



GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

April 2020

Dannebrog Grand President

Hello my friends! As you all know, the pandemic the world is experiencing has brought about big changes in our everyday lives. With the postponement of Convention to April 2021, the Grand Officers will be staying in their respective office. With the unknown, Local Branches may keep their current Officers, if they choose, without an installation. Dannebrog Executive Committee is taking care of business via email. At each Convention, Dannebrog has a Green March, one day benefits the Senior Assistance Fund, and the other day benefits the Dannebrog Scholarship Fund. In lieu of the Green March this year, please consider donating to one or both of these Funds. My wish for all of you is stay safe and healthy until we are able to once again mingle safely.—*Beth Cowan, Dannebrog Grand President*

Dania Grand President

Oh my goodness, what a difference a month can make! I hope you are all managing to avoid this coronavirus, in fact, go wash your hands now! First though, I'd like to remember way back to March 4th 2020, that great day I spent in Solvang before we all became housebound. I and my traveling companion Past Grand President, Steen Skjellerup, were treated to a wonderful lunch with Hejls Minde #23 as President Finn Runge conducted lodge business between courses of delicious food and robust singing of songs! We were all excited to be at "Bit'o Denmark" on their re-opening day following months of renovation work. It was a memorable day topped off with a delightful and long-overdue visit with Beatriz and Niels Djernaes. Then 3 days later (I think at that point we were all only at the elbow bumping stage of this epidemic) we were back on the road again to Modesto for their very popular and well attended Fish Luncheon (formally known as Dinner). Bornholm #14 pulls out all the stops for this event, the nervous energy of waiting in line to buy toilet paper is nothing compared to the level of excitement waiting for the door to open to the appetizer room. Oh the abundance of Danish delights, I think I heard angels singing! Good thing they had dance music to work off the calories so we could keep enjoying the endless offerings of fish and potatoes swimming in sauce, red beets, herring, beer and snaps! The next day was my own Salinas Lodge's wearing-of-the-green as we celebrated everyone's Irishness whether your DNA test proves it or not. Tim'nNat's corned beef and cabbage was even tenderer and tastier than usual. Then on March 14th the day before limits on group sizes were officially declared and the reality of the seriousness of this pandemic had really sunk in, I attended my first meeting of San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of Rebild, the Danish American Friendship Society. A small group of 10 members (which just happened to be the limit set that next day) met in a large empty banquet room at

Grand Officers

	Dania	Dannebrog
Grand Past President	John Scheuber john.scheuber@vsi.cc	Alan Filiu adfiliu@sbcglobal.net
Grand President	Jana Heer juganddana@sbcglobal.net	Beth Cowan beth.cowan@att.net
Grand Vice President	Bente Ellis Baellis06@gmail.com	Deanna Dunbar deannadnbr@yahoo.com
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	Tom Martin thomm1@comcast.net	Stuart O Mahler smahler52@att.net
Grand Vice Marshal		Lynn Wachter wachter.lynn@gmail.com
Grand Trustee #1	Johanne Rasmussen Gade	Elizabeth Jensen ecjensen@mac.com
Grand Trustee #2	Peder Hoy pedohoy@yahoo.com	Kathy Christensen pgchris@pacbell.net
Grand Trustee #3	Robert Lamee robertlamee@yahoo.com	Tracey Lamee tnlamee@yahoo.com

Anderson's Split Pea Soup Restaurant in Santa Nella. It was a lively meeting, most members you all may even know, and I recommend you think about attending a meeting and participating in one of their events that they spent most of the meeting planning for. Hopefully this national health emergency will subside soon and all the planning will become a reality. Now, speaking of planned events, for those of you who haven't gotten the word, our annual Dania and Dannebrog convention has been postponed from this April 16th through the 18th to next year, April 15 through the 17th 2021, and as prescribed in Dania's Constitution the current Grand Officers of Dania will stay in place for the coming year. The urgency of the situation and all the arrangements that needed to be worked out between the host lodge Bornholm of Modesto and the Clarion Hotel in addition to the need for all attendees to change their plans regarding convention, required us to tackle this decision

