



# GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

June 2023

## Dannebrog Grand President

I was very sad to hear of the unexpected passing of Past Grand President Diane Reinstein. We had such a great time at the recent convention, and it was pretty apparent that Diane was enjoying herself with the activities and chatting with those in attendance. She was a very caring woman who always asked my wife and myself every time she saw us by asking how our daughter was doing. Diane was a major mover in the Senior Assistance fundraiser we did several years ago. This benefit generated some nice benefits to the fund. It was a pleasure working with Diane and she will be missed!

Shortly after Diane's passing we learned that Past Grand President Arne Graversgaard passed away. I remember at one of the conventions hosted by Salinas Arne and his wife hosted a luncheon for Dania at their beautiful home.

Our condolences to the families of Diane and Arne! On June 20, 2023 Aldersly's Retirement Community is planning on having a groundbreaking event for Aldersly's Marselisborg expansion project to their community. Members of Dania and Dannebrog are welcome to attend. Contact me for further information on this event. For additional information on Aldersly go to [Aldersly.org](http://Aldersly.org)

Curious, any of our branch's meeting in person and getting back to normal operations. If not in person, are you at least meeting via Zoom or any of the other online meeting platforms available? How are you keeping in touch and reaching out to your membership? Grand President, Stuart Mahler

## Dania Grand President

Greetings All, Now that the winter weather is receding, travel is the word. Since the convention, I've gotten around a little...

I hosted a social gathering at my home for Denmark #2 on April 22<sup>nd</sup> with 14 members present and despite the weather forecast, it was a beautiful day. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, I attended Hejls Minde meeting at the Bit O Denmark. They had a good crowd, the only person missing on the scene was Bent Olsen who was travelling to Denmark. The frikadeller was fabulous

and the lodge picked up the tab for my meal. There are some changes coming to the lodge, but I believe all will be good. A big thank you to the members in Solvang.

Two days later I was enjoying the company of the Reno lodge. It was a smaller group as Annette was in Denmark, but the smaller crowd was friendly and included a couple of other travelers...PGP Karen

## Grand Officers

	Dania	Dannebrog
Grand Past President	<b>Bente Ellis</b> Baellis06@gmail.com	<b>Deanna Dunbar</b> deannadunbar530@gmail.com
Grand President	<b>Tom Martin</b> thommartin99@gmail.com	<b>Stuart O Mahler</b> smahler52@gmail.com
Grand Vice President	<b>Dan Holm</b> Danholm@gmail.com	<b>Kathy Thomsen</b> danskfarm@yahoo.com
Grand Secretary	<b>Tim Heer</b> tim-gs@sbcglobal.net (831) 332-4196	<b>Natalie Heer</b> natalie-gs@sbcglobal.net (831) 334-1372
Grand Treasurer	<b>Gregory A. Gleeson</b> gleeson2@icloud.com	<b>Pat Brouillette</b> pab0718@sbcglobal.net
Grand Marshal	<b>Robert Lamee</b> robertlamee@yahoo.com	<b>Tracey Lamee</b> tllamee@yahoo.com
Grand Vice Marshal	<b>James O Jensen</b> jamesolefjensen@yahoo.com	<b>Dennis Nielsen</b> nielsen.dennis.a@gmail.com
Grand Trustee #1	<b>John Jensen</b> jajensend2@gmail.com	<b>Kathy Christensen</b> pgchris@pacbell.net
Grand Trustee #2	<b>John Scheuber</b> john.scheuber@vsi.cc	<b>Jessica Jobe Sea</b> jessica@jobesea.com
Grand Trustee #3	<b>Johanne Rasmussen Gade</b>	<b>Martha Nielsen</b> marthanielsen@yahoo.com

Faraldo and a friend were also visiting. I got a bit of snow coming and going, but not enough to restrict travel. I was fortunate to have lunch with my brother Tim in Cool on the way home.

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Danmark #2 had our monthly Zoom meeting to take care of the bills and I hope John's eye is mending well.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, I attended the memorial for PGP Diane Reinstein. There were a lot of family and friends there to pay their respects. Unfortunately, I had to leave early to attend a Mother's Day celebration for my mother-in-law and didn't get to spend as much time as I would have liked. Several PGPs were arriving as I was leaving. We will all miss Diane; she was one of my favorite people in the lodge. My deepest condolences to the family.

