



GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

September 2017

Dania Grand President

On August 5th, we went to Modesto where I lead the installation of officers in Bornholm #14, which is a Dania lodge only. This was our first installation using the new Dania-Only Ritual after changes were adopted at this year's convention. Grand Marshal Jana Heer-Glovaski did a great job marching the officers around according to the usual patterns. After the installation, we had a very nice lunch. This year, Salinas has postponed installation until October 1st, so unlike last year we did not have to head to a new installation the next day.

On Friday, August 11th, we headed to Grand Cayman for a lovely stay on Seven Mile Beach. My wife and I met with good friends from Southern Maryland and we went snorkeling, diving, and swimming. Getting close to and feeding the stingrays was an especially memorable experience.

While I was away, Grand Vice President, John Scheuber, went to Petaluma to lead the installation for Sønderjylland #10.

The Merger Exploration Committee will have another meeting in mid-September (this time with the Dannebrog committee). We encourage all members of Dania to share their ideas, questions and concerns with any member of the committee as soon as possible.

I look forward to the installation in Ferndale September 2 at 3 PM. Daniel Joensen, Grand President Dania

Dannebrog Grand President

Listening to some members of Dannebrog and Dania regarding discussions on the feasibility of a merger down the road; I will hear mentioned this could help to increase membership. Will it? Years ago when changes were made to allow Dannebrog and Dania branches to meet together, it was felt one of the byproducts of this would increase membership. Did it? Correct me if I am wrong, but my observations have been that it has not. Granted, when you put two groups together you now have more members in a meeting room. Did this create an increase in membership? Did it create current members to now show up and participate at monthly meetings now that men and women are meeting together? Perhaps meeting together created new life with more members in a meeting room. Did they continue to increase new membership? Did it create an atmosphere of non participating members to now participate? Or, were we satisfied with the status quo and did nothing?

Looking at past annual reports it is obvious our membership in Dannebrog and Dania continue to diminish on an annual basis. Besides mergers and meeting together I think we need to develop other strategies to stop the drop in membership and to

Dania's Membership Committee

An exciting offer to the Branches of Dania and Dannebrog from Dania:

In August 2016, our then Grand President Steen Skjellerup gave the newly formed Membership Committee the task of

Grand Officers

	Dania	Dannebrog
Grand Past President	Steen Skjellerup stivaxsteen@gmail.com	Martha Nielsen nielsenmarta@gmail.com
Grand President	Daniel Joensen dj@danken.com	Stuart O Mahler smahler52@att.net
Grand Vice President	John Scheuber john.scheuber@vsi.cc	Alan Filiau adfiliau@sbcglobal.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	Jana Heer-Glovaski juganddana@sbcglobal.net	Beth Mahler Cowan beth.cowan@att.net
Grand Vice Marshal	Bente Ellis Baellis06@gmail.com	Deanna Dunbar deannadnrb@yahoo.com
Grand Trustee #1	Mel Lundberg melandzena@gmail.com	Colleen Heer Cave winegal59@yahoo.com
Grand Trustee #2	James "Jim" Jensen j13jensen@yahoo.com	Mary Esther Filiau
Grand Trustee #3	Johanne Rasmussen Gade	Elizabeth Jensen ecjensen@mac.com

go back to increasing it annually. Although meeting together has great possibilities and a lot of fun...is it the answer to the survival of Dannebrog and Dania?

At this time there have been no decisions made either way to merge or not to merge. We are looking into it to see how best to serve our members now and into the future. **YOUR** input is valuable. We would still like to hear your thoughts from you soon!

Stuart Mahler, Grand President Dannebrog

recommending something printed to attract new members. In the past Dania has had different variations of membership brochures and in recent years has relied mostly on our website to spread the word. The time has come again to have something real to hand to a real person or at least tuck it under their windshield wiper. The Membership Committee

proceeded to design a business card that provides a solution in an attractive, economical, customizable and compact size that fits easily in a wallet, purse or glove box. Business cards in quantities of 100, 250, or 500 will be available to each lodge printed with their specific information. On the reverse side is a short statement about us as an organization. Also, in keeping with the way many people expect to be able to get information these days, a QR code that when scanned with a smart phone will take the user directly to the website. Our website address will also be printed to find us the good old

fashioned way and a blank space has been left for a member to write in their name and contact information. Also, if desired, one willing member's name can be printed on the back with either their email or phone number. Dania will provide these cards at no expense to the lodges. An order form is being sent to branch secretaries to be completed and returned to the membership committee in a stamped envelope provided. Then within a couple of weeks, the cards will be sent to the secretaries for distribution to the members. We look forward to receiving completed forms and supporting your efforts to increase your membership.