first and notify branch members as soon as possible. Traditionally, Dania's Executive Committee as well as Dannebrog's has always met early on the day of installation of Hayward's Thyra #9 and Valborg #1 to finalize the end of term Grand Lodge business, audit financial reports, select scholarship recipients and vote on the Member of the Year. Unfortunately Hayward had to postpone their installation, so, Dania's Executive Committee made history by having their annual (1hr and 41min) meeting via a teleconference! Since we'd be unable to honor a Member of the Year in our traditional celebratory way at convention we decided to wait till next year. Reports still need to be audited and some bills need to be paid, we have a second "meeting" scheduled for the end of April. "Business as usual" will not be the way things happen in Dania and Dannebrog for now. Hopefully members won't have to shelter in place for too much longer, and we'll get back to enjoying our regular meetings and activities as

soon as it's safe to do so. I hope to still hear from all of you via our newsletter, let's keep in touch, share some stories about how your members are dealing with this situation in their homes and communities, think of it as a group "Thinking of You" card, hang in there, "we'll get through this together".

We have received a report from Dania's Membership Committee and in the spirit of doing business differently, the editor is posting it in this month's newsletter. I encourage everyone to read it and give the committee's message and proposal some serious thought. I see this as a beginning to what could be the start of an important conversation regarding our future. If you have any comments or suggestions you'd like to contribute please send them to the editor, timh@danishsociety.com and they will be posted throughout the coming year as space allows. Stay well, and go wash your hands again . . .
Jana Heer, Dania Grand President

IN MEMORIAM:

**DANIA/DANNEBROG SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND
DANNEBROG SCHOLARSHIP
DANIA GERNERAL FUND**

Glen Fritz in Memory of Alvin Olsen and Margaret Hansen

NEW MEMBERS:

Maud Hansen and Lisa McDaniel, Danneskjold #17, San Jose
Doris Skow, Renae Fish, Bente Ellis, Kim Nielsen Giacinto,
and Laila Solyst, Dannebrog Grand Lodge CA & NV

Danish Campers:

ATTENTION Dania/Dannebrog Campers: the campout planned for May 1-3, in Hollister has been cancelled in

Dania Membership Committee

Dear Dania Members,
The Danish Societies of Dania & Dannebrog have a glorious past, rich with History, tradition and experiences enjoyed by our membership for more than a Century. It is time to look towards the Future and work on what we as members want the Societies to be in the Future and to find a purpose for their existence that goes above and beyond what we have been and are now. One of the reasons is that we want to be 'relevant' and thereby make it more interesting for people to join the Societies as members.

Another reason is that our rich Danish Heritage in the widest sense is meaningful, valuable and important to pass on, not only to our descendants but because our heritage can make a positive contribution to the Peoples of the World.

We suggest that we discuss and brainstorm about our mutual future of our Danish Societies in the year leading up to the 2021 Convention and put it on the agenda for the Convention.

Our suggestion is that the discussions take place in the individual Lodges at meetings and gatherings, at the Grand

2020 Convention Committee

If you have made a Room reservation at the Clarion Inn Conference Center in Modesto, make sure you cancel it by phoning 209-521-1612

Upcoming Conventions		
Bornholm #14	April 15-17 2021	Clarion Hotel Modesto
Upcoming Installations		
TBA		

observance of extreme caution. Happy traveling. Doris Skow

Lodge level and in this Newsletter. The common theme is suggested to be: "What do we want the Societies to be in the Future and how can we make sure the Societies can survive and prosper in the decades to come?"

"We need more members!". We hear this spoken often, not just in our own organization, but in many others as well. If we fail to act, there is a very high possibility that the decline in membership will continue and we'll eventually have to 'close up'.

