



GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

www.danishsociety.com Email timh@danishsociety.com

January 2017

Dannebrog Grand President

Reflecting back over this last year I've enjoyed visiting with all of you and am thankful for your friendship.

The second of December we started the Christmas parties with Fresno being the first. We had a nice group with even our Grand Secretaries Tim and Natalie Heer coming to join us. We always have our decorated tree in the middle of the floor so we can walk around it while singing Christmas Carols.

The following Saturday, Steen was driving as we went to the San Francisco party. There was a lively group with many members from the other lodges coming in to join the celebration. My son, Dennis also came as this was his first Christmas party with the lodge. We had a group of Danes that were singing the Danish Carols, which we all enjoyed even those of us that didn't speak Danish, (myself included). My Son remark, "it was the best, good food, dessert, wine and most of all the members were so friendly." I certainly agree with him.

Later in the afternoon we drove over to the Livermore Christmas party. They were having their traditional Frikadella dinner with Bingo following. I remarked that there were many that I hadn't seen at their installation and was told that many came out for the food, bingo and visiting with friends and family. We left early as it was raining as we drove home that evening.

The third Saturday was my turn driving and we had sunshine on our way to the Modesto Christmas party held in Oakdale. Marge Scheuber had decorated the tables with sleds, miniature Christmas trees, candles, everything looked very festive. It's always great to see the small grandchildren of the members performing, they came up in family groups and when handed the microphone they were ready to belt out their song. The favorite was Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer. We even had a solo from Grand President Steen of a Danish Carol. We all joined in singing the Danish and American Carols.

It was good to see Bob Sorensen doing well and he tells me, "I'm still driving my tractors".

Bodil Whitehouse was in charge of the raffle which is used for the Children's Christmas Fund. John Scheuber said that this year they had spent \$120 each for 12 children, shopping for needed things- clothes, shoes, etc. This happens through the generosity of the members that donate raffle gifts then all of us buying the tickets. They have a raffle at each meeting to generate funds. This is a wonderful tradition of giving back to the community.

Later that evening we attended the Hayward Christmas party held at Greg Gleeson's home. It was all decorated for the holiday's and had tables set up ready for guests. I enjoyed

Grand Officers

	Dania	Dannebrog
Grand Past President	Tom Martin thomm1@comcast.net	Lynn Wachter wachter.lynn@gmail.com
Grand President	Steen Skjellerup stivax@aol.com	Martha Nielsen nielsenmarta@gmail.com
Grand Vice President	Daniel Joensen dj@danken.com	Stuart O Mahler smahler52@att.net
Grand Secretary	Tim Heer tim-gs@sbcglobal.net (831) 426-4623	Natalie Heer natalie-gs@sbcglobal.net (831) 426-4623
Grand Treasurer	Gregory A. Gleeson gleeson2@icloud.com	Pat Brouillette pab0718@sbcglobal.net
Grand Marshal	John Scheuber john.scheuber@vsi.cc	Alan Filiau adfiliu@sbcglobal.net
Grand Vice Marshal	Jana Heer-Glovaski jugandana@sbcglobal.net	Beth Mahler Cowan beth.cowan@att.net
Grand Trustee #1	James Olef Jensen jamesolefjensen@yahoo.com	Elizabeth Jensen ecjensen@mac.com
Grand Trustee #2	Mel Lundberg melandzena@gmail.com	Colleen Heer Cave winegal59@yahoo.com
Grand Trustee #3	James "Jim" Jensen j13jensen@yahoo.com	Jackie Neilsen Nielsen514@aol.com

visiting with some members that I haven't seen in a long time. George and Linda Cumming were there with George carving up this delicious ham that he had baked. There was a lot of teasing and laughter with the Mahler family in attendance,--Fred Mahler would be so pleased to know his children are carrying on the lodge tradition. We were given a special announcement by Dave and Joyce Mahler, they are expecting their first grandchild in June. They are so thrilled with anticipation of being a new grandparent they said I could share the news with you through the newsletter. My wish is that you will have something wonderful to anticipate in the New Year that will bring joy and meaning for you in 2017 .

