



ScandiNews

Scandinavian Club of Columbus

PO BOX 14296

Columbus, Ohio 43214

March 2007

2006-2007 Events

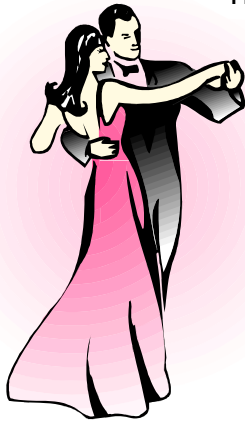
Finnish Night	Mar. 17
Danish Night	Apr. 21
Norwegian Night	May 19
Midsommar	June 16

The Club is now seeking new Board Members — please see page 4 for details!

The Skandi-Kaffe Group will meet on Thursday, March 22 at La Chatelaine, 627 High Street in Worthington from 9:30 am to 11:00 am. Come join us!



A Journey of Tango from Buenos Aires to Finland



The Scandinavian Club's own Arvo Pikkarainen brings us a unique program for Finnish Night on March 17th. "A Journey of Tango from Buenos Aires to Finland" is a study of the history of tango as music, dance and lyrics.

Our journey will start on the streets of Buenos Aires, the birthplace of tango. We will follow tango steps through the history and end up in Seinajoki, Finland: a destination of the largest annual Tango Festival in the world.

If you like ballroom dance, this high-powered multimedia presentation will lead you to the fascinating world of tango, filled with brilliant artistry in music, dance and song.

The evening's social hour starts at 6:00 with dinner to follow at 7:00. The Journey of Tango begins at 8:00. Cost is \$10 for member adults, \$15 for guest adults, \$6 students and guest children, and \$4 member children ages 6-16. Under 5 years old are free.

Letter from the President — Bob Holm

As we anticipate celebrating Finnish Night on March 17, I am reminded of our visit in 2005 to the Finnish Church in Stockholm. Note in the photo the sign in Swedish and Finnish (Finska Kyrkan and Suomalainen Kirkko). My 11th great-grandfather, Ericus Mattiae Hwitt, who died in 1591, served as pastor of this church. He is one of 18 of my Swedish ancestors who served as pastors.

Our program for Finnish night certainly has no origins in the Finnish Church. The program presented by our member Arvo Pikkarainen is "A Journey of Tango from Buenos Aires to Finland." Sounds fascinating!

Thanks to all who made the February 70th birthday dinner and auction such a success and

so much fun, including all who brought items to sell, and all who participated in the spirited bidding. Terry Carlson was superb as our auctioneer, and was ably helped by Norma and Ron Johnson, Sharon Carlson, Harry Wickstrom and Ed Kidwell. A total of \$626 was raised for the club by the auction.

Thanks too to the dinner committee headed by Carl and Linda Eriksson and co-captains Dale and Gale Svensen, and to our Dinner Chair for the year, Grete Davidsen-Kidwell. And special thanks for the photo birthday cakes and to Carol Wickstrom for her historical comments about the photos.

Mary and I will be in Florida helping celebrate my mother's

90th birthday in March, so we will have to miss learning about the tango in Finland. We hope to hear about it at the April 21st Danish night dinner. Have a great time!

Sincerely yours,

Bob Holm
President 2006-07



Greetings from Finland! From Aira Kekäle and Allan Reid

A mile is only as long as the company you keep, or is that a kilometer (Km)? Aira Kekäle and Allan Reid are submitting this "life update" to our friends at the Scandinavian Club. Six months ago we did the unthinkable and sold our stake in wonderful coastal South Carolina and moved back to Finland for a while. We live in rural Finland, about 400Kms NE of Helsinki, which on a world map means we are half way up Lake Logoda, and most importantly, 30Kms West... yes, I know Lake Logoda is in Russia, we drive within spitting distance of the border everyday. Before WWII Lake Logoda's western shoreline was in Finland, as was the other half of Karelia!



We bought an old country school, which we are remodeling, and shall be for the next few years. It is close to Aira's parents, round the lake and down the road a piece. Our local village is Simpele: our closest town Parikkala and our nearest big town Imatra. I want you to get out your maps and look or just go to www.google.com, type in Parikkala, Finland and click MAP, and then search.

Life is good. We are still in love and work together every day on "this old school" which will soon be a house; it's already a home to us. We love the space and antiquity. We love the view and the nearness of family. Aira had been in the States for over 20 years, and it was the right time to take a year off and live with family. Aira is the youngest and her Dad's favorite, although that is not a very Finnish thing to say.

