



GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

March 2023

Dannebrog Grand President

I hope everyone is surviving the abundance of rain and snow that we are having. It has been a long time since we have seen this much all at once.

It was wonderful having my home lodge installation in Fresno. We haven't had one since Covid began in 2020. We had a great turn out with so many of the Grand Lodge there and guests from other lodges. We had good food and good fellowship.

The next Saturday we went to the Encinal Yacht Club for Danmark #2 and Thyra #3 installation. I rode with Stein Skjellerup and Jana Heer, so it was easy for me to find the place. This was a lovely place for an installation. When it was completed, we went upstairs for a wonderful meal while we looked out at the water with sailboats sailing by.

The last installation before the convention is Hayward on March 18th, at Cattlemens in Livermore. This is where I began my term as President. It's been a great year. I am looking forward to seeing you at the Newark-Fremont Doubletree for the convention on April 13th through 15th.

Deanna Dunbar, Dannebrog's Grand President

Dania Grand President

Hello from wet San Jose, with white hills all around. A great time to hunker down around the home fires. A short and busy month. After a happy time at the Installation in Fresno I headed to Mesa AZ to meet up with 5 snowbirds from Iowa. We had a wonderful and Happy "Dane Time". Even spent time with my friend and former neighbor, Patty.

Made it home in time to enjoy a fun and festive Installation in Alameda. The San Francisco Denmark No. 2 and Thyra No. 3 hosted in a fantastic venue on the water. Had a chance to catch up with friends we had not seen for a long time. Beautiful venue, great food, and wonderful friends what is not to enjoy? Last but by no means least, I hosted the San Jose Lodge Danneskjold #17 meeting and very abbreviated Installation on the 25th. It was great to see Doris Skow present among us.

Grand Officers

	Dania	Dannebrog
Grand Past President	Jana Heer juganddana@sbcglobal.net	Beth Cowan beth.cowan@att.net
Grand President	Bente Ellis Baellis06@gmail.com	Deanna Dunbar deannadunbar530@gmail.com
Grand Vice President	Tom Martin thommartin99@gmail.com	Stuart O Mahler smahler52@att.net
Grand Secretary	Tim Heer tim-gs@sbcglobal.net (831) 332-4196	Natalie Heer natalie-gs@sbcglobal.net (831) 334-1372
Grand Treasurer	Gregory A. Gleeson gleeson2@icloud.com	Pat Brouillette pab0718@sbcglobal.net
Grand Marshal	Dan Holm Danholm@gmail.com	Kathy Thomsen danskfarm@yahoo.com
Grand Vice Marshal	Robert Lamee robertlamee@yahoo.com	Tracey Lamee tlamee@yahoo.com
Grand Trustee #1	Johanne Rasmussen Gade	Kathy Christensen pgchris@pacbell.net
Grand Trustee #2	John Jensen jajensend2@gmail.com	Kay Jensen
Grand Trustee #3	John Scheuber john.scheuber@vsi.cc	Jessica Jobe Sea jessica@jobesea.com

Looking forward to Thyra #9 and Valborg #1 Installation and then on to Convention. Enjoy the coming spring flowers! Take care of each other and Paa Gensyn. Bente Ellis, Dania Grand President

IN MEMORIAM:

Shirley Thomsen, Valhalla No. 11 & Ydun #10, Ferndale
Helen Elliot, Valhalla No. 11 & Ydun #10, Ferndale
Norman Davis, Bornholm #14, Modesto

New Member:

Taylor Thomsen, Danebod #16, Livermore
Krista Thomsen, Danebod #16, Livermore
Emma Kavanaugh, Danebod #16, Livermore
Michael Lacey, Danneskjold #17, San Jose
Skye Matuzak, Dannevirke #9, Reno
Joan Topolin, Dannevirke #9, Reno
Denise Topolin, Dannevirke #9, Reno
Gianna Merlino, Dannevirke #9, Reno
Kaylee Merlino, Dannevirke #9, Reno

DANIA GENERAL FUND/DANIA SCHOLARSHIP

DANIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND

Sena Marie Freeman, in memory of Francis Sweet.

Dania and Dannebrog Secretaries

Both Dannebrog and Dania Grand Lodges will be holding their Executive meetings on March 18th at 10:00 AM at the Cattlemens Restaurant in Livermore. If your Branch has

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

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

We finally had our installation! Thank you, Grand Officers, and all who attended our Installation Luncheon last month. It was a long time coming but what a great time we had. And a great venue – we are going to look to the Encinal Yacht Club for future events, that’s for sure. But I may need to work out a discount for my bar tabs. Thanks, John Scheuber, for your toast (roast?) regarding “A drink on John’s tab!”

