



# GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

May 2020

## Dannebrog Grand President

Hello from my home where I have been sheltered in place since March 17, and I know many of you have also been doing your part to help flatten the curve of this pandemic. I look forward to being able to travel again to attend your meetings and/or activities. In the meantime, stay healthy and safe!—

*Beth Cowan, Dannebrog Grand President*

## Dania Grand President

Good Morning! Jana Heer here, typing away at a last minute Grand President message (sorry, again, T&N) on a warming April 30th in Fresno California. As some of you know, three months ago I took up residence with Past Grand President Steen Skjellerup. One of you “someones” thought it would be a good idea to make an announcement here in my GP message, and since we’re all a little scarce in the News department of our D&D Newsletter, now seems like a good time to share. News like this of course gives rise to many questions, I will say that all parties concerned are doing well in adjusting to this change, and I for one have never been happier. I was sorry to miss out on Modesto’s surprise Happy Birthday Parade for Doris Hoy on Sunday the 19th. But in keeping with Dania’s motto, “Not for pleasure only” I was conducting some important Dania business, also in the street, which isn’t to say it wasn’t a pleasure to see Dania and Dannebrog’s Grand Treasurers, Greg Gleeson and Pat Brouillette, but it was very disappointing to have to maintain that 6 ft. separation. College Scholarship Certificates needed signing, Pat and Greg were passing through Fresno, like they say, where there’s a will, there’s a way. I heard that Doris’s parade was fun, festive and well attended, Happy Birthday Doris!!

The 2020 Danish Society Dania Scholarship recipients:

Kimberly Moreland, Sarah Gauthier, Robert Jensen

The 2020 Dania Memorial Scholarship recipients:

Nina Christiansen, Sonja Giacinto, Brenna White, Kaelie Martin-Mahler

Congratulations to all recipients, we wish you continued success in your studies. Your Scholarship  
Have you run out of long neglected projects? Are your closets more organized than they’ve ever been? Has every weed in your garden been eliminated? I truly hope that this “Shelter in Place” lifestyle has had many positive moments

## IN MEMORIAM:

PGP Robert Sorensen, Bornholm #14, Modesto

## DANIA/DANNEBROG SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND

Johanne Gade in memory of PGP Robert Sorensen  
Elizabeth & Jim Jensen in memory of Robert Sorensen  
Hejls Minde #23

## DANNEBROG SCHOLARSHIP

Laura #8

## DANNEBROG GERNERAL FUND

Laura #8

## DANIA GERNERAL FUND:

Glen Fritz in memory of PGP Robert Sorensen

## Grand Officers

	Dania	Dannebrog
Grand Past President	<b>John Scheuber</b> <a href="mailto:john.scheuber@vsi.cc">john.scheuber@vsi.cc</a>	<b>Alan Filiau</b> <a href="mailto:adfiliu@sbcglobal.net">adfiliu@sbcglobal.net</a>
Grand President	<b>Jana Heer</b> <a href="mailto:juganddana@sbcglobal.net">juganddana@sbcglobal.net</a>	<b>Beth Cowan</b> <a href="mailto:beth.cowan@att.net">beth.cowan@att.net</a>
Grand Vice President	<b>Bente Ellis</b> <a href="mailto:Baellis06@gmail.com">Baellis06@gmail.com</a>	<b>Deanna Dunbar</b> <a href="mailto:deannadnbr@yahoo.com">deannadnbr@yahoo.com</a>
Grand Secretary	<b>Tim Heer</b> <a href="mailto:tim-gs@sbcglobal.net">tim-gs@sbcglobal.net</a> (831) 426-4623	<b>Natalie Heer</b> <a href="mailto:natalie-gs@sbcglobal.net">natalie-gs@sbcglobal.net</a> (831) 426-4623
Grand Treasurer	<b>Gregory A. Gleeson</b> <a href="mailto:gleeson2@icloud.com">gleeson2@icloud.com</a>	<b>Pat Brouillette</b> <a href="mailto:pab0718@sbcglobal.net">pab0718@sbcglobal.net</a>
Grand Marshal	<b>Tom Martin</b> <a href="mailto:thomm1@comcast.net">thomm1@comcast.net</a>	<b>Stuart O Mahler</b> <a href="mailto:smahler52@att.net">smahler52@att.net</a>
Grand Vice Marshal		<b>Lynn Wachter</b> <a href="mailto:wachter.lynn@gmail.com">wachter.lynn@gmail.com</a>
Grand Trustee #1	<b>Johanne Rasmussen Gade</b>	<b>Elizabeth Jensen</b> <a href="mailto:ecjensen@mac.com">ecjensen@mac.com</a>
Grand Trustee #2	<b>Peder Hoy</b> <a href="mailto:pedohoy@yahoo.com">pedohoy@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Kathy Christensen</b> <a href="mailto:pgchris@pacbell.net">pgchris@pacbell.net</a>
Grand Trustee #3	<b>Robert Lamee</b> <a href="mailto:robertlamee@yahoo.com">robertlamee@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Tracey Lamee</b> <a href="mailto:tnlamee@yahoo.com">tnlamee@yahoo.com</a>