Martha Nielsen, Dannebrog's Grand President

Dania Grand President

December 1 was the start of 10 Christmas celebrations I have participated in so far this year. On the 2nd of December, it was Dania Fresno's turn to celebrate. First, we had a traditional Danish pork dinner with all the trimmings and wine. Two 50 year pins were hand delivered by our Grand Secretaries Tim and Natalie Heer. Glenn Jensen and Harry Hansen got the 50 year pins, along with a nice speech from Carl Jensen. Later, we all walked around the Christmas tree, singing "glade jul dejlige jul". The pastor from the Lutheran church in Easton was a little surprised that there were 4 verses in our Danish version of "silent night", but he still managed to utter some English words for the 4th verse (I think)!

The next Dania visit was a Christmas lunch at the Grosvenor Hotel for the San Francisco group. Martha and I had to leave Fresno very early to make it by 10 AM, so I could participate in a meeting called by John Schueber. Gunnar told me that Martha could get up this early but she would not like it! We managed to make it in time in spite of bad rain on the freeway the last 1/2 hour. The salmon lunch was excellent, and it was very special to get to sing at the top of our lungs in Danish with a lot of Danish voices. In the middle of the afternoon I punched in Livermore on my smart phone, and Martha and I crossed the bay "I silende regn" and "daarlig sigtbarhed". The lady on the phone took control of where to go, until we got to Livermore Ave, then I decided to be the man of the hour and go a little longer to First Street. After some protesting the lady agreed, and we made it safely to the IOOF Hall. The Dania Livermore people had a large selection of Danish food. I had a few good tasting meat balls, the locals called them frikadeller, but frikadeller is fried on a hot pan, not in

an oven. After eating, the large crowd set up for bingo, which they did with a passion.

The following Saturday, it was off to Oakdale where the Dania people from Modesto had their Christmas lunch. The restaurant and participants were all dressed up for a festive Christmas party. We had one more good salmon lunch, singing in Danish and English, with more than a dozen children dancing on the floor under the direction of Bodil. There was a big raffle with a lot of winners.

Early afternoon the room was cleared of most of the Christmas decorations, and it was time to punch in a 5 digit address on the phone for Castro Valley. So with Martha as the driver, the lady on the phone directed us to Greg Gleason's house. Here the Dania group in Hayward was going to have their Christmas potluck. We had a nice meal and visit with people I had seen but not talked with before. It got time to take off and we were in Fresno a little after midnight. As I got in my car I noticed ice on the windows, so I had a battle with a credit card to get the ice off so I could see out.

Recently, my advisor Johanne Gade reminded me that I should check in with my committees on how they are progressing. I will just mention two of them here.

Nominating Committee: Chair, Mel Lundberg, John Schueber, Jana Heer Glovaski

Nominations are requested, call Mel at 707 822 3787

Membership Committee: Chair, Carl Christiansen, Jana Heer Glovaski, James Olef Jensen

Ideas for membership drive are requested!

Looking forward to a "Happy New Year!" - "Godt Nytaar!"
By Grand President Dania Steen Skjellerup

Grand Lodge Secretary

IN MEMORIAM:

DIANA MEMORIALS SCHOLARSHIP

DANNEBROG SCHOLARSHIP:

DANIA/DANNEBROG SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND

Thyra #9 in memory of George Banke

Secretary's

By now you should have received your copy of 2016 Annual report for Dania and for the Branches of Dannebrog, please get them filled out and returned to the Grand Secretaries as soon as possible. Also coming in your Mail box soon is 2016 Newsletter invoice, keep in mind this is a billing for the newsletters that were Mailed last year and not a billing for

next year's Newsletter. Members who have purchased an annual subscription are not a part of this billing. If you are receiving your copy through the internet and are now interested in purchasing the Mailed version the Annual subscription the price is \$10.00.

Dannebrog Secretary's

Doris Skow will be attending the convention in San Francisco and would like all secretaries and members to bring items for the Dannebrog history table. Last year we squeezed by with 1 table but hope to have even more items this year. Pictures, badges, news articles, etc.