Proposal:

That the Societies set up a grant/stipend/scholarship or something of that nature where an applicant will be awarded \$3000-\$4000 to cover, in part, participating in the studies of Literature and History at a Danish Folk High School in Denmark. The condition would be that upon returning to the US, the applicant would visit all Lodges, and perhaps the Convention, and communicate the experience. There are about 70 Folk High Schools, the best known is probably Askov:

<https://www.danishfolkhighschools.com/folkhighschools/?school=askov-hojskole>

Sincerely, Ole M Pedersen, Dania Membership Committee

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 John A. Jensen, E-Mail

jajensend2@gmail.com Thyra #3 Secretary Johanne Gade

The entire San Francisco lodge wishes you good health! March 2020 has indeed been a strange month. Our regular meeting on March 11th was anything but regular. The elevator at the Odd Fellow's Hall was out, so we had our gathering in the basement. We truly hunkered down but had a full meeting and a great time anyway. How many times did we wash our hands? We all lost count. But obviously things have gotten much crazier since then. Our April meeting in San Francisco is cancelled. Instead our lodge is planning a Zoom meeting. Maybe not a true lodge meeting, but a chance for "Virtual Hygge" as our

president Anne termed it. It's important to keep in touch with all our friends and neighbors at a time like this. Anne reminds us that our organization was founded to connect Danish-Americans so we can support and care for each other. We need to hold that in mind now more than ever. Stay safe and sane!

Med venlig hilsen, John A. Jensen, Secretary,
jajensend2@gmail.com , 510-299-1855

Thor No. 5 & Thora No. 11

Meeting: 1st. Saturday, 11:30 AM. Denny's 1110 Shaw Ave (on the north side, just east of First Street) Fresno.

Secretary, Martha Nielsen nielsenmarta@gmail.com

Lots of changes up in the air for all of us. We cancelled our March Lodge meeting so that many of us could attend the Annual Fish dinner in Modesto. There was a nice size crowd, not as many as we would see 10 years ago. The appetizers were wonderful, and the fish served with the Danish mustard sauce was as good as it ever was. We even had dance music that Ben Hoover, (Scheuber's grandson) had arranged for us. It was an enjoyable afternoon of visiting and dancing.

Now we are in the middle of the shutdown, to curtail this virus. The Denny restaurant where we meet will be closed until further notice. Our April lodge meeting will be cancelled until everything is back to normal. We will

notify you about our May meeting either by phone or newsletter.

Carl Jensen had talked recently with Stan and Pam Kjar. They are still living up in Coarsegold, and Stan said, "they were holding their own". Rene and Doris Lastreto are still at San Joaquin Terraces.

Our April convention has been postponed. I was looking forward to going as it's also a grand party of visiting with all of the other lodges. We do have all those meetings to take care of the grand lodge business, but the evening parties are the best.

We wish everyone the best as they stay close to home and stay healthy we want to see you at the next meeting and convention. Martha Nielsen

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 Secretary, Natalie Heer, timandnatalie@sbcglobal.net

All of us in Freja #6 and Dana #15 hope you and yours are staying well during this worldwide health crisis. We were able to squeeze in our March 8th meeting before all the restrictions on gatherings were announced. Even then, we were under 10. After feasting on Tim'nNat's tender and tasty corned beef and cabbage, potatoes and carrots, and Jana's soda bread, over cake and coffee we had a casual business meeting to finalize our last minute plans and delegate selection for convention. Who could have known

what changes in our lives awaited us, it all seems so long ago, and it hasn't even been a month! Like the rest of you, we won't be meeting again till further notice, but that doesn't mean we'll be out of touch. Stay "close", check in with your fellow members, and share some good news here in our newsletter even though we won't be reporting on our meetings, it's times like this that we need each other most. Take care. -JH

Dannevang No. 7 & Danebod No. 16

Meets 2nd Saturday at 6:00PM; Emil Villa's Restaurant 3064 Pacific Ave. Livermore,

Dannevang #7 Secretary, Robert Lamee, Robertlamee@yahoo.com Danebod Secretary , Kathy Thomsen, danskfarm@yahoo.com

In your wildest dreams could you ever imagine we would be where we are now in 2020? I sure didn't! But here we are! Certainly, no news to report from Livermore lodge meetings, so I just encourage you all to know that we will get through this and perhaps our

perspective on life will be certainly be a bit altered, hopefully for the better. Just remember that 8pm is now the official time to remove your day pajamas and to put your night pajamas on! Be well, and stay home! KRT

No. 9 Thyra & Valborg No. 1

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

President, Susan Gauthier, s.gauthier@sbcglobal.net #9 Thyra/Valborg #1 Secretary, Beth Cowan, beth.cowan@att.net

In order to protect the health and well-being of our members and families, and to be in compliance with the Shelter In Place Order issued by the Alameda County Public Health Department due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I have cancelled our April 9th meeting.