for all of you, that you and your loved ones are staying virus free, and that soon this will be behind us and resulting in a kinder more compassionate society worldwide.

Sending virtual hugs till we get the all clear for real ones!  
Dania Grand President Jana Heer

<u>Upcoming Conventions</u>		
<b>Bornholm #14</b>	<b>April 15-17 2021</b>	<b>Clarion Hotel Modesto</b>
<u>Upcoming Installations</u>		
TBA		

**Danmark No. 2 & Thyra No. 3**

**Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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**

Once again, the entire San Francisco lodge wishes you good health!

Our lodge did not have a meeting in April. Instead we had a Zoom meeting for some virtual socializing. It was good to see everybody and catch up on how the shutdown is affecting all of us. We are all in this together, just in different houses. We asked if anyone had any good corona virus jokes, but as Richard pointed out, they're all inside jokes.

We want to thank the Grand Lodge for the decision to postpone our convention until next year. It only makes

sense. Now we have a whole year to read the proposed Dania Constitutional revisions, and that's almost enough time. ;-)

Our May meeting in San Francisco is cancelled due to the extended shutdown. Besides, the elevator is still out and we can hide in our own basements at home. Here's hoping that everyone is still doing fine. We will all see each other soon!

Med venlig hilsen, John A. Jensen, Secretary,

[jajensend2@gmail.com](mailto:jajensend2@gmail.com) , 510-299-1855

**Thor No. 5 & Thora No. 11**

**Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto:nielsenmarta@gmail.com)**

We are all doing the right thing by "staying home" and "social distancing" when out for groceries. But I'm so ready for this to be over.

We will not be having our May 2, lodge meeting, as the restaurant would not be open that soon anyway.

So many of our functions have been cancelled. Our Kingsburg Swedish Festival, which is the third weekend of May has been cancelled. We will miss dancing for the Friday night dinner, then Saturday morning for the Swedish pancake breakfast. The best is Thursday evening when they have something really special. This is the little kids from 2 years old to 8 to 9 years old, all dressed up in costumes, dancing their hearts out. Those little 2-year olds

know all the right moves for those old Scandinavian children's folk dances which are mostly Danish and Swedish. They are taught by our own Dannebrog member and now Vice Marshal, Christin Holt and daughter Rebecca. We will miss seeing them perform this year. It's really the most delightful evening.

Thinking ahead to our June picnic, I spoke with our President Kay Jensen and we're hoping we can still have the picnic, even if we move it to a later time in the month if need be. We'll know later and will have it in the June newsletter. Stay safe and healthy, we look forward to seeing all of you when we are over this lock down. Martha

**Freja No. 6 & Dana No. 15**

**Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup>. Sunday every month at 1:00 P.M.; Salinas Masonic Center, 48 East San Joaquin Street, Salinas CA Secretary,**

**Natalie Heer, [timandnatalie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:timandnatalie@sbcglobal.net)**

As sheltering in place continues to be the best thing to do right now to avoid Covid-19 all I can say is thank goodness for social media. Seeing our friends posting, thumbs-upping and commenting with smiley faces is what keeps us positive and hopeful. Dania and Dannebrog started out as an original social network and knew from the beginning

how important it is to maintain connections with friends and associates. On behalf of Dana #15 and Freja #6 I extend our hopes and concerns to all of you and yours, stay well, stay safe and we look forward to seeing everyone gathered together. Maybe not in May, definitely not May 3rd our scheduled meeting time, but hopefully soon . . . JH