Local Branches

Danmark No. 2 & Thyra No. 3

Meeting: 2nd. Wednesday every month 7:30 PM Odd Fellows Building; 26 Seventh Street, San Francisco CA 94103

Danmark #2 Secretary Roger Gearhart E-mail ragearthart@comcast.net 209-329-3687 Thyra #3 Secretary Johanne Gade

In the absence of President Daniel Joensen, Vice President John Jensen presided. The first order of business was to consider the application for membership by Mr. Mark Claussen. It was done in the traditional Dania manner. Mark was escorted to the anteroom while the members heard his application and voted to accept. A committee of three members were appointed by the President and the VP to investigate the candidate. Their favorable report was accepted by the members. The members voted to suspend the use of the ballot box and then voted to accept the candidate into membership. He was then escorted into the meeting and marched around, finally presented to the President. Mr. Claussen accepted the conditions of membership and the President presented the new member to the membership to much applause. Welcome Mark Claussen.

Further business: Francis Claussen was reinstated into membership. The members voted to make Francis Claussen and Palle Thomsen Life Members of Danmark #2 We also elected new officers to be installed in February for the new term. PP Daniel Joensen, President John Jensen,

VP Anne Gearhart, Marshals Peter and Kathy Christensen, VM Alex Lund, Custodian Daniel. Trustees and auditors will remain in place. The delegates to the Convention are John, Alex, Peter C., and Michael Fox, alternate Peter Schakow.

Now for the most striking event: John Jensen won the attendance prize of \$80! There was much booing and hissing mixed with the congratulations. The Past Presidents of Thyra #3 treated us to a great dinner of baked ham, scalloped potatoes, fresh beans, *rot kohl*, salads, great appetizers, and spectacular deserts including *Risengrod*. The singing was great. Indeed, a good time was had by all. We are sorry if you missed this wonderful event. Our next meeting will be *Onsdag, Januar 11*. We gather for a beer and a social hour at 6:30, with a brief meeting at 7:30. We will be having a long-standing tradition of the ladies serving Æbliskiver with all the condiments. We always look forward to this occasion. Guests always welcome. Med venlig hilsen, Roger Gearhart, Secretary, ragearthart@comcast.net, 209-329-3687

Hejmdal No. 4 & Luren No. 13

Meets four times a year, contact the secretary for further information

Secretary Robert Schall, schallb48@gmail.com

Thor No. 5 & Thora No. 11

Meeting: 1st. Thursday every month 11:30 AM. Hope Lutheran's Conference Room, 364 E Barstow Ave, Fresno.

Secretary, Christie Pettitt, poppatango@msn.com; Gail Hansen, dickgailh@aol.com

Thor #5 and Thora #11's Installation is Saturday, February 4th at Spike and Rail Restaurant in Selma. Arrive at 11:30 a.m. with Installation to begin at 12:00 p.m. Lunch will follow. The menu choice is Artichoke Mushroom Chicken or Sliced Tri Tip at a cost of \$30.00. Contact Martha Nielsen BY JANUARY 26th. She may be contacted by either email (marthanielsen@yahoo.com) or phone (559 266-2962 or cell 559 970-0313).

We all enjoyed our Christmas dinner. Our guests included members of Fresno's Historical Society and Grand Lodge Secretaries Tim and Natalie Heer. The nominating committee has nominated the following officers:

Past President Steen Skjellerup
 President Dave Willis

Upcoming Conventions		
Danmark #2 and Thyra #3	April 6-8 2017	Grosvenor S. San Francisco
Dannevirke #9 and Valdemar #12	April 19-21, 2018	Nugget, Sparkes NV
Thyra #9 and Valborg #1	April 11-13 2019	Grosvenor S. San Francisco
Upcoming Installations		
Thor #5 and Thora #11	February 4 2017	Spike & Rail Selma

Vice President Don Pettitt
 Vice Marshal Gunnar Nielsen
 Marshal Lone Taylor
 Secretary Christie Pettitt
 Treasurers Dave and Nancy Willis
 Trustees Stan Kjar and Steen Skjellerup
 Pam Kjar
 Auditors. Kathi Mehrten and Steen Skjellerup
 See you all February 4th!