May 20<sup>th</sup> will be a day to remember. Bornholm #14 held their meeting at the home of Bente Ellis in San Jose. It was a bit of a jaunt for me, but the members came much farther. A lot of members, a dozen of them, made the drive, over 90 miles for their meeting. Bente didn't disappoint. We had a nice social hour followed by a multi-course meal that stunned everyone in the room. Fabulous food served on fancy Danish china with a little bit of Aquavit to make sure it all went down smooth. After the fabulous repast, we moved on to the business meeting. Normal stuff but with a highlight of John

Scheuber showing his newly acquired and much deserved "Member of the Year" plaque. After the short meeting, we moved on to coffee and dessert... Bente had two cakes to celebrate Peder and Doris Hoy's 62nd wedding anniversary and Peder's birthday. Thank you so much Bente for an incredible day.

The very next day I was back in the same neighborhood... Kim Nielsen Giacinto hosted Danneskjold #17's meeting at her home. 10 members and 3 guests (including the GP and JGP) enjoyed a nice lunch followed by their business meeting. It was nice to see some folks I haven't seen in a long while and meet a couple of new friends. Doris reminded everyone to plan for camping at the ranch in October. I've put it on my calendar, have you?

I'll be making my rounds to the branches over the next few weeks. I look forward to seeing everyone. June has a couple of special events everyone should put on their calendar and attend if you can...

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Reno will be hosting their St. Hans Fest, and this is a fun event I've been to several times. The next day, June 24<sup>th</sup>, will be the Scandinavian Mid-Summer Festival in Ferndale.

Come on out and support the other branches!  
Regards, Tom Martin, Grand President

**IN MEMORIAM:**

PGP Arne Graversgaard, Freja No.6, Salinas  
**DANIA GENERAL FUND/DANIA SCHOLARSHIP**

Ole M. Pedersen, in memory of Arne Graversgaard  
Glenn Fritz, in memory of Arne Graversgaard  
Natalie and Tim Heer, in memory of Arne Graversgaard

**DANIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND**

Sena Marie Freeman, in memory of Diane Reinstein  
**DANNEBROG SCHOLARSHIP FUND**  
Doris Skow, in memory of Diane Reinstein  
Signe Ann McNeil in memory of Diane Reinstein  
Ole M. Pedersen, in memory of Diane Reinstein and Beatriz Djernaes  
Natalie and Tim Heer, in memory of Diane Reinstein and Beatriz Djernaes  
Glenn Fritz, in memory of Diane Reinstein

**Dania and Dannebrog Secretaries**

At the 1999 Convention held in Monterey it was moved to form a committee consisting of John Johansen and Stuart Mahler to investigate and create a Dania web site. At the 2000 Convention held in Solvang after the report of the Computer Committee was presented it was moved to keep the web site and keep John Johansen, Roger Gearhart, Rene Lastreto and Stuart Mahler as Webmasters. Thus, the

start of our website and the beginning of PGP, John Johansen 24 years of dedication and service to a better communication within Dania and Dannebrog. John has asked to step back from his connection to the website and has transferred the **ownership of the website** to Dania. Thank you, John, for your service.

<b>Upcoming Conventions</b>		
Dannevang No. 7 & Danebod No. 16	April 11-13 2024	Hotel Mission De Oro, Santa Nella
<b>Upcoming Installations</b>		
Valhalla No. 11 & Ydun No. 10	Sept. 2-3, 2023	Danish Hall Ferndale
Valdemar No 12. & Dannevirke No. 9	Oct.6, 2023	Odd Fellows Hall Reno
Dannevang No. 7 & Danebod No. 16	Oct.21, 2023	TBD

### **Branch's Up and coming events.**

Campout: This is a follow up on the plans for the upcoming campout. The date will be Oct. 13-15. This will be in Hollister at the Skow Ranch. If you have ever been one of our campouts in the past, you know how much fun we have. If you have never been then you have a treat in store. We gather on Friday and have an evening with good food, games, music and lots of fun. Saturday can be a day on your own with sightseeing in the

area or staying around camp for more fun, games and visiting. Saturday is a group BBQ/Potluck. Sunday is usually a relaxing morning and later packing up for home. If you think you want to join in on this event, please contact me at 408-313-7235 or [doris92ranch@gmail.com](mailto:doris92ranch@gmail.com). Follow this heading for future updates. DWS

Fourth of July: The Santa Maria lodges, Holger Danske and Valkyrien, are holding their annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ picnic at Waller Park in Santa Maria.