**Dannevang No. 7 & Danebod No. 16**

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

**Dannevang #7 Secretary, Robert Lamee, [Robertlamee@yahoo.com](mailto:Robertlamee@yahoo.com) Danebod Secretary , Kathy Thomsen,**

**[danskfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:danskfarm@yahoo.com)**

My dad had a saying "Out is good, but home is best" but not sure he would have appreciated having to be sheltered in place due to covid-19. Hope you are all hanging in there, one thing that helps for sure is to turn off the dang news at least once in a while. Convention went well don't you

think? Can't wait for Reno's installation and array of delicious Danish sandwiches. Oh, yeah, not going to happen, but we can think of one another, lift up a glass and skål one another across the miles. Miss you all and stay safe, KRT

**No. 9 Thyra & Valborg No. 1**

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

**President, Susan Gauthier, [s.gauthier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.gauthier@sbcglobal.net) #9 Thyra/Valborg #1 Secretary, Beth Cowan, [beth.cowan@att.net](mailto:beth.cowan@att.net)**

In order to protect the health and well-being of our members and families, I have cancelled our May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy.

*We isolate now so when we gather again, no one is missing.*  
Be well! Susan

**Sonderjylland No. 10**

**Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.crugerhansen@comcast.net](mailto:j.crugerhansen@comcast.net)**

The Sønderjylland #10 President Debbie Cruger-Hansen is sending the following message to our members:

I 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.

As we explained in our last newsletter, we cancelled our meetings until further notice because of the outbreak. 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, I have not heard of any of our members getting sick with the virus, thank goodness, but please do let me know if you need any help or if you know of any of our members who need help.

Here is an update on how the Cruger-Hansen clan is coping.

I am getting used to teaching my 4<sup>th</sup> grade class on-line, remote learning we call it. Our school campus is closed and all our students were authorized to take the school supplied Chromebook tablets home with them and use them for remote learning. I now have daily "meetings" via ZOOM with my students, small groups. We read books with each other and discuss the book afterwards, like a book report, but much more in person with their teacher, (me). We also do art and other projects. My co-teacher in 4<sup>th</sup> grade teaches math and science to the students in the same manner via ZOOM.

I seem to be working harder now, (from home) than I ever did in the classroom at school. I am struggling to keep my students engaged and on task, but thankfully, I have a great principal, and I work for a very understanding School District. We have to last until summer vacation in June, and I am sure we will. My husband John, (your secretary/treasurer) supplies me with coffee and prepares meals for us, a great relief.

John is in contact with his family and friends in Denmark. They are in the same situation we are in, staying home

sheltering in place. Denmark has lifted some restrictions, but very few people are willing to take a chance and leave home, especially the older population. John's cousin's son-in-law is a doctor at the main hospital in Denmark, Rigshospitalet, and he stays at the hospital for three days at a time, not going home to his family, in order to protect them from the virus. The outbreak in Denmark is not as bad as here fortunately, but they still are in danger. It's different in Sweden, just across the bridge from Copenhagen. John's childhood friend's children live in Malmö, Sweden, but they decided to take the Danish lead and shelter in place even though it is not required. Sweden has nearly twice the number of infected and dead from COVID-19 than Denmark, based on percentage of population.

Kirsten is busy homeschooling William, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and Henry, Kindergarten. Fortunately for the boys, (or maybe not) Kirsten was a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for years (before kids), and had just returned to be a substitute teacher when COVID-19 closed the schools. The boys can't claim mom doesn't know what they are supposed to do. Elle just turned two, so her learning is fast and furious since she has both parents, and especially her brothers there all day to learn from.

Catherine is at home, telecommuting to her job at BioMarin Pharmaceuticals in Novato. She is doing ok, but is missing collaborating in person with her coworkers. Caroline is distributing the school lunches, (actually breakfast, lunch and dinner), that our School District supplies to all persons under seventeen. She also, as the school's 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor, is in contact with her students both on-line and by phone, checking in on them as to their studies and how she can help in other ways. After school she takes walks in her neighborhood with her dog "Pupster" that many of you know. It's a different way of life for a school counselor for sure. Please stay safe, stay healthy, and stay in contact with each other. *Debbie Cruger-Hansen*

