



# GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

December 2023

## Dannebrog Grand President

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving holiday! Susan and I left for Puerto Vallarta the Friday after Thanksgiving for ten days. The weather here is great, and we should be in the mid to high 80's for the duration of our visit.

We are looking forward to attending San Francisco's Christmas luncheon at the Hotel Mac in Richmond on December 9th. Hope to see a lot of familiar faces there.

Susan and I wish everyone a joyous holiday season and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! Looking forward to 2024. Stuart Mahler

## Dania Grand President

Well, it's been a quiet month for me as my hip replacement has kept me from doing much. The physical therapy is going well, and I'll be out and about any day. Please let me know if your branch is having a Christmas party and I'll try to attend. I hope everyone is well, Tom Martin.

### IN MEMORIAM:

PGP, Ann-katherine Sawyer, Dannevirke #9, Reno

### DANIA NEW MEMBER:

R. Scott Johnson, Danmark #2, San Francisco  
Ever Dominguez, Danmark #2, San Francisco

### DANIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

### SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND

Sena Marie Freeman in memory of Ann-katherine Sawyer

### DANNEBROG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### Upcoming Branch Events

Thor #5 & Thora #11, Christmas luncheon December 8 at Denny's 1110 Shaw Ave

Thyra #3 & Danmark #2 Christmas Luncheon will be at the Hotel Mac on Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Dannelskjold #17 Christmas luncheon at Bente's on December 16<sup>th</sup>

Valborg #1 & Thyra #9 Christmas Party at Greg Gleeson's home on December 16<sup>th</sup>

Bornholm #14, Christmas dinner at LaParilla

For more information, please see the Branches Article below.

### Grand Officers

	Dania	Dannebrog
Grand Past President	Bente Ellis Baellis06@gmail.com	Deanna Dunbar deannadunbar530@gmail.com
Grand President	Tom Martin thommartin99@gmail.com	Stuart O Mahler smahler52@gmail.com
Grand Vice President	Dan Holm Danholm@gmail.com	Kathy Thomsen danskfarm@yahoo.com
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	Robert Lamee robertlamee@yahoo.com	Tracey Lamee tlamee@yahoo.com
Grand Vice Marshal	James O Jensen jamesolefjensen@yahoo.com	Dennis Nielsen nielsen.dennis.a@gmail.com
Grand Trustee #1	John Jensen jajensend2@gmail.com	Kathy Christensen pgchris@pacbell.net
Grand Trustee #2	John Scheuber consultingjohns@gmail.com	Jessica Jobe Sea jessica@jobesea.com
Grand Trustee #3	Johanne Rasmussen Gade	Martha Nielsen marthanielsen@yahoo.com

### Upcoming Conventions

Dannevang No. 7 & Danebod No. 16	April 11-13 2024	Hotel Mission De Oro, Santa Nella
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### Upcoming Installations

Thor # 5 & Thora # 11	Feb. 2, 2024	Denny's 1110 Shaw Ave
# 9 Thyra & Valborg #1	March 16, 2024	TBD

**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**

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

Where to start? I hope everybody had as great of a Thanksgiving Day as I had. We had 28 in total at my house – what a great party! Two 24-pound turkeys hot off the barbecue and more side dishes than you could count. I think it's my favorite holiday. How to follow it up? How about – Glædelig Jul!

Let's go to our Christmas Luncheon. We are excited to announce that the Danmark #2 and Thyra #3 Christmas Luncheon will be at the Hotel Mac on Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>. The last time we were at the Hotel Mac was 2019 and we are happy to be back. Thank you to all who have RSVPed already. There's still time (a day or so, be quick)! Doors open at noon. Lunch menu is steak or salmon. \$30 a person. And of course, there will be the Ugly/Beautiful Sweater contest and Danish Christmas carols. RSVP to the email below with your menu selection and I'll be sure to fill you in on more details. I hope to see you there!

Now I am pleased to welcome our two new Danmark #2 members – Scott Johnson and Ever Dominguez. Scott found us via our web site. While visiting a Scandinavian Festival in Sacramento, he realized there was no representation by Danish organizations. His search for local Danish-American organizations led him to us. And we are thankful. Scott is active in a few Danish-American organizations and events. He has already introduced us to new Scandinavian organizations and added new events to

our agenda. When I saw that his partner Ever had listed baking as a hobby on her membership application, I said "Automatic yes!". You should have tasted the kardemummabröd that she made for our November meeting. Wow. We are lucky to have them join us. Velkommen!

Our November meeting was an in-person meeting back at the Odd Fellows Hall in San Francisco. We have not met in person for a meeting since March of 2020. It was good to be back in action, albeit a little rusty, with proper regalia and ceremony. It was a full meeting with the initiation of Scott and Ever, nominations for next year's officers, and maybe most exciting, the return of the attendance prize. Thank you, Vice President Jessica, for presiding like a professional. It was completed by a fabulous lunch. All the favorite hors d'oeuvres with blue cheese, pickled herring, and Johanne's Leverpostej. And a great selection of desserts that included the fresh kardemummabröd, a Kringle from Copenhagen Bakery, a pumpkin bread, and ... well, I lost track during all the singing and akvavit. We hope to meet at the hall more regularly, but we are forced to meet mid-day due to the nocturnal activity in the area. Saturday luncheons seem to be our specialty now.