### **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](mailto:jajensend2@gmail.com) Thyra #3 Secretary Johanne Gade**

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

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

We had our May meeting of "Welcome Home Delegates".

I gave a report on the Senior Assistance meeting and the Dannebrog Convention meeting.

We have decided to forego our annual June Picnic as we've had in the past years. We will be meeting in September, but it will be on the second Friday, Sept. 8, 2023, at our usual place, Denny's on Shaw Ave.

I've talked with Carl Jensen, and everyone seems to be doing fine. He did say that the Kjars have purchased a place in Fresno. We'll look forward to having them at our meetings.

Sorry to hear of Diane Reinstein's passing. She was a lovely lady and was always a great supporter of Dania and Dannebrog. I

think she came to most all of the installations and conventions. We'll miss seeing her smiling face.

It's warmer than usual so I guess summer has arrived. Hope everyone is ready for all the weddings, graduations, and vacations. We even have Father's Day to celebrate, make it special for them.

Remember we will be off all summer but will see you again in September.

Wishing everyone safe traveling as they take off on all their trips this summer. Martha Nielsen

### **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, [imandnatalie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:imandnatalie@sbcglobal.net)**

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> we lost our dear friend, Arne Graversgaard. He had been an active and respected member of

Freja #6 for 65 years. He worked his way up in Freja to Past President and served several terms as Trustee. Throughout the years he generously hosted many memorable Dania and Dannebrog gatherings at his lovely home in the hills between Salinas and Monterey. In 2001 he and I (Jana Heer) started our journey through the Grand Lodge chairs together. I was honored to serve beside him and I treasure those times and wonderful memories. I'm not sure of the exact year he immigrated to the U.S. It must have been sometime before 1952,

because I've been told that at a gathering of the Nielsen/Heer family a new immigrant from Denmark (him) was talked into holding the newest baby (me) on his lap, I keep looking for a photo. Arne was also very active in the Rebild National Park Society. He saw that the future of all our Danish organizations was dependent upon us attracting and supporting young members. Every time the topic came up, which was and still is very often, he would be the first to stand and offer his point of view. Arne made many deep and lasting friendships in Dania and Dannebrog and will be fondly remembered. JH

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

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

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

First of all, a big thank you for all of you who came to Diane's celebration of life, sent cards, emails, calls, sent up prayers, it means a lot and is deeply appreciated. It was extra special to have Viola Jensen there, snapping pictures as she always does. We counted close to 890 people in Bob & Tracey's lovely back yard.

Livermore is planning a meeting for Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 at the Farm Bureau building. Our theme is going to be summertime, with hot dogs, salads and watermelon. Yum! Speaking of summertime, happy June, happy Father's Day to all the dads out there, Take care and hope to see you soon, KRT

### No. 9 Thyra & Valborg No. 1

**Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thursday every month 6:30 PM; On Zoom**

**President, Eric Jorgensen, [e.jorgensen.54@gmail.com](mailto:e.jorgensen.54@gmail.com) #9 Thyra/Valborg #1 Secretary, Beth Cowan, [beth.cowan@att.net](mailto:beth.cowan@att.net)**

The Hayward Lodges resumed their meeting post convention on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

The main discussions were reports on convention going on. Despite the fact there was little business to relate, all agreed it was extremely nice to get together in person. David Mahler took

home the big attendance drawing of \$50. The drawing for our June meeting will be \$30.

As a reminder, Hayward Lodges do not meet in July or August. Anyone desiring to attend our meetings should contact Stuart Mahler at [smahler52@gmail.com](mailto:smahler52@gmail.com) to get onto the Zoom link distribution list.

### 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)**

Sonderjylland #10 had no meeting in May 2023.

Our next meeting is on June 10 at 11:30 am at the Danish Soldiers Club facility Kastania Fælled 4560 Kastania Road in Petaluma.