Congratulations to our new Past President Anne Gearhart. A well-deserved honor after a 3-year term (was it really 3 years?). And congratulations to our new President Mike Fox. It is true that the Presidency is the easiest office to hold in the lodge, and the only one that gives you a medal when you’re done. Congratulations also to all of our new, and some slightly reshuffled, officers.

Speaking of shuffled officers, I learned something during the installation. The order in which the officers are installed is different than the order in which they are called during meeting roll call. Whoops, my mistake when I

Thor No. 5 & Thora No. 11

Meeting: 1st Friday 11:30 AM. Denny’s 1110 Shaw Ave (on the north side, just east of First Street) Fresno. Secretary, Martha Nielsen nielsenmarta@gmail.com

Our Fresno Installation was successful as we had a good turnout with almost all the grand lodge board members in attendance with the exception of a few trustees. This was the first one for us in a few years. I was able to attend the San Francisco installation. It was a sunny day with the view of the bay with the sailboats out on the water was lovely. The food was wonderful, surf and

Upcoming Conventions		
Thyra #3, & Danmark #2 and Valborg # 1 & #. 9 Thyra	April 13-15 2023	The Newark-Fremont DoubleTree
Upcoming Installations		
Thyra #9 & Valborg #. 1	March 18 th , 2023 at 12:00	Cattlemens Restaurant in Livermore.
Valdemar No 12. & Dannevirke No. 9	Oct.6, 2023	Odd Fellows Hall Reno
Dannevang No. 7 & Danebod No. 16	Oct.21, 2023	TBD

any applications for Scholarship, Member of the year or SAF, please make sure they are submitted to the Grand Secretaries before the 17th.

provided the list for the installing Grand Officers. Thank you, Kathy and Dan, for your agility during the ceremony, and Deanna and Bente as well. Danmark #2 and Thyra #3 were a bit rusty, but we got through it as always. It’s already March. Convention is right around the corner. Get your registration form in if you haven’t already. I’m trying to get my ’71 VW bug up and running to show it off at the Friday night “Flower Power” party, but don’t hold your breath (unless you’re riding in it and can smell gas fumes). Our raffle item list is growing, so keep those donations flowing. Thanks to everyone who has donated an item. We have a big one on the list already – how about one week in Cabo San Lucas at the Playa Grande Penthouse? Wow! Thanks Peter Schakow! This March our Lodge hopes to revive our Corned Beef and Cabbage feast. The last one we had was at our last meeting at the Odd Fellows Hall in March 2020. Wish us luck! “We’re getting the band back together!” Med venlig hilsen, John A. Jensen, Secretary, jajensend2@gmail.com , 1-510-697-4658

turf, with a chocolate torte for dessert. The wine was flowing along with the akvavit, Danish and Norwegian. It was a family affair for me as my daughter, Renae of the San Jose Lodge came and son, Dennis and grandson Ian both of the San Francisco lodge were installed. Roger Gearhart and daughter Anne were able to come and it was nice to see and visit with them.

Our Grand Presidents Deanna and Bente, along with our Grand Marshals Kathy and Dan did all the proper procedures to have everyone installed and in their appointed seats. If you weren't there you missed a good time. John Jensen was the man in charge of the afternoon. Having Francis Sweets' Memorial on the same weekend was sad as most of us would have made the trip north to Ferndale. Francis and Lavern were a very large part of keeping the Ferndale lodge running. I remember going up for the Midsummer parade, then we even danced upstairs in the old lodge building in the evening. We had some good times with Francis, they even brought their folk dancers down to the Turlock Festival where all of us danced. Sorry I wasn't able to attend his memorial, he was surely a 'Great Dane'.

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

Dannevang No. 7 & Danebod No. 16

Meet 2nd Saturday at 6:00PM; the Farm Bureau Building, 638 Enos Way, Livermore.

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

Livermore had a brief meeting after enjoying our open face sandwiches.

We were happy to have a new member, Emma Kavanaugh join us, she is Karen Faraldo's granddaughter and attending UC Davis. 50 year pins have been mailed to Ron Hansen and Bob Nielsen. Per capital taxes were paid,

No. 9 Thyra & Valborg No. 1

Meeting: 2nd. Thursday every month 6:30 PM; On Zoom

President, Eric Jorgensen, e.jorgensen.54@gmail.com #9 Thyra/Valborg #1 Secretary, Beth Cowan, beth.cowan@att.net

The Hayward Lodges had their customary Zoom meeting on February 9th. Second round officer nominations were conducted and finalized.