Grand Lodge Secretary
IN MEMORIAM:

James (Jim) Myers, Valdemar #12, Reno
George A. Cumming, Thyra #9 Hayward
Lise Vanderbeck, Valborg #1, Hayward

DANNEBROG SCHOLARSHIP

Danmark #2 in memory of Edel Christensen

DANIA/DANNEBROG SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND

Vibeke Petersen-Jensen in memory of Edel Christensen

Sena Marie Freeman in memory of Jim Myers

John Scheuber donation

NEW MEMBERS

Anne Marie Maris, Danmark #2 San Francisco
Less (Lars) Green, Danmark #2 San Francisco
Sharon Richardson, Dana #15 and Freja #6, Salinas
Mike Richardson, , Dana #15 and Freja #6, Salinas
Lis Bonde Schmidt, Freja #6, Salinas
Natalie Heer, Freja #6, Salinas

DANNEBROG GENERAL FUND

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

We initiated two new members at our August meeting: Anne Marie Maris and Less (Lars) Green. Both are from DK and you might suspect that much Danish was spoken during the evening. It is a pleasure to welcome them into our midst. The Foxes, Michael and Robert, teamed up and put on a wonderful spread of tri-tips, great breads, a corn salad, and for desert, Robert's special: apple pie! Of course, there were all the usual and very special hors d'oeuvres---herring, lever posteg, and the bla ost was particularly great. It all went well with beer, wines and coffee. We were about 20 very happy folks.

At our September meeting we will be honoring five members receiving their 25-year pins: Brad Porter, Jim Gearhart, Sven Kjærsgaard, Tom Martin, and Paul Nielsen. John Jensen has

promised another of the famous honey-baked hams---and there will be wonderful side dishes---and hors d'oeuvres---and deserts---and Champagne. We will also honor all of our long-time members. The business meeting will be brief---we will concentrate on having a great time. Invitations are open to all but please call Roger so that we have enough to eat---and to drink (only a very small possibility of that happening). Our next meeting will be *Onsdag, September 13*. We gather at 6:30 or so for a social hour. Following that we will have our "Honors Night"---then we will get down to the serious business of having a good time. Guests are always welcome Med venlig hilsen, Roger Gearhart, Secretary, ragearthart@comcast.net, 209-329-3687

Hejmdal No. 4

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

Thor#5 and Thora#11 will not be holding a meeting until September. We hope you are having a GREAT SUMMER.

CP

Upcoming Conventions		
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		
Valhalla Lodge #11 Ydun Lodge #10	September 2 3:00 P.M.	Ferndale
Dana #15 and Freja #6	October 1 12:00 noon	Salinas Masonic Center
No. 9 Thyra and Valborg No. 1	March 10 th 2018	Cattlemen's Livermore

Freja No. 6 & Dana No. 15

**Meeting: 1st. Sunday every month at 1:00 P.M.; Salinas Masonic Center, 48 East San Joaquin Street, Salinas CA 93901-2904
Secretary, Natalie Heer, umandnatalie@sbcglobal.net**

At our August meeting Dana15 and Freja 6 were very pleased and proud to perform an Initiation of New Members that would make our founding members smile and nod their heads. Long time Dana members Natalie Heer and Lis Bonde Schmidt were initiated into Freja. Two new members, Sharon and Mike Richardson, who have family ties to members in the "good ol' days" were also initiated and warmly welcomed. Before the ceremony we enjoyed a Dana & Freja tradition of Danish Lasagna, and green salad with cake and coffee after. Sunday, October 1st will be our long anticipated Installation of Old Officers, we're really hoping that the change from our traditional summertime installations will allow more members

to attend. Please come in your favorite "Danskattire" and help us start a new tradition, a "Dansktoberfest"! Our Grand Presidents have agreed to leave their formal wear at home, which means the rest of us will do the same. Think red & white, and take it in any direction you wish, maybe not T-shirts and flip flops, but embroidered caps and tassels on your socks are always a delight to see. Oh, and just in case we can line up dance instructors, bring your dancing shoes. We will be ready for you at 11:30 at the Masonic Center, 48 East San Joaquin St. Salinas with light refreshments before the installation at noon and followed by lunch and celebration of another year in the record books of Dana & Freja. Skaal! JHG