Wish we could show up on Finnish night and give a talk about living in Europe today. I suppose the greatest thing about it is the health care safety net, which



does cover everyone. Most retired Federal, State or Gov. employees do not appreciate what US healthcare really costs; our health ins. bill in South Carolina was \$800 a month with a \$4000 deductible. I went to the dentist privately last week and it cost 12 Euros. My trip to the doctor for my annual physical was 20 Euros, and that included the blood work and an ultrasound... in Europe instead of pushing and probing, they use ultrasound to find abnormality... then they push and probe to see if it's worth further investigation: MRI anyone! I do miss the beach. I miss my Krogers although 50 minutes up the road is Imatra and its big supermarkets, but that's "up the road." Friday night movie just started. Yes, it's in English with a selection of subtitles... digital TV is already here.

Finland is the most wired country on earth, and cell phones do things here that you will be able to do next year in the good old USA... walk up to a Coke machine, dial a number and get a Coke!! You can pay for most things using your cell phone and its all-direct debit, no credit...as yet. You should know that our local grocery has vegetables from Spain and Israel: foodstuffs from Mexico to India and China. The world marketplace is available to Krogers and little shops in Backwoods, Finland. We



can have digital TV on demand! You can select channels from CNN, BBC World, Disney, Discovery et al, and the wonderful thing is you can choose the 9 channels you want for \$12/ month instead of 112 channels, 9 channels worth watching plus 103 channels of drivel for \$39.99, or is that now \$59.99!

We can also have absolute quiet. We can listen to snowflakes fall. We can see a million stars in our view of heaven, as you could see 100 years ago in Ohio. We have onions that taste like onions, strawberries you would sell your wife for, bread that goes moldy because it's not preserved to death, and water that tastes like spring... no, I don't mean any of those twice filtered bottled waters from Westerville you buy at La Chatelaine for \$2... this is pure, unadulterated, chemical-free, all natural water, from the tap and it's almost free!

The big problem for non-Finns, of course, is this crazy language. A dyslexic monk called Agricola took spoken Finnish and made it grammatical. This is where the logical side of this discussion and Agricola falls apart: this poor monk possibly did his warped mind a favor, but you have to be born here to speak Finnish... I can do Latin!



Best wishes to all our friends at the Scandinavian Club. We have room for visitors for the brave few who want to visit rural Finland. High-speed train to Parikkala from Helsinki takes 4 hours, and it's a beautiful trip.

~Allan, Aira and Bogey (the dog)
airakalanr@aol.com

The pictures are all taken here at our school home...Koitsanlahti Koulu.

Message from the Dinner Chair

We pulled off another great dinner thanks to an outstanding dinner committee. A huge thank-you to our Dinner Captains: Linda and Carl Eriksson and Gail and Dale Svendsen who did all the planning and for their wonderful crew who made it happen. Everybody did a wonderful job and worked very hard. I want to express a special thank-you to Jenny Shrodes and Kirsten Svendsen who volunteered to help out their parents. Young ladies, why not consider joining our club?

Remember, we offer baby sitting so the parents can enjoy the program and socializing, and we also have a special menu for the children like Macaroni and Cheese, Apple Sauce, Hot Dogs or Chicken Nuggets.

Once again there were a few people that were assigned to the committee that cancelled at the last minute without finding a replacement, making the rest of the committee work so much harder. I am not happy about this. That is all I'm going to say about them at this time: "SHAME ON YOU".

Along with last month's and this month's listing, I am also printing the names of the committee members for April and May. If your name is on it and you cannot serve, please find someone to change with, then notify me about the change so I can adjust my records.

Thank-you,
Grete Davidsen-Kidwell
Dinner Chair

February 17, 2006 - Anniversary

A Big THANK YOU to:

Eriksson, Carl & Linda (Co-Capt.)
Long, Steven
Park, Ernest & Ardyce
Pettersson, Krister & Barbara Pierson
Schmidt, Lyle & Arma
Svendsen, Dale & Gail (Co-Capt.)
Warren, Erik & Michele Kuhn Warren

Special Volunteers

Jenny Shrodes
(Linda Eriksson's daughter)
Kirsten Svendsen
(Dale & Gail Svendsen's daughter)