Please join us Saturday, March 18th for the Installation of Officers of Valborg #1 and Thyra #9 at Cattlemen's Restaurant, Livermore (Interstate 580, exit Airway Boulevard).

The Installation will begin at 12 noon followed by the traditional Cattlemen's luncheon and no-host bar. The cost per person is \$35.

Sonderjylland 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.crugerhansen@comcast.net

Sonderjylland #10 had no meeting in February 2023. Our next regular scheduled meeting is on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at 11:30 at Kastania Fælled in Petaluma.

Talked to Carl Jensen and Kay has not been feeling well. She was not able to attend the Fresno and San Francisco Installations. Hope you are feeling better.

The Danish American Historical Society will be having a Frikadella dinner March 4th at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Easton. Our own Carl Jensen will be the guest speaker, telling us about "Growing up in Oleander", a very Danish community.

On St Patrick's Day remember to wear some green and dine on corned beef and cabbage (not very Danish), but very tasty!

Remember we will be having a lunch/meeting at 11:30 am, Friday, March 3rd at Denny's Restaurant on Shaw Ave east of First. Hope to see you. Stay safe and healthy! Martha Nielsen

delegates for convention were picked and a committee to explore possible destinations for a future convention. We did take care of some business.

We will skip the March meeting and hope to see you at Hayward's installation March 18th. Happy St. Patties Day! KRT

Please make your reservations with Signe Ann McNeil, 510-490-6114 or signemcneil@gmail.com no later than March 10th. We look forward to seeing you there.

2023 Convention delegates for the Valborg are Denise Andersen and Mac McNeil.

Thyra delegates are Greg Gleeson and David Mahler.

There will be no meeting conducted in April as we will be directing attention toward the Convention. See you there. Eric Jorgensen, President

Please stay safe, stay healthy, and stay in contact with each other.

Respectfully, John Cruger-Hansen Secretary/Treasurer

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

Mar 4: Valhalla – Ydun will meet at 11:00 at the Danish Hall for a meeting followed by a soup and salad potluck lunch. Lunch will be served at 12:30.

Mar 6 Scandinavian Midsummer meeting at 6:00 Sons of Norway hall with a potluck dinner. All are welcome. Ring the doorbell to get in.

February was a hard month for our lodge, we lost three long time members. Francis Sweet, Shirley Thomsen and Helen Elliot all three were members of both Valhalla and Ydun lodge. All three were lifetime members serving more

than 25 years working hard at all of the fund raisers, Scandinavian Midsummer festivals, and being really good friends of the members. We will miss all of them greatly and will keep them in our prayers.

Mar 10 Helen Elliot funeral will be held at Gobles in Fortuna at 1:00, Shirley Thomsen will have a private service for family only.

Have a great March with not too much shenanigans.
Christian Nielsen Secretary

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 February 3, at 7 pm. 23 members and guests were in attendance. We also had a special member, Past Grand President Daniel Joensen from San Francisco #2. He and his wife were visiting family in Reno, and it was so nice of him to stop by. We enjoyed the visit. This dinner consisted of a wonderful soup potluck of three different kinds of soup. A vegetable soup, a potato soup, and Anette's famous Danish soup with meatballs and Danish dumplings. (Just like I remember Grandma Garson made it) There was chicken, bread and butter and a nice variety of appetizers. Thank you everyone for the great spread. During dessert of apple cake, cinnamon rolls, Danish Rum Balls, and coffee Anette opened the meeting at 9:15 pm. The highlight of the meeting was Dannevirke #9 took in five new members. Skye Matuzak, daughter of our member Heather. Then four family members Joan Topolin, Denise Topolin (mother and daughter) and two daughters of Denise, Gianna and Kaylee Merlino. We welcomed them with open arms. We also talked about the delegates for the convention. Leif and Bonnie Larsen will be our delegates and we are still working on a couple more. Sena- Marie had Anette sign the yearly report for Dannebrog. We also decided to have Corn Beef and Cabbage potluck at our March 3rd meeting. Leif and Bonnie Larsen, Lars Jensen