Dannevang No. 7 & Danebod No. 16

**Meets 2nd Saturday at 6:00PM; 4th Saturday Potluck, The Farm Bureau Building, 638 Enos Way in Livermore.
Dannevang #7 Secretary, Robert Lamee, Robertlamee@yahoo.com Danebod Secretary, Kathy Thomsen, danskfarm@yahoo.com**

Summer certainly flew by. We will be back to our normal routing of meeting the 2nd Saturday at 6:00 at the Farm Bureau building. We will be making plans for events coming up, and sorting out which of our members are entitled to receive a 25 or 50 year pin. I am a 45 year member, how is that

possible? September 9th we will have pizza, picked up by Bob Lamee, Tracey is bringing a salad and Gregg is bringing ice-tea. The rest of us are on for dessert. Hmmm, Root beer float sounds like a winner to me. Jackie won the attendance prize at the last meeting. Hope to see you there, KRT

No. 9 Thyra & Valborg No. 1

**Meeting: 2nd.Thursday every month 7:30 PM; 20920 Redwood Road, Castro Valley CA 94546.
President, Alan D Filiu, adfiliu@sbcglobal.net #9 Thyra/Valborg #1 Secretary, Beth Cowan, beth.cowan@att.net**

Sonderjylland 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 Home: 510-232-6998 or cell: 510-375-5070**

Sønderjylland #10 held their first Installation of Officers in three years on August 12, 2017. It was a lovely day at Kastania Fælled where we welcomed an attendance of 12 Members and 11 guests.

Grand Vice President John Scheuber and Grand Marshal Jana Heer-Glovaski did a great job installing the re-elected officers of Sønderjylland #10. Officers are: President Karen Friis Lysmer, Vice President/Trustee Margaret Mayes, Secretary/Trustee John Cruger-Hansen, Treasurer Vibeke Jensen, Auditor Inger Marie Andersen and Marshal Sabrina Wilcox. Thanks to Birthe Baekgaard for substituting as Marshal in Sabrina's absence while Sabrina is recovering from surgery.

After the installation, Grand Vice President John Scheuber was asked to do the honor of giving out five 25-year pins to the ladies who became members of Sønderjylland #10. The recipients were: Inger Marie Andersen, Birthe Baekgaard, Vibeke Jensen, Jeannie Kjaer and Inger Stecher.

We were also honored by a visit from Past Grand President and Past President of Danner #4, Dorothy Petersen, who was introduced (Thank you Dorothy)!

There were 12 local members present. We were also honored by the presence of 5 Dania Grand Officers, Grand Vice President John Scheuber, Grand Secretary Tim Heer, Grand Marshal Jana Heer-Glovaski, Grand Trustee James Jim"

Jensen, and Grand Trustee Johanne Rasmussen Gade. Several Past Grand Presidents were also present: Past Grand President Lilian Rasmussen and Past Grand President Roger Gearhart. Dannebrog was represented by Past Grand President Natalie Heer and Past Grand President Elizabeth Jensen. In attendance were also several other guests.

There were many delicious appetizers provided by Inger Marie Andersen, Birthe Baekgaard, Margaret Mayes, Vibeke Jensen, Sato Jorgensen and Karen Friis Lysmer. Debbie and John Cruger-Hansen provided BBQ hamburgers w/ trimmings.

Desserts were brought by Vibeke Jensen and Karen Lysmer. A great big Thank You to all for helping set up and cleaning up. Special thanks to Inger Marie Andersen, Debbie and John Cruger-Hansen, Karen Friis Lysmer and former member Lilian Rasmussen, Lilian received her 25 yrs. pin at her current lodge Bornholm #14 at their installation. Thank you to Grand Secretary of Dannebrog Natalie Heer for taking pictures, which can be found on the Grand Lodge's website.

Next meeting is on Saturday October 14, at 11:30AM at Kastania Fælled in Petaluma.