March 17, 2006 - Finland Covenant Presbyterian Church

DiStefano, Johanna
Dalmas, John
**Hollenbach, Merja & Jeff
(Co-Capt.)**
Neader, Don & Mary Jo
James Lama
Petman, Risto & Karen Sobul
**Pikkarainen, Arvo & Anna
(Co-Capt.)**
Savolaine, Edward & Carol

April 21, 2006 - Denmark Covenant Presbyterian Church

Ayres, Sine-Marie & John
Carlson, Charles & Harriet
Johnsen, Ken & Wilma
Jurgensen, Bob & Lorraine
Larson, Donald & Karen
Mobeck, L Renee
Tuovinen, Olli & Manel
Villella, Jim & Reidun (Capts.)
Wagner, Joe & Susan Rutter
Wasserman, Michael & Iben

May 19, 2006 - Norway Covenant Presbyterian Church

Adison, Karsten & Dorothy
Carlson, John & Doris
Elhard, Jean Nelson
Firth, Elizabeth & David
Fitzgerald, Sean
Grimstad, Thomas & Constance
Kimly, Bo & Anna
Lovendahl, Roy
Paulsen, Marilyn
Powell, Warren & Sandra
Stevenson, Bob & Marj (Capts.)
Wenar, Johnerik





SCANDINAVIAN CLUB
OF COLUMBUS

PO Box 14296
Columbus, OH 43214

Board Meeting Minutes

Scandinavian Club Minutes Home of Dianne Jatko Clark

February 18, 2007

2006-2007 Board

President

Bob Holm
841-3514

Vice-President

Marilyn Flor Smith
875-4566

Treasurer

Ed Kidwell
882-8391

Secretary

Dianne Jatko Clark
939-0031

Calling Chair

Randy Carlson
885-2421

Dinner Chair

Grete Davidsen-Kidwell
882-8391

Membership

Paivi Rajala-Schultz
825-4498

Property Chair

Ake Hellstrom
457-2984

ScandiNews

Tammy Carl
459-2226

Members attending were Bob Holm, Paivi Rajala-Schultz, Tammy Carl, Ed Kidwell, Grete Davidsen-Kidwell, Ake Hellstrom and Dianne Clark

The Meeting was opened by President Bob Holm at 7:15 P.M. Motion was made to approve the Minutes of January 21, 2007 by Bob Holm, Seconded by Ake Hellstrom and approved unanimously.

VICE PRESIDENT: Marilyn is out of the country but the program for March is to be a program by Arvo Pikkarainen on How the Tango Got to Finland.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Dianne sent a Get Well card to Sylvia Casas this month.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ed reported that Balance in the Accounts as of Dec. 1st was \$12,106; as of January 1st it was \$13,948.69; as of February 1st it was \$13,610.36. For the February Dinner there were 95 reservations; 82 attending including 8 children, 3 under age 5. There was a net loss of \$217.09 prior to the auction which brought in \$626.00 for a net gain of 408.91. The January dinner: 102 Reservations with 102 attending including 13 children, with 8 under 5 and 2 infants. There was a \$40.43 net gain in January. Ed has Donation Receipts for donated items that were sold at the auction. He will have them available if donors want to pick them up at the next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Paivi said there were no new members this month. Sent several e-mail applications to prospective members.

DINNER CHAIR: Everything went well at the February dinner. The dinner committee next month will be Captained by Merja and Jeff Hollenbach with Anna Pikkarainen assisting.

CALLING CHAIR: There is no report this month.

PROPERTY CHAIR: Ake said that a new extension cord was needed and was purchased for the Club.

SCANDINEWS: Tammy mailed out 86 newsletters to members, 7 to other clubs, and 7 to prospective members. The ScandiNews was emailed to 20 members and 2 clubs.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion is ongoing concerning the International Festival.

NEW BUSINESS: We are going to need 4 new board members this year with Marilyn, Ake, Paivi and Dianne leaving. They are to be voted on in April.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

The next meeting will be held on March 18th at the home of Paivi Rajala-Schultz, 1360 Durness Court, Columbus OH. 43235. Phone 825-4498

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Jatko Clark, Secretary

Join the Board!

It's that time of year again — your own Scandinavian Club is seeking to fill the posts of exiting Board Members. Please consider joining the board and help direct the future of this wonderful organization. We just celebrated our 70th year — help keep The Scandinavian Club of Columbus going strong for the next 70! Please call President Bob Holm if you are interested.