year and I'm sure our Committee will be up to the challenge. **If you have not been called by the Monday before the dinner, and wish to attend, please call me (882-8391) with your reservation. Hopefully, nobody will be turned away, but there is a maximum seating capacity and I have to make sure it is not exceeded.** Thanks.

### December 15, 2007 Dinner Committee - Lucia

Marilyn Flor Smith (Co-Capt.)  
 Ann Beal (Co-Capt.)  
 Anne Anderson  
 Birgit & Frank Andersen  
 Dianne Jatko Clark  
 Andreas & Sara Garnes  
 Richard & Dolores Grulkowski  
 Åke & Ingrid Hellström  
 Paul Holmberg  
 Bill & Marlene Kinsey  
 Bruce Nordstrom  
 Stanley & Martha Nordstrom

Thanks for all your help!  
 Grete Davidsen-Kidwell  
 Dinner Chair 07-08



## Letter from the President — Bob Holm

Special thanks to all who prepared food for our delicious potluck dinner in November. Our game night was lots of fun too, especially for the large group who played "Pictionary"!

In the photo accompanying my letter, my friend Tomte was standing with me outside of a gift shop in Stockholm, when we visited there in July. He reminds me of winter and the upcoming Christmas season!

This month's meeting will be one of the highlights of the year, with our Santa Lucia celebration. I especially look forward to the procession of children in costumes, led by Lucia, who this year will be our granddaughter, Ashley Brown. As usual, the procession will end with the distribution of cookies by the youngsters.

Please do bring one or two dozen cookies, and be sure to bring your children or grandchildren! The evening will end with a visit by Santa and Mrs. Santa, with gifts for the children. Remember that if the child or children you bring are not members, you will need to bring the present for Mr. and Mrs. Santa to give.

I hope that many of you will once again wear your bunad, folk costume or Scandinavian sweater. We look forward to a festive occasion, to another excellent meal and to lots of good fellowship!

Best wishes to all for a wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely yours,  
Bob Holm, President 2007-08



## New Members

**Glenn Kranking**  
2889 Neil Ave., #412A  
Columbus, OH 43202  
614-260-9867  
kranking.1@osu.edu

**Eldon & Carolyn Peterson**  
1639 Golden Dr.  
Newark, OH 43055  
740-366-5711  
epeterso@alltel.net

**Andrew and Meghan Strader**  
5600 Hazelwood Rd.  
Columbus, OH 43229  
614-598-2190  
reykjavikingur@gmail.com

The club welcomes new members this month. Glenn is a graduate student at OSU. His grandparents came from Sweden, and Glenn has lived in Sweden several years. Eldon's grandparents were Swedish emigrants, settling in Kansas in late 1880's. Eldon grew up in Lindsborg, KS. Andrew and Meghan lived and worked in Iceland for a couple of years. They have 2 children: Ethan and Carter.

Corrections to the roster:  
Steinn Jonsson email address: [steinn\\_jonsson@yahoo.com](mailto:steinn_jonsson@yahoo.com)  
Katy Rasor email address: [nordiclass2@aol.com](mailto:nordiclass2@aol.com)  
Send Roster corrections to Carol Wickstrom 614-263-9392




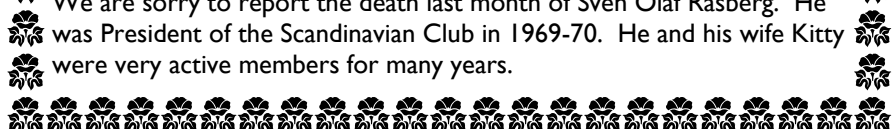
## IMPORTANT NEWS FOR SWEDISH CITIZENS!!!

If you are a Swedish citizen and residing in North America, it is important you renew your passport before the end of the year.

From January 1, 2008 the passport application procedure becomes more cumbersome with the new biometric passports and you are required to apply personally at the Swedish Embassy in Ottawa or Washington DC or at the consulate generals in Los Angeles or New York. The other consulates will no longer be issuing passports...or you can renew your passport in Sweden.

### AVAILABLE at December 15 Lucia meeting:

A limited number of calendars and notecards from the Scandinavian countries, a few Scandinavian Club knit shirts, Scandinavian candy and lingonberries.

  
**In Memoriam**  
  
 We are sorry to report the death last month of Sven Olaf Rasberg. He was President of the Scandinavian Club in 1969-70. He and his wife Kitty were very active members for many years.  
  




SCANDINAVIAN CLUB  
OF COLUMBUS

PO Box 14296  
Columbus, OH 43214

## 2007-2008 Board

### President

Bob Holm  
841-3514

### Vice-President

Caitlin Killka  
248-770-3735

### Treasurer

Ed Kidwell  
882-8391

### Secretary

Vacant

### Calling Chair

Randy Carlson  
885-2421

### Dinner Chair

Grete Davidsen-Kidwell  
882-8391

### Membership

Carol Wickstrom  
263-9392

### Property Chair

Arvo Pikkarainen  
740-964-3581

### ScandiNews

Tammy Carl  
459-2226

## Scandinavian Club Board Minutes From November

Date: Sun. Nov. 18, 2007. Home of Arvo Pikkarainen

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Holm, Arvo Pikkarainen, Randy Carlson, Ed Kidwell, Grete Davidsen Kidwell, Carol Wickstrom Caitlin Killka and Katy Rasor.

President Bob Holm called the meeting to order. The minutes of Oct. 20 were approved. He showed the Board the International Festival certificate of Overall Honorable Mention.

### REPORTS

Treasurer Ed Kidwell gave a report on expenses and income of the International Festival. The club realized a profit of \$1195.73. Total balance of the treasury is \$13,090.47.

A brief discussion of the November meetings i.e. attendance, theme, and expense was held.

**MEMBERSHIP:** The club welcomes Glenn Kranking whose grandparents came from Sweden. Glenn lived in Sweden for several years. The club also welcomes Eldon and Carolyn Peterson. Eldon's grandparents were Swedish emigrants who came to KS. He grew up in a small Swedish settlement (Lindsborg) KS. Two additional new members are Andrew and Meghan Strader. Andrew became interested in Iceland and its language. He worked and lived in Reykjavik for a year. Meghan moved to Reykjavik as well and she and Andrew married.

**PROGRAM:** The Lucia program was discussed in detail. It was decided to provide a baby sitter for the children again this year. Each member in attendance will bring one dozen cookies to contribute to the cookies the children distribute as the dessert for the evening. The Board discussed the program for the coming year.

**DINNER COMMITTEE:** Grete said she thought the members in attendance experienced a relaxing enjoyable evening. The food was delicious. The people playing Pictionary appeared to be having a great deal of fun. It was suggested to provide three coffee pots for the Dec. Meeting. The time for the December meeting has been changed to 5:00 pm for appetizers and 6:00 pm for dinner, because of the many young children who will be attending.

**CALLING COMMITTEE:** Slight mix-up in the calling procedure. The Board asked Randy to have callers tell their people to bring one dozen cookies to the dinner.

**PROPERTY:** Discussion regarding additional music amplification for Lucia. Arvo will deliver Christmas tree and ornaments.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Deposits and reservations have been made for Midsommar at Highbanks and for the Sept. Breakfast at Antrim.

**SECRETARY:** Sympathy cards have been sent to the families of Sven Fougner and Sven-Olof Rasberg. Ollie was President of The Scandinavian Club of Columbus 1969-70.

The next board meeting will be at Grete and Ed Kidwell's home at 7:00 p.m. on December 16, 2007.

Thanks to new member  
Glenn Kranking for the  
great International  
Festival pictures!