Freja No. 6 & Dana No. 15

Meeting: 1st. Sunday every month at Noon; Salinas Masonic Center, 48 East San Joaquin Street, Salinas CA 93901-2904

Secretary, Natalie Heer, timandnatalie@sbcglobal.net

Godt Nytaar Dana 15 and Freja 6 are looking forward to welcoming the New Year on Sunday January the 8th at the Salinas Masonic Hall, 48 East San Joaquin Street, Salinas, we'll start gathering for light refreshments at noon,

followed by a traditional Danish feast around 1:00. Please join us and share in all the well wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year filled with many more gatherings of friends and loved ones. Skaal! JHG

Dannevang No. 7 & Danebod No. 16

Meets 2nd Saturday at 6:00PM; 4th Saturday Potluck, The Bothswell, A Street, Livermore, CA 94551.

Dannevang #7 Secretary, Robert Lamee, Robertlamee@yahoo.com

Danebod Secretary, Kathy Thomsen, danskfarm@yahoo.com
Livermore didn't have a December meeting. However we did celebrate Christmas with a very cozy evening at our last gathering at the IOOF hall. We were honored to have Grand Presidents Martha Nielsen and Steen Skjlerreup along with Junior Past Grand President of Dania Tom Marten. Congratulations to Bob and Tracey Lamee on their new grandson Mathew Allen. I'm sure they will be sharing pictures when we meet in January at the Lamee home to

transition our move to our new building, The Bothswell on A Street.

We will see you January 14, 4:00, Bob & Tracey's, 1413 Lillian. Remember to pay your dues, \$22.00 for Dania, and \$12.00 for Dannebrog to be mailed to our treasures at the same address. We will also be choosing delegates for convention. Happy New Year KRT

No. 9 Thyra & Valborg No. 1

Meeting: 2nd. Thursday every month 7:30 PM; 20920 Redwood Road, Castro Valley CA 94546.

President, Stuart O. Mahler, smahler52@att.net ; #9 Thyra/Valborg #1 Secretary, Beth Cowan, beth.cowan@att.net

Thyra and Valborg members gathered at the residence of Greg Gleeson for their annual Christmas gathering. Greg and Hostess Pat Brouillette put on a nice affair with members sharing various dishes and the main course by Chef George Cumming's ham was well received. We also had some distinguished guests in attendance! Martha Nielsen, Grand President Dannebrog, Steen Skjellerup, Grand President Dania along with the Grand Secretaries of both Grand Lodges, Tim and Natalie Heer. I was told a good time by all was enjoyed. Another tradition at our gathering is the donation of toys which George Cumming coordinates and is presented to the local Salvation Army. Thank you to all who participated in this well worthwhile endeavor!

Some local member news includes Mike Filiau is now a homeowner in the Silver state of Nevada. He will lease out the residence but looks to be a potential future retirement venue. On an unfortunate note Duane McNeil had some unwanted and unwelcome visitors to his house while he was at work. Irene Simms was generous and donated a case of wine to our annual Christmas gathering, thank you Irene!

It is that time of year to all Thyra and Valborg members...dues are now due and payable. Valborg members send your dues to Pat Brouillette. Thyra members send your dues to Stuart Mahler in Benicia. Their addresses are in the lodge phone book. Or, bring them to the January meeting at Roundtable Pizza in Castro Valley on Thursday January 12, 2017 at 7:30PM. Valborg dues are \$12.00. Thyra dues are \$29.00 for social members and \$35.00 for sick benefit members.

Mary Esther Filiau was the lucky winner in the Valborg attendance drawing. Scot Filiau lost out on \$50.00 in the Thyra attendance drawing. January meeting Thyra will have two drawings, \$50.00 and \$10.00. You need to be present to win!

Happy December birthdays to Greg Gleeson, Jytte Stoecker, Lynn Patty, and Mary Esther Filiau.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Thursday January 12, 2017 at 7:30PM!

The HAWK

Sønderjylland No. 10

Meeting 2nd Saturday of April, June, August and October, 11:30 AM Kastania Fælled, Petaluma

Secretary, John Cruger-Hansen j.crugerhansen@comcast.net

The next regular scheduled meeting is on Saturday April 8, 2017 at 11:30 at Kastania Fælled, Petaluma.

Respectfully, John Cruger-Hansen, Secretary

Valhalla No. 11 & Ydun No. 10

Meeting: 1st. Saturday every month at 11:00 A.M., Danish Hall, Ferndale, CA 95536

Secretary, Christian Nielsen, ChristianNielsen@suddenlink.net

We wish you a happy New Year. January will be Danish food potluck. Crab Feed later on in the month.

