



VOLUME XLIII
February 2016

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2016 Event Schedule

Date and Time	Event	Location
June 18, 2016, 4-8 pm	Midsommar	608 Raintree Road
October 22, 2016 6:30-9pm	Harvest Dinner	Spindletop Hall
12/04/2016 3-5pm Practice 12/10/2016 7-9pm Program	Luciafest	Gethsemane Lutheran Church

MIDSOMMAR

Midsommar is upon us and we will gather at 608 Raintree road on June 18, from 4-8 pm to celebrate the occasion. Please bring a lawn chair if you have one and a dish to share. Tack sa mycket! Vi ses snart! (Thank you and see you soon!)

BUSINESS MEETING

The Business meeting on April 23 was tiny but those present enjoyed wonderful food and fellowship. Kristie has provided the recipes for Danish dishes that she prepared, a salad of beets, potatoes, herring, pickles, onions, apples and chopped egg and Ris a l'amande. We also had open faced sandwiches with salmon, cream cheese and dill, zucchini bread and berry pie along with the Ris a l'amande and other pastries. The Danish theme for the food was a great success and worthy of repetition. John Paulson gave us a preview of his collection of ancient European coins which we will hear more about at a future meeting. We passed around one that was perhaps 12 inches square and very heavy.

No election was held at this time.

The Treasurer's Report showed a balance in Business checking as of 1/1/15 of \$1846.11 and 12/31/15 of \$1508.21 and in the Savings Account as of 1/1/15 of \$3459.55 and as of 12/15/15 of \$3259.85. As of 3/31/16 the balance in Business checking was \$1807.32 and the balance in Savings of \$3259.96. Anyone desiring to see the full report may see the Treasurer.

Dues are \$30 per family and \$25 per single individual. If you would like to renew your membership please send a check to Anne Keating, Treasurer at 608 Raintree Road, Lexington, Ky 40502.

You may enjoy reading the The National on June 12, 2016, that Malmo, Sweden is now a hub for people who love good food that is prepared according to what is seasonal and super fresh. Three restaurants have been awarded Michelin stars. One of the chefs said she grew up hearing the Skaneateles is the pantry of Sweden. I have to say, I can testify to Malmo's good food, although my experience was with home cooking!

Later this year, you may hear about Hygge being exported from Denmark. That's a cozy life style that involves stopping to enjoy the little things in life. Instead of giving up the small pleasures in life, hygge is more about enjoying time with family and friends, savoring a piece of chocolate, or a piece of cake. This article is in The Guardian, today, The Danish Art of Living Cosily, on its way to UK Bookshops. (and maybe US bookshops, too.)

According to a survey by Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Finland is the most literate country in the world. Some 60 countries were compared, using a number of literacy behavioral indicators. Not all countries had the statistical information allowing comparison. Are you surprised to hear that the leading countries are Finland, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, then U. S. as number 7, with Canada as 11, France 12, and United Kingdom 17. This too is found in The Guardian's article on Finland today. (June 12, 2016)

In the interest in getting the word out promptly, this newsletter will be short. See you on Saturday!

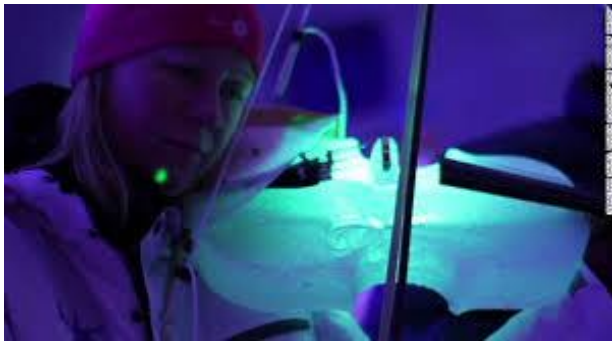
LASKIAINEN

We will celebrate Laskiainen this year on March 5, 2016 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church at 6 pm. This is the time we enjoy hearty pea soups which come in a surprising variety, accompanied by wonderful breads, crisp breads, pancakes, and great accompanying salads, vegetables and desserts. Do you remember which country eats yellow pea soup and the other predominately green? You may want to look at the event on Laskiainen sliding festival at Palo, Minnesota where they filmed the sliding down of a specially prepared chute with ice at the bottom to increase the ride! A narrator says that Laskiainen. Means to slide, into Lent, into Spring . . . Some people believed that the ride foretold the kind of flax harvest you would have. Take a listen! Some film clips from Finland show people of all ages taking sled rides, eating sausages and enjoying the snow! Our event is later than usual as we did not want to miss the concert! Don't these images make you want to visit Finland tomorrow!



In Sweden, The Local lists 8 ways to enjoy their Frozen North:

1. Walk on water. There is an ice trail where someone has recorded people skating, walking, biking, riding a skidoo and riding horses!
2. Dog sledding. This appears to show the driver riding, which has always appealed to me if there are enough dogs to handle the weight!
3. Visits to local historic churches
4. Pack ice snowmobile safari in the Lulea Archipelago. Ice fishing is big!
5. If you want R & R, the Jopikgarden Hotel is waiting for you.
6. Musicians actually put on concerts on instruments made of ice. You need to check this out!



7. Sports: ice hockey, of course!
8. Foods from the frozen north.

Does this make you feel like a wimp? We need to see this place sometime!

Perhaps to fuel the energy for these activities we need to eat semlas, Swedish cream buns that are filled with almond paste and have plenty of whipped cream. A baker named Johansson has created one with gold leaf on top and champagne flavored whipped cream (\$111) in response to a \$100 gold donut created in New York City by the Manila Social Club! Traditionally, Semla are eaten only the date before Lent, sigh. I hope we may have some at our meeting!

Norway, too, has sea safaris where you see seals, puffins and eagles. You can stay in a lighthouse hotel at Brosundet, and the Oye mountains take your breath away. Time to start planning trips! There's so much to see in the world and so little time!

Iceland and Cher came to the rescue of Flint, Michigan which began using water from the Flint River instead of from Detroit's system to save money. Turns out the water had lead in it and that created many problems. Cher purchased Icelandic Glacial water from Iceland in huge quantities from Iceland and Icelandic Glacial doubled the order!

We invite you to bring Danish food to the April meeting. 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.

Our next gathering will be the concert on February 27, followed by the Laskiainen celebration on March 4! Vi ses snart! (See you soon!)