I hope each of you take this time to reach out to family, friends, and lodge members to let them know you are thinking of them. Most of all, I want you to take care of yourselves! Stay well! Susan

Sønderjylland No. 10

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

John Cruger-Hansen, Secretary, 8426 Bel View Court, El Cerrito, CA 94530-2557

Home: 510-232-6998 or cell: 510-375-5070, E-Mail: j.cruigerhansen@comcast.net

Sønderjylland #10 had no meeting in March 2020. The Sønderjylland #10 Board of Directors is sending the following message to our members:
We hope all of you are well and coping with our new normal during this difficult time of the COVID-19 outbreaks in our area, our country, and in the world. Because of the outbreak we are cancelling, until further notice, all of our scheduled meetings at the Kastania Fælled in Petaluma. It is unfortunate that we have to take this action, but having our meetings would put our

members in unnecessary danger of being infected with the COVID-19 virus. Better safe than sorry.
So far, we have not heard of any of our members getting sick with the virus, thank goodness, but please do let us know if you need any help or if you know of any of our members who need help.
Until further notice, stay safe, stay healthy, and stay in contact with each other.
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

Apr 4 Valhalla and Ydun Lodge meeting and lunch has been CANCELED due to the COVID-19 Corona Virus. All lodge activities have been canceled until further notice. Since we own the Danish Hall building, we will be paying bills to keep up with our accounts. Our tenants have canceled events so our income has been effected, but we have funds to pay the bills.
I hope you are staying well and keeping healthy. Remember the Hallmark Channel is running a Christmas Movie Marathon.

June 3 Scandinavian Midsummer Festival next meeting will be held at the Norway Hall, 5:30 with a potluck dinner. Festival will be June 28 at the Danish Hall, starts at 9:00 with Bocce. All are welcome.
Happenings and other news, Hayward Installation, Reno Installation and Modesto Conventions have been canceled due to the COVID-19 Corona Virus. 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, anettechristensen@charter.net

The Reno Lodges of Valdemar #12 and Dannevirke #9 met at the Odd Fellows Hall on Friday March 6th at 7 PM – just before the whole town shut down and we knew how serious the Covid-19 is!
Our Finnish chef, Jennifer Baker and her family had prepared the best St. Urho dinner – all for \$5.00!
The 19 members and 5 visitors in attendance enjoyed a wonderful Finish salmon soup, meatballs, creamed potato dish, veggies, and great salads. Not even appetizers or desserts were missing.
The tables were decorated with table clothes and centerpieces all in the colors of purple and green, which is the colors for the St. Urho. We were even served grasshopper drinks! During dessert and coffee Anette opened a short meeting around 9:00 PM. Anette introduced our 5 visitors. We were honored to have Past Grand President Daniel Joensen of San Francisco, 4 Finnish

friends were also joining us. Vesa and Yvette, Pia and Terrance. Pia Laine owns “My Scandinavia” store and brought several items for sale. Then we went into the highlights of the next 2 months – however those plans have changed. Sorry to announce that our **April 3rd Easter Potluck has been cancelled!**
We were going to have election of officers, but due to the cancellations of the Convention in Modesto on April 16-18, we are following in their footsteps. The Grand Officers will remain the same for one more year. The Reno Lodges will keep our officers the same till next year’s election!
This also means that we will be **cancelling the Installation on May 1, 2020**. I don’t believe it will be safe for the Grand Officers to travel by then. I apologize for the disappointment but feel it’s the wise thing to do. Better to be safe than sorry. ☺

I do hope things are getting back to normal by the time our Saint Hans Fest is scheduled at the River School Farm on June 19th. Everyone is welcome to that fun event. More information will be following later regarding that.