Valdemar No 12. & Dannevirke No. 9

Meeting: 1st. Friday every month at 7 PM, Odd Fellows Hall; 1300 Stardust Street Reno, NV 89503.

Secretary, Sena Maria Freeman P.O. Box 4575, Sparks NV 89432; Anette Christensen, achristensen@medicine.nevada.edu

It was a wonderful Christmas party. 116 in attendance. Lots of children & families. Wonderful dinner & desserts & all the trimmings of a Danish Christmas dinner. Thank you all who showed up at 2 pm to set up. All the kitchen help A BIG THANK YOU. The cooking, the clean up. Thank you Lars Jensen & John LaRoach for taking over & helping with the caramelized potatoes, so Ina & Anette could finish setting up this great dinner. I understand the Æbelskivers was made by Ina, Anette & Eva Snuffer. Thank you they went great with the glog. At 6:30 Ingrid Hedman had the children do the Saint Lucia Fest. Again another great job, thank you Ingrid. We ate around 7:15. About 9 Steve (nisse) Myers did his as usual great job. Passed out packages to all the children from Santa and the nisse man to everyone's enjoyment.. At 9:30 we had our fill of great desserts, thank you Marion for the great rice pudding, Glenn Fritz for the pies, Mike & Donna Vanderbeck for cheese cake, Sena Marie made cookies. Last was the raffle. Thank you to all the

members that donated all the lovely prizes. It made it a wonderful raffle. Last was the clean up. Another BIG THANK YOU. to you all. That was a big job. All in all a wonderful & fun filled evening. Solveig Asvitt will have a knee replacement in January. Glenn Fritz will have oral surgery the middle of December. We wish them both well. Our January meeting will be our fish dinner. (can not spell it the Danish way) . Cod fish, potatoes, and mustard gravy. We are asking our members for side dishes to complete our dinner. Last but not least I decided to add something different in 2017. Birthdays: HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all in January; Phillip Christensen, Jens Christiansen, Eric Jensen, John Matuzak, Knud Sorensen, Ingrid Hedman, & Marlene Swaffar. Happy New Year & a healthy & happy 2017. Remember dues are due. Info was in December newsletter. TAKE CARE Sena Marie

Bornholm No. 14

Meeting: 3rd. Friday every month 7:00 PM Eagles Hall 126 Camellia Way Modesto, CA 95351.

Secretary, Ann Stowers, ann.max@att.net

Bornholm #14 had their yearly Christmas Party Dec. 17 at Pappapolonis in Oakdale. It was a new place, but the food was delicious and 55 members and guests had found the place including the two Grand Presidents, of Dannebrog and Dania. Everybody had a great time and enjoyed the party.

Our first meeting of the year is Jan. 20. We start at 6 PM with a Pizza Party hosted by Susan & Brian Mefford. Happy New Year to all branches of Dania & Dannebrog from Bornholm #14. John

Danneskjold No. 17 & Laura No. 8

Meeting: 2nd Saturday at 1 PM in various homes.

President, Doris Skow, dws1929@gmail.com, Secretary, Lis Lacey

Many thanks to Bente for opening her home and hosting us for our Annual Julefrokost. There were 14 there including 2 guests. The tables were set up so nicely and everything was inviting and Christmassy.

To those who were not able to attend due to the change of date I apologize.

Our January meeting will be at my home on January 12. Please call 408-313-7235 to let me know if you are coming. I will prepare lunch to start at noon, followed by

meeting and planning session for 2017. Dessert and coffee will follow. Please bring your schedule from 2016 as a guide and any date (s) you can host. REMEMBER; we decided to try the 3rd Saturday of the month instead of the second. I hope all had a Merry Christmas and I wish you a Happy New Year.
DWS

Hejls Minde No. 23

Meeting: 1st. Wednesday 12 noon at Bit O' Denmark, 473 Alisal Rd. Solvang, CA 93463.

Secretary, Marie Jaeger

Holger Danske No. 27 & Valkyrien No. 23

Meets four times a year; contact the secretary for further information.

Holger Danske Secretary, Wayne A. Allen; Valkyrien Secretary, Darlene Iversen