and Marian, and Carl and Helen Christiansen will prepare the corn beef and cabbage, Ingrid Hedman will bring potatoes and carrots, Lone Webb soda bread, and Sena-Marie cornbread and Anette will bring dessert. We also welcomed Eric Hansen back after a long absence. He has now moved back to Reno from Carson City to a nice senior apartment complex. On our sick list is Eva Loevgren (former Demosthenes), she fell on the ice and broke her wrist. "Thinking of you" cards were sent to Eva and Ina. Nina Potter fell at school and blackened her eye and side of her face. She really looked better than the pictures she showed us. It was nice to see Nina, Jorden, and Ann-Katherine at the meeting. Janet Pulsipher is still not doing so very well, Barbara Iler is out of her neck brace, so she is on the mend. Jordan told me that Peter Eliassen received his Project Management Professional (P.M.P) Certificate. Congratulations to him! We are always happy to see our members succeed. Our sympathy goes out to the family of Francis Sweet in Ferndale. He was a wonderful and dear friend to us all. Also, to Martha Nielsen and the Fresno lodge for the loss of Jerry Hansen. I know he will be missed as well.

Our March birthdays are Ted Johnsen, Cynthia Burk, Barbara Iler, Janet Pulsipher, Ina Segesman and Karina Davies. HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALL Happy St. Patrick's Day, be safe and healthy. Take Care Sena-Marie

Bornholm No. 14

Meeting: 3rd. Friday every month 5:00 PM To Be Determined
President Bente Ellis, Baellis06@gmail.com Secretary Marge Scheuber, olemarge1@sbcglobal.net

Hope your February was filled with lots of love. With that love we have sadness for the ones who have left us. Our members were saddened by the loss of Jerry Hansen from Thor # 5. It was a pleasure to get to know him and we will miss him and his sunny outlook on life. He always had a smile on his face.

I received a call today that our long-time member Norman (Corky) Davis passed away in Astoria, Oregon where he has been living for a number of years. He will be

remembered by his sense of humor, his dedication to our lodge and his Danish heritage and of course by his tall, slim stature.

A big thank you from our members Bente Ellis, Johanne Gade, John and Marge Scheuber to Denmark No. 2 and Thyra No. 3 for a beautiful day at their installation held at the Encinal Yacht Club in Alameda. The view from our meeting area was spectacular as we watched the rowers practicing their competitive skills as they swiftly rowed

across the marina. We enjoyed the Bloody Marys, delicious dinner, dessert, and pleasant conversations. A special thank you to John Jensen for his efforts in planning this event.

Our February meeting was held at the lovely home of David and Merete Meeks. We were pleased to have our members Roger and Cindy Higby from Los Gatos join us.

Danneskjold No. 17

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

President, Doris Skow, Doris92ranch@gmail.com Secretary, Kim Nielsen Giacinto, kimgiacinto@gmail.com

President Laila Soylist opened the meeting at noon with 12 members and 1 guest present. Following the flag salute and the reading of the minutes we had treasurer and trustee reports.

It was reported that Charles "Chuck" Allman had been moved to the Palo Alto VA Hospital and is on Hospice Care. Lis Lacey was home recovering from Covid, Lisa McDaniel was not feeling well so she stayed home. Communications were read from Renae Fish, Jona and Toben Rasmussen and John and Hannah Christiansen. Our marshal Britta Lange draped the charter for Eric Soylist who passed away a short time ago and for Ellen Jensen who passed away 2 weeks ago. She had been a member for 60 + years. Grand President Bente Ellis read the poem and a few memories were shared.

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 1st at the Bit of Denmark Restaurant in Solvang CA. Darlene

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**

We are happy that Cindy is doing so well after months of recuperating from her heart surgery. She and Roger will soon be off on a trip to Italy.

Many thanks to David and Merete for the tasty appetizers and yummy fruit pies for dessert. Our next meeting on March 17th will be held at the Scheuber residence. Secretary, Marge Scheuber

We took in a new member, Michael Lacey, Bob Lacey's grandson. It was nice to see both Michael and his father Robert at our meeting.

Under new business it was once again brought up about how many meetings to hold. After some discussion it was agreed that we should hold 3 rather than 2 meetings a year as well as at least 3 socials. This will help the continuity of the group. Bente conducted a short form installation of our officers. Our next meeting will be at the home of Kim Giacinto on May 20th. More on this in the April Newsletter. This month the meeting was held at the home of Bente Ellis. With the support of Kim and Laila a wonderful Danish koldbord was served following our meeting.

Thanks gal, it was great.
Happy St Patrick Day to all.
DWS