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**2016 Event Schedule**

Date and Time	Event	Location
4/23/2016 at 6pm	Annual Business Meeting & Danish Fare	Gethsemane Lutheran Church
5/17/2016 from 5 to 7pm	Syttende Mai Norwegian Flag Day	Immanuel Baptist Church
6/18/2016 From 4 to 8pm	Midsommer	Anne Keating's House
10/22/2016 from 6:30 to 9pm	Harvest Dinner	Spindletop
12/04/2016 3-5pm Practice 12/10/2016 7-9pm Program	Santa Lucia	Gethsemane Lutheran Church

**WINTER EVENTS**

On February 27, 2016 at Second Presbyterian Church the Lexington Chamber Chorale performed Scandinavian choral works and improvisatory music, accompanied by Anders Astrand, Percussion and University of Kentucky professor of percussion, Jim Campbell. It was a very special event in which our member Virginia Bowles sang beautiful solos and the accompaniment on mallet instruments was unusual and stunning. We can only hope that this group will again perform music of the midnight sun!

SHSKY met to celebrate the Finnish festival, Laskiainen on March 5, 2016 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. There was an excellent selection of pea soups with all of the usual wonderful side dishes and desserts. Rather than having a program we whiled away the hours in conversation at our tables. My nephew, Phil Keating, joined us from Washington, D.C. and enjoyed the occasion. You will find photos here and at the end of the newsletter. I am still learning to format!



## AWARD

Theodore Ehrenborg, 9<sup>th</sup> Grader from Henry Clay, received an award from the Secretary of State, Alison Lundergan Grimes. Winner of the Office's 27<sup>th</sup> annual essay contest, Theodore received the honor along with a \$1,000 scholarship on March 18 during the Whitaker Bank/KHSAA Boys' Sweet Sixteen basketball tournament at Rupp Arena. The purpose of the contest is to inspire students to be active and informed citizens. The topic this year was the First Amendment and the role of news media in elections. Students were to research and demonstrate their understanding of the First Amendment and of voting. The Scripps Howard First Amendment Center at the University of Kentucky judged the entries and determined the winner. Congratulations, Theodore!



## April Board Meeting

On Saturday, April 23, 2016 we invite you to bring Danish food to the Annual Business Meeting at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. One source says that the typical open faced sandwiches are on rye bread with: salami, liver pate, herring, roast pork, fried plaice, cod roe, cheese, chocolate or fruit! I know I have seen some with salmon, dill and cream cheese, and other combinations of vegetables and fruit. If you want to try it, let's mix it up! Dinner in Denmark typically consist now of an appetizer, main course and dessert. Vegetables include potatoes and other boiled vegetables. Meat may include meat balls, cutlets or roast pork. The dessert most of us are familiar with is riz a l'amonde, or rice porridge with whipped cream, almonds and even cherry sauce. Hope to see you there!

According to the Danish National, the World Happiness report released on Wednesday April 6 placed Denmark at the top of the 156 nations who participate in the survey. This enabled Denmark to regain a former title, after slipping behind Iceland and Switzerland last time. The top ten list has changed only in the order of countries, and includes several other Scandinavian countries: Iceland, Norway, Finland and Sweden. According to one of the editors, Professor John Helliwell of British Columbia University, consistency results from evaluations of aspects of life that are based on circumstances that evolve slowly. In top countries, these factors are all at high levels.

While other researchers may disagree, Denmark remains high on the various lists. Other studies indicate that Denmark is the world's best country for women, the most transparent nation and the top place for raising children according to the US News and World Report. The country is a generous welfare state with education and health care provided almost free, and the offering of earnings for day care and flexible parental leave promotes gender equality.

Another instrument, that of Legatum Institute, publishes a prosperity index that ranks countries on performance in 8 equally weighted sub-indexes: economy, entrepreneurship and opportunity, governance, education, wealth, safety and security, personal freedom and social capital. Denmark has an overall prosperity rank of 3d on this index, with Canada ranking 6 and the U.S. 11. Each category however has separate rankings.

An American author, Jessica Alexander, contributed an article on June 1, 2015 on a possible source of the Danes' happiness. They may be considered to be "realistic optimists," who reframe situations to look at the big picture. This is said to be related to resilience. Others suggest it may be genetic.

Yet, according to Numbeo, which claims to be the largest data base of user contributed data on costs and prices around the door, only four countries are more expensive than Denmark and it is the third most expensive country for dining out after Norway and Switzerland. A meal for two is said to run about \$75. Still, one might want to visit the Geranium in Copenhagen which has been awarded 3 stars in the Michelin Guide!

In 2015, The Lonely Planet Magazine named northern Norway as one of the 10 best places to visit. It's one of the last unspoiled wilderness areas with stunning scenery, mountains, fjords and glaciers. The rankings are based on visitors' reviews.

The Norwegian parliament, the Storting, will mark the bicentenary of the Constitution on May 17, 2016 at Eidsvoll. All branches of the government will be present, along with representation of the Norwegian Royal family. Presidents of Nordic parliaments will be honored guests, along with former presidents of the Storting. A public celebration in Eidsvoll square will follow. 400 mayors will be invited, and 200 people from all over Norway will wear their regional costumes to welcome guests and take part in the festivities.

From February 11-13, 2016 Finland held an ArtArtica festival in Helsinki representing art from all parts of the Arctic. The participants and visitors met in an old bomb shelter, Vapaan Taiteen Tila, made to resemble the inside of an iceberg which served as performance hall, café, gallery and space for exhibitions.