**Valhalla No. 11 & Ydun No. 10**

**Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday every month at 11:00 A.M., Danish Hall, Ferndale, CA 95536**

**Secretary, Christian Nielsen, [ChristianNielsen@suddenlink.net](mailto:ChristianNielsen@suddenlink.net)**

Here we are during a COVID-19 pandemic, most of us are sheltering at home and only going out for groceries or doctor appointments. Our meeting hall has been shut down, no dance studio, no gatherings of more than ten with a six-foot social distance. I thought I would take

some time to give a shout out to our members who have been deemed "Essential Workers". We have our president **Francis Sweet** a sheep farmer who needs to attend to his animals; our secretary **Christian Nielsen** who is working for the Planning and Building Department issuing building

permit, planning permits and cannabis permits; our Past Grand President, current Grand Marshal **Tom Martin** who is in the plumbing sales keeping the stores supplied so housing can continue to be constructed; member **Jim Nielsen** who is floor manager for our Costco store in Eureka; member **Lawrence Lancaster** who is working in Environmental Health keeping our food safe; member **Felicity Christensen** working the night shift at McDonalds drive thru; member **Hans Kristian**

**Christensen** working at the County of Humboldt IT department keeping all the computer networks running so that employees can still work from home; member **Daniel Barney** works for the LA power company and is busy keeping the power on. This is just some of what our members have been doing during this time. I hope all of you are safe and healthy and we will be back up and running 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, anettechristensen@charter.net**

I think this is the first article written without a meeting to report about – at least within the last 20 years. What crazy times we live in and who would have thought that we would experience something like this in our lifetime? I sincerely hope everyone is well, staying home and still enjoying some quality time with loved ones!

Easter has come and gone, and it was quite different this year, but good! Here in Reno we have some new young members and I encouraged them to come up with ideas we could use in the Lodge. Jillian & Nick Szewczak suggested that we bring Easter baskets to some of our members. What a wonderful idea! So, instead of having Easter Egg hunt and dinner, we drove around to some of our members that have not been able to attend our meetings. The Easter baskets were delivered with a few homemade goodies and a few daffodils to brighten everyone's Easter. We apologize that not every member received a basket but want you to know that we were thinking of all of you wishing you a happy Easter!

As you know we cancelled the April meeting and the installation of officers which should have been on May 1. Since the Convention was cancelled the current officers remain in their respected places. This goes for the Grand Lodge, but also for our local Lodges, Dannevirke #9 and Valdemar #12. We do want to thank everyone in the Modesto Lodge, Bornholm #14, for all their hard work on the convention and then to turn around and cancel it. Hope most of the preparations can benefit you next year. We are sorry to hear that Modesto lost a true hero, Bob Sorensen who made it to the impressive age of 100 years. He was such a gentleman and always a pleasure to have conversations with. He kept up on news and was

#### ***Bornholm No. 14***

**Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup>. Friday every month 5:00 PM To Be Determined**  
President Bente Ellis, [Bentfra@comcast.net](mailto:Bentfra@comcast.net) Secretary Ann Stowers, [ann.max@att.net](mailto:ann.max@att.net)

#### ***Danneskjold No. 17 & Laura No. 8***

**Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 12 Noon in various homes.**  
**President, Doris Skow, [dws1929@gmail.com](mailto:dws1929@gmail.com), Secretary, Kim Nielsen Giacinto, [kimgiacinto@gmail.com](mailto:kimgiacinto@gmail.com)**

Hi everyone, when I put out last months article I told you we would meet in May at Jonna Robinson's home, well we will not.

continually active on his farm till the end. "Æret være hans minde!"

Providing Governors permission, we hope that we can meet at the Lodge again on Friday June 5, which is also "Grundlovsdag" Constitution Day in Denmark.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution\\_Day\\_\(Denmark\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_Day_(Denmark))

We will plan on a picnic and spread out over the whole hall and outside in order to keep our social distance. ☺ Also hoping we can carry out the St. Hans Fest on Friday June 19 at the River School Farm. Since we are going to be outside, we should be able to stick to the social distance there, too.

Ann-Katherine is in total isolation at her assisted living place at this troubling time. She is lucky to have her dog. She cannot even have visitors. I call her every day. I know she would love hearing from anyone that wishes to call her. She is slow at answering the phone, just keep calling and she will answer. Her number is 775-843-4034. She does not check voice mails. As for me, I am off work for a month or more, because of the Casinos being closed. I am lucky I am getting paid. I am bored as well, but I have great friends and family that check on me. I also have my 2 cats Starr and 4-month-old Dumpling, they keep me company.