Our sick list is small, which is good. Ann-Katherine was in the hospital for a couple of days due to dehydration but are doing better and she was in attendance. Our sympathy goes out to

John La Roache & Solveig and their extended family, in the passing of his mother. May she rest in peace. We missed all the members that were unable to attend.

Our April Birthdays: Sena-Marie Freeman, Brandur Jensen, Karma Smith, Glenn Christensen, Carl Christiansen, and Peter Jensen. Happy Birthday everyone! Stay healthy and Happy Easter everyone, Sena-Marie

Bornholm No. 14

Meeting: 3rd. Friday every month 5:00 PM To Be Determined

President Bente Ellis, Bentfra@comcast.net Secretary Ann Stowers, ann.max@att.net

Hello to all our fellow "shelterers"! Hope all is well with you and you're able to get supplies.

We were able to have a great Fish Dinner in early March. Everyone seemed to like the earlier start and the music provided by our own Ben Hoover. Thanks Ben! Also, a big thank you to all who helped with organizing, cooking, the appetizers and to all who joined us for the cleanup. Everyone seemed to have a great time. We were sorry to have to cancel the convention but look forward to trying again next April. See you then!!!

I talked to Peder Hoy the other day and he says he is feeling good. Let's keep him in our prayers. Max Stowers had to have emergency surgery to remove his gall bladder last week. He spent three lonely days in the hospital with no family or visitors allowed. He is home now and is feeling better.

I remember my parent's telling my sis and I about the rationing during WWII. Now I know what it must have been for them—and it lasted a long time. Let's pray for a speedy solution. - Ann

Danneskjold No. 17 & Laura No. 8

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

President, Doris Skow, dws1929@gmail.com, Secretary, Kim Nielsen Giacinto, kimgiacinto@gmail.com

Danneskjold #17 of San Jose did not plan a meeting in April, however depending on how the health of the country is, we did schedule a business meeting at the home of Jonna Robinson for May 16. Be sure to check the May Newsletter for more information on that meeting.

I am happy to report that Ron Nielsen's knee is much better since his fall and he is able to go out walking. He has a lovely creek side to walk along. It was nice to see our former member, Eva Rasmussen recently. She now lives in Bend, OR and was down for a couple of weeks. She stayed with Maud Hansen and like all the

rest of us, she got caught up in the Shelter in Place orders. Lis Lacey got a call from Elaine Henson, also a former member who now lives in Seattle, WA. She reported that she is doing pretty well and enjoys living up there.

I want to thank those members who are reaching out to others in our group so that we all have connections to each other even in these times. Thoughts and prayers go out to all of our both local and distant that you stay safe and well. DWS

Hejls Minde No. 23

Meeting: 1st. Wednesday 12 noon at Bit O' Denmark,

Secretary, Jean Kardel, 5765 Oakhill Dr. Santa Maria, CA 93455

Hejls Minde No. 23 held its monthly meeting on Wednesday March 4, 2020 at the Bit of Denmark Restaurant in Solvang California. A delicious lunch of potato leek soup followed by fiskefilet, potato salad, snaps and beer was enjoyed by all. We had chocolate cake for dessert.

We were honored to have Grand President Jana Heer and Past Grand President Steen Skellerup present. Alice Quimby's daughter, Susan, was also a guest. The meeting was opened by President Finn Runge, the minutes were read and the roll called. Marie Jaeger read the Treasurers

report. Agnes Larsen won the Door Prize. Erling Grumstrup, Steen Skellerup and Alice Quimby led us in many Danish songs. We also sang Happy Birthday to Alice and Finn. Everyone enjoyed visiting and as Erling said, we were in a high mood.

Our normal April 1st meeting at the Bit of Denmark is canceled due to all the restaurants being closed and our seniors living at Atterdag is on lock down where several of our members live. We are not having a meeting until further notice. Darlene Iversen

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 Iverse