Remember access to Kastania Road has changed and is only available from the off-ramp to Petaluma Blvd South, both North and Southbound directions on Hwy 101.

Respectfully, Karen Friis Lysmer, President & 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

Our next gathering will be over labor day weekend for our installation of officers. September 2 we will have appetizers and drinks at 3:00 with installation at 4:00 and dinner at 5:30. Cost is \$35 for Saturday and \$20 for Sunday or \$55 for both days. Sunday we will have a lunch at 1:00 with Bocce at 10:00. This year the Humboldt County Fair will be still going on and will end on Monday September 4. Plan accordingly so that you can secure a motel room. Reservations for the weekend are a must and can be e-mailed to me at

ChristianNielsen@suddenlink.net or mailed to 3329 I Street, Eureka CA 95503 phone (707) 499-3746.

October we will be going to Bless my Soul in Eureka. We will not hold a meeting and it will be a dinner at 6:00 and reservations are a must. November we will be back at the hall with a meeting at 11:00 and a catered lunch at 12:00 and again reservations are a must.

I hope to see you soon, Christian Nielsen

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 Marie Freeman P.O. Box 4575, Sparks NV 89432; Anette Christensen, achristensen@med.unr.edu

The Reno Lodges held their 3rd and final BBQ of the year on August 4. As always we had great food, salads and desserts. Lars Jensen made a wonderful blueberry dessert –very YUMMY: Thank you Glenn for starting the BBQ for all of us and for packing it away for the year. During coffee and dessert, Anette opened the meeting. Our September meeting will be Harvest fest – potluck. October we will celebrate October fest with a potluck, and for November we will celebrate Thanksgiving with another potluck. Maybe we can get Lars to roast a turkey? He has a special way that only takes half the time. Hard to believe that it's almost fall and we are talking about the Christmas party?

We had lots of discussion about our convention coming up in the spring of 2018. Our theme will be "Viking Saga West". Eric Hansen gave a presentation on something he has been working on for the Saturday Banquet.

We missed some of our regulars at the meeting - Ina, Mike, Donna, Janet, Solveig, and John. Hope Eva Demosthenes was having fun in Sweden.

First convention meeting was at Anette and Poul's house on August 20th. We had a good meeting and are off to a good start. Anette and Sena Marie will meet with Catering Department in October. Leif Larsen has graciously offered to handle registrations.

Our sick list is a sad one. It is with a heavy heart that I have to report we lost two of our members in Valdemar #12. In July Annette Landcaster lost her Partner and best friend Alex Andreasen. Our sincere sympathy goes out to her and the family and may they find comfort in the beautiful memories he left behind.

We also lost our long time member, Financial Secretary of Valdemar #12, James (Jim) Myers who passed away August 8 after a relative short illness. Jim was the son of another longtime member, Karen Myers. He was also the father to Steven Myers, the "Nisse" who plays with the children at our Christmas party - who most of you know?

May his wife Louise, sons - Steven & David, his sister, Sharon and the extended family find comfort in the beautiful memories he left behind. A memorial service was held August 28. "Æret været hans minde".

September birthdays are: Leif Larsen, Anette Christensen, Eva Demosthenes, Glenn Fritz, Bonnie Larsen, Anette Landcaster, and Jennifer Baker. Happy birthday to all. Enjoy all the activities in Reno-Sparks area in September. Burning Man, Nugget Rib Cook-off, Air Races, Balloon Races, and Street Vibrations. What a busy month.

Take care and say "HI" to all in Ferndale from me - I will be busy at Rib Cook Off! 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

Dania Meeting August 18, 2017. 16 members attended our Pizza party at 6 PM. Susan & Brian hosted and brought the pizzas. They were delicious and everybody took more than their fair share.

Jerry Zoller won the attendance prize of \$50 and donated it to the Children's Christmas Fund. Thank you, Jerry.

We discussed if we still wanted to be member of the Danish Heritage organization, since we never use any of its services. The decision was postponed to next meeting.

Bob Schall is finalizing his transfer to Bornholm #14. His old branch Hejmdal #4 is in the process of closing. His health is also improving. We look forward to seeing him in Modesto. Our yearly Picnic will be on September 30 at the Orange Blossom Park. Bloody Mary's, Æbleskiver, Hamburger and

Hot Dogs will be available. George Dutra will bring the Grill for the BBQ.