Our May birthdays are Mariam Gndt, Nina Sawyer, Ken Downey, Lars Jensen and Greg Nielsen. Happy birthday everyone and may it be a memorable one – non-the-less! I hope this terrible time will soon be over, please be safe and stay healthy. Sena-Marie & Anette.

As the shelter in place rules are still in effect and the COVID-19 seems to be still rearing its ugly head there will be NO MEETINGS of Danneskjold #17 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

When I last checked our members are staying stable.. I wish everyone a safe and well spring. I hope you have

areas where you can sit and enjoy the sun and the flowers while maintaining the safe distance rule. DWS

### Hejls Minde No. 23

**Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup>. Wednesday 12 noon at Bit O' Denmark, Secretary, Jean Kardel, 5765 Oakhill Dr. Santa Maria, CA 93455**

Greetings from our stay-at-home members in Solvang. No meeting and no wonderful lunch at Bit of Denmark but everyone is doing well. Those at the senior home are on lock down and no visitors are allowed. Marie Jaeger is in a group **making** masks for them to use. The Danes are tough and have shown in the past they can survive. A good strong cup of coffee and butter cookie helps. A Snaps helps too.

The lodge business continues. Our treasurer, Marie Jaeger, has mailed donation checks of \$1,000 each to Meals on

Wheels of Solvang, Buellton, and Santa Maria. Also, a \$2,000 check to Dania Senior Assistance. A scholarship check of \$500 will be presented to a Santa Ynez High School senior in June. Money well spent and much needed.

The town of Solvang is completely closed down. Bent Olsen's bakery is open for pick up only and of course the large grocery stores are open. We are all looking forward to getting back to our old normal. 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 Iversen**

### History

There has been a lot of talk about the 1918-19 Spanish Flu pandemic in the news lately so I thought I would look at what Dania and Dannebrog were doing during this time. On April 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup> of 1919 the Convention was held in Modesto. Some of the Business that took place was a resolution calling upon the peace conference to restore Schleswig to Denmark. They appointed a committee to investigate and plan for establishing a home for Old members of Dania. Later to become Aldersly. By unanimous vote, the sum of \$1,000.00 was subscribed for Victory bonds. It was reported that we had 2,400 Members, that we paid \$4,300 out that year in death benefits and \$11,000 in Sick benefits. It did not mention if it was related to the Flu, but during this time it was normally around \$12,000.0 a year. After all those expenses we still had a reported \$141,300.77 in our combined treasury.

At the Convention a new Branch of Dannebrog was formed, Alfa #14 of Modesto. It was also very common for local Branches to be purchasing Victory bonds and being involved in fund raising for them.

In 1918 at the installation in Salinas the Grand President was Kidnapped. According to the news article there was about one Hundred visitors from San Jose, Hayward and San Francisco. They also initiated a New member into Freja #6. The Installation was conducted by Grand President and member of Freja J. T. Lund. He was assisted

by Grand Vice Marshal Vijby of Hayward. The Meeting was for the members of the lodge only, which means that only men were to be present. However, the wives of the Freja members, many of them were members of Fremad Lodge, ruled otherwise. They secured admittance into the hall with the aid of a I.O.O.F Hall Manager while the meeting was in progress. By clever maneuvering, the Ladies captured the Grand President, and then sent an ultimatum to the Freja member that they would release the high officer of the Grand Lodge when they were admitted to the session. The Grand President being surrounded by forty ladies, had little chance to escape. The men held a hurried conference among themselves and realizing the position in which they had been placed by the adroit capture, and knowing he was indispensable to the continuance of the Lodge business they capitulated and admitted the ladies. Fremad Lodge was the Ladies' auxiliary for Freja #6.

In this same I.O.O.F Hall in September of 1919 a funeral was held for Past Grand President Carl Rasmussen who had passed away due to an illness contracted during the "flu" period a year ago. Carl served as Jr. Past Grand President from 1905 till 1907 due to the 1906 earthquake just like this year. He is also the only Grand Officer that I have been able to find who succumbed to the Spanish Flu. Let us make sure we do not lose anyone during this Covid-19 pandemic.