We will be discussing our declining membership and what we can do to correct that.

After our meeting we will serve "Varme Pølser med brød og Kartoffelsalat", which translates to Danish hotdogs with Potato Salad and the works.

Please let me know if you will attend and/or bring guests (guests are always welcome) or potential new members. Send me a text or call to 510-375-5070 or email to [j.crugerhansen@comcast.net](mailto:j.crugerhansen@comcast.net). Send us your stories and pictures about how you and your family are managing. We would love to share your stories and pictures with the other club members. It's a way for all of us to stay in touch.

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: 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)**

**June 3: Valhalla – Ydun** will meet at 5:00 at the Sea Grill for a banquet in celebration of Valhalla's 130<sup>th</sup> year. no meeting. Reservations are a must to Mel Lundberg 707.822.3787. Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm.

**June 24 Scandinavian Midsummer Picnic** at the Danish Hall, 11:00 Boccie, 12:30 potluck lunch at the Danish Hall, 2:00 music and dancing. Bring a potluck item to share and whatever you want to BBQ for yourself. Coffee and Lemonade will be provided. Christian Nielsen Secretary

### Valdemar No 12. & Dannevirke No. 9

**Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto:anettechristensen@charter.net)**

The Reno Lodges want to congratulate Kathy Thomsen, Dannebrog, and John Scheuber, Dania, for being Members of the Year at the Convention in April. Also, congratulations to Dennis Nielsen and James Olef Jensen as the newly elected Grand Vice Marshals in the Grand Lodge. The Reno members, along with everyone else, had a great time at the convention and everything was so great.

The May meeting in the Reno Lodges of Valdemar #12 and Dannevirke #9 was on Friday May 5 at the Odd Fellows Hall at 6:30 pm. We had 10 members in attendance and 2 special guests, Grand President Tom Martin and Past Grand President Karen Faraldo and her friend Lisa. We had a Mexican potluck and Ingrid Hedman's special split pea soup. We didn't have a meeting, but a wonderful evening of friendship and fellowship. For dessert we had pastry & cookies and coffee. Tom brought a bucket of Bent Olsen's cookies - thank you Tom. I want to thank all of you for helping me set up and lock up at the end of the evening. We really missed Anette. We hope you had a great trip to Denmark and London. Nina and Jordan brought Ann-Katherine to the meeting, and she is doing pretty well.

Our June meeting will be Friday June 2nd and we are meeting at 6:30 pm at the Odd Fellow Hall. It will be a potluck and you may bring whatever your heart desire. Sena-Marie will bring

dessert. We will have election of officers and our installation will be Friday October 6th, 2023.

The St. Hans Fest, picnic and bonfire will take place at the River Farm School Friday June 23th at 7pm and everyone is welcome. Please bring something to grill and a side dish to share. If you feel "crafty" please bring a Witch we can send off to Blocksbjerg. ☺

I spoke to my cousin Barbara Iler, and she is doing pretty well after her knee replacement. Janet Pulsipher is holding her own and still very frail and weak. We will miss Ingrid Hedman, Marian Gnant and Lars Jensen at our June meeting. Ingrid has company from out of town and Marian and Lars are going to Denmark.

The Reno Lodges want to send their deepest sympathy to Past Grand President of Dannebrog, Diane Reinstein's family as well as Past Grand President of Dania, Arne Graversgaard's family. May you find comfort in all the beautiful memories, and they will be sorely missed, especially in Livermore and Salinas lodges.

Our June Birthdays are Helen Christiansen, Hannah Matuzak, Louise Myers, La Ree Purdum, Jillian Baker, Cortney Webb and Alex Baker. HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALL.

Happy Father's Day to all Dania and Dannebrog Members. Take Care, be safe and healthy. Sena-Marie.

### **Bornholm No. 14**

**Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup>. Friday every month 5:00 PM To Be Determined**

**President Bente Ellis, [Baellis06@gmail.com](mailto:Baellis06@gmail.com) Secretary Marge Scheuber, [olemargel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olemargel@sbcglobal.net)**

For our Welcome Home Delegates meeting, our members traveled from Modesto to San Jose to Bente's lovely home surrounded by beautiful roses in multi colors. Upon entering her home, we were in awe of the elaborate table setting for seventeen with elegant Danish China.