The new program for 2017/2018 was distributed to all members.

This year we are considering going to a Christmas Play in the Sierras, and having a nice dinner at the National Hotel in Jamestown after the play. John Johansen will present a proposal at the September meeting.

David Raube reported about a Dance Convention in Junction City Oregon. Judging from his enthusiasm it had been a lot of fun.

Our next meeting will be Friday September 15. Bodil Whitehouse and Kirsten & John Johansen will serve light sandwiches and Danish Apple Pie. We start at 6 PM. The meeting is afterwards. John

Danneskjold No. 17 & Laura No. 8

Meeting: 3rd Saturday at 12 Noon in various homes.

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

Our August meeting was held at Britta Lange's home and she served a great salad lunch. Thanks Britta.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING IS A CHANGE FROM THE PROGRAM. September 16th will be held at Lis & Bob Lacey's. Be sure to call her by Wed. the 13th to let her know if you will be there or not. 408- 379-0844.

This will be a business meeting following lunch.

We wish Renea Fish a speedy recovery following complication from a broken ankle. I am happy to report that Carole

Muenzer is home from rehab, following brain surgery to relieve fluids. She will continue outpatient therapy for the next couple of months.

Congratulations to Gary Skow, proud grandpa of twin boys born Aug. 21. We are all so happy.

HAPPY LABOR DAY TO ALL.

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

The History of William Alexander Leidesdorff:

In the shadow of the Transamerica Pyramid lies a marker that points to a compelling rag-to-riches tale of prejudice, love lost and the pioneering spirit that built San Francisco. But it is a story that has rarely been told.

Financial district hotshots pass by tiny Leidesdorff Street, hardly more than an alley, and few can pronounce its name. Little do they know that the namesake of this charming hitching post-lined lane blazed their trail some 150 years ago. William Alexander Leidesdorff was born

the son of Alexander Leidesdorff, a drifting Danish seaman, and his mother a native of St. Croix Island in the West Indies. Leidesdorff, at the age of 31, came to California which was governed by Mexico in 1841.

Leidesdorff opened a mercantile business and developed a profitable export-import trade route between San Francisco and Honolulu. He sold hides and tallow, California's principal exports during that era.

From the proceeds of his business Leidesdorff began to build his empire. He purchased a lot at the corner of Clay and Kearny streets that later became the site of The City's first hotel; built the town's first cargo warehouse; opened a general store; became a shipbuilder; and established a lumberyard.

In 1844, the Mexican government granted Leidesdorff 35,000 acres of land in the Sacramento Valley when he applied for Mexican citizenship, a common practice at the time. In 1845, Leidesdorff rose to new stature when he was appointed American vice-consul for the Port of San Francisco. While the Mexican Government was losing its grip in California, Leidesdorff was secretly aiding the American take-over of California. In 1846 Leidesdorff was interested in establishing a 24-hour rapid trade line between San Francisco and the Sacramento Valley.

Leidesdorff's boat is recognized by historians as the first steam-powered craft on San Francisco Bay.

By this time, the residents of San Francisco viewed Leidesdorff as a community leader. When visiting diplomats needed to be entertained, Leidesdorff was called upon to play host in his stately home. The largest estate in town, his abode was known as the "Cottage," and was located on California and Montgomery near what was then the waterfront.

As the town's most prominent host and one of its most influential businessmen, Leidesdorff continued to add to his list of firsts in San Francisco. He was a member of the first town council; served as the first treasurer; served on the town's first school board and helped plan and build the first public school; built the town's first hotel, The City Hotel, at the Clay and Kearny property; and organized the first official horse race ever held in California on a meadow near Mission Dolores. With the onslaught of gold-diggers and new businesses, San Francisco's population exploded, and the town began a new era as a city unmatched in the West. But Leidesdorff never profited from the Gold Rush. Just a few months before the boom changed the town into a full-blown city, Leidesdorff unexpectedly died of typhoid fever at the age of 38.

A plaque, dedicated in 1988, rests on the corner of Leidesdorff and Sacramento streets, honoring the life of one of San Francisco's most visionary pioneers.

The information in this article was taken from an article written by Cindy Hu and is just one of many different histories of this early Danish/Jews/African American, San Francisco Pioneer.