After having cocktails and pleasant conversations with fellow members, we all sat down to enjoy an authentic Danish Smørrebrød lunch starting with the pickled herring, salmon, shrimp and more. Second of course, Bente and her helpers passed out trays of traditional meat choices for our homemade breads. Thanks to Johanne Gade who made pumpnickel bread and liver pate. True to Danish tradition, we finished our meal with assortments of delicious cheeses and grapes.

Following lunch, we all moved into what I would call a garden room since here we had a view of her beautiful flowers in her backyard. Bente opened the meeting and introduced our Grand President Tom Martin. He spoke about what he is looking

forward to in the coming year suggesting and hoping that lodges will have more social functions to draw in new members sitting that just inviting potential members to a meeting is not likely to entice them to join. Bodil Whitehouse, one of our delegates, gave her convention report. She reported how well the meetings went; the great D. J. who provided excellent eighty's music as members dressed in hippie clothes kept the dance floor busy. Others agreed it was a fun convention.

Following our meeting, Bente asked us to return to the dining table for coffee and dessert. To our surprise a beautifully decorated cake appeared in front of Peder and Doris Hoy to celebrate their 62-wedding anniversary. Next came a chocolate cake to celebrate Peder Hoy's birthday. When it comes to entertaining, Bente is a shining star!

Because six members unable to attend our regular meeting date, our next meeting will take place on June 30, at Brian and Susie Mefford's home.. Marge Scheuber, Secretary

### **Danneskjold No. 17**

**Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 12 Noon in various homes.**

**President, Laila Solyst [atlailaspring@hotmail.com](mailto:atlailaspring@hotmail.com) Secretary, Kim Nielsen Giacinto, [kimgiacinto@gmail.com](mailto:kimgiacinto@gmail.com)**

Well May is almost a bust but our May Meeting started out on a high note with the presence of Grand President, Tom Martin, and Jr. Past Grand President, Bente Ellis.

This was Danneskjold 17 welcome home party and we did just that, PARTY, Also present was my daughter in law Elvia, who was gracious enough to drive me to San Jose.

We started out at the home of Kim Giacinto with beverages, crackers and cheese followed by a lovely salad lunch and lots of good conversation.

Following lunch we held our business meeting, complete with convention reports by Bob Lacey and myself. Bente thanked everyone for her support and Tom made some comments relative to how we might try to grow membership locally in order to continue as a group, especially on a larger level. Maybe

more socials thrown in, where we don't talk business but visit, have games and really have fun.

It was nice to get together and catch up with what our members have been up to.

It was nice to have Lisa McDaniel back with us today and to also report that we had no one on the sick list.

Following the close of the meeting we enjoyed Strawberry shortcake, coffee and lots of round the table conversation.

Our next business meeting will be held August 12 at my ranch in Hollister. This will also be the location for a Danish Campout in Oct. If you are interested in camping and want to join us, watch the CAMPOUT ARTICLE above.

Have a good summer and if you have a suggestion for a social, please contact President Laila Solyst or myself.  
DWS

### **Hejls Minde No. 23**

**Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup>. Wednesday 12 noon at Bit O' Denmark, Secretary, Darlene Iversen and Elaine Anes**

Our meeting was held on May 3, 2023, at Bit of Denmark Restaurant in Solvang. President Finn Runge opened the meeting with the singing of God Bless America. We were 17 members and two guests. We welcomed Grand President Tom Martin and Inge Christoffersen, a guest of Knud Jacobsen.

Convention delegate, Kristin Worthley, gave a very informative report of the business and fun at the convention. New member, Maia Wilson won the \$20 door prize. We closed the meeting with the singing of the Danish National Anthem. A delicious lunch was enjoyed by all. 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 805-937-4720; Valkyrien Secretary, Darlene Iversen 805-260-3601**

The Santa Maria lodge, Holger Danske, is holding its annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ picnic at Waller Park in Santa Maria. Everyone is welcome. Appetizers and fellowship

begin at 12 p.m. followed by a wonderful steak BBQ and a potluck of salads and desserts. There is also a raffle of different prizes. Feel free to call Wayne or Darlene