Hope to see you on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Have a great holiday season! Glædelig Jul and Godt Nytår!

Med venlig hilsen, John A. Jensen, Secretary,  
[jajensend2@gmail.com](mailto:jajensend2@gmail.com) , 1-510-697-4658

**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 actually had some rain in Fresno to settle the harvest dust. I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving and are ready to enter the Holiday Season.

We had our usual business meeting. It was decided everyone would stay in their office with a couple of exceptions. Kay Jensen will go up to Past President and Deanna Dunbar will go up as President.

We discussed having our installation this year and decided we will meet on our usual date. The installation is on Friday, February 2 at 11:30 a.m. We'll have it at Denny's Restaurant, and you'll have the choice of two entrees. The RSVP will be in our January newsletter.

The Christmas luncheon was decided on and will be the second Friday, on December 8 at 11:30 a.m. Meet us at Denny's on Shaw Ave., just east of First Ave. The Lodges will all be having their annual Christmas parties and it's always a fun time to visit some of them. I'm looking forward to going to San Francisco's and Modesto's celebrations.

I checked in with Carl Jensen to have his report of our members. Stan and Pam Kjar are doing well. Stan

celebrated his birthday this week. Happy Birthday Stan! Carl couldn't get in touch with Betty Green, but he will try again.

Christie Pettitt is continuing the tradition of hosting the Pettitt family Thanksgiving celebration. They have been hosting the celebration about 35 years. There will be about 25 attending, including Carl and Kay Jensen. Kay Jensen's son, Roy has been in town this week helping her downsize in preparation for a future move. Deanna Dunbar and Kathy Mehrten are leaving on a trip to Nashville, Tennessee this week.

I talked to Doris Lastreto and she is doing well.

December means the end of the year is here and it's time to pay your dues for the New Year. You can send your dues to our Treasurer Christie Pettitt, 1291 East Floral Ave., Fresno, CA 93725.

Have a Wonderful, Jolly Christmas with friends and family. Wishing you a Healthy, Wealthy New Year!

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](mailto:timandnatalie@sbcglobal.net)**

We send our sympathy to Ann-katherine's family & friends. We wish everyone a Glædelig Jul and Godt Nytår! to all! (Tim)

**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)**

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere I go, except in my house, Nope, not going to decorate the day after Thanksgiving or any time soon. Heck, seems like we just finished almond harvest. The water district that we irrigate with has closed for the season so it's time to bring on the rain, let it rain! Wishful thinking.

The Livermore group knows you are anxiously waiting for information about the upcoming convention, and we are ready to give you all we know, but you'll just have to wait

**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 had a productive meeting in November. We took care of financial matters and elections in preparation for our December break. In the month of November Sue Mirkovich completed 25 years as a Valborg #1 member.

In addition, Rowland McNeil completed 50 years as a member of Thyra #9. We plan to celebrate both anniversaries at our installation to be held March 16, 2024. Details regarding this event are in development. Stay tuned for further details.

Duane McNeil and Michael Filiau missed out on the attendance drawing.

There will be no meeting in December. Instead, we will be gathering at Greg Gleeson's home on December 16th for

until next month. We have not planned a Christmas party or a meeting in December, but we do hope to see you December 9th for San Francisco's event. Our condolences to the Reno group for the passing of Ann-katherine. She will be missed.

Here's hoping each and every one of you experience peace and contentment with the joy of celebrating your favorite Christmas traditions, especially the Danish ones. Godt Jul KRT

our traditional celebration. Guests or members should contact Pat or Greg to gauge attendance.

Guests desiring to attend future meetings should notify Stuart Mahler to obtain the zoom link.

The Hayward Lodges wish you all a Glædelig Jul and a Happy New Year.

A Note from Hayward Treasurers:

Membership dues are payable for the coming year, 2024. Please mail to the respective Treasurers. Checks payable to Valborg #1, in the amount of \$12, mail to Pat Brouillette, 1400 Jacqueline Place, San Lorenzo CA 94580. Checks payable to Thyra #9, in the amount of \$35 for sick benefit members and \$29 for social members, mail to Stuart Mahler, 803 Bantry Way, Benicia CA 94510.

Eric Jorgensen

**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 November 2023.

Our next scheduled meeting is on Saturday April 13, 2024 at 11:30 am. at the Danish Soldiers Club Facility at 4560 Kastania Road, Petaluma.

We wish all our members and friends, and Dania members, a very Happy and safe Christmas Holiday and a happy New Year 2024. 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)**

December 2 Valhalla – Ydun will meet for a meeting at 11:00 with a catered lunch to follow.

December 1 Scandinavian Festival meeting at 6:00 upstairs at the Sons of Norway Hall with a potluck dinner

Christmas party. Bring a white elephant gift to exchange, all are welcome.

December 2 Tom Martin will be having a memorial service for his brother Tim. Contact Tom for more information.

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](mailto:anettechristensen@charter.net)**

The Reno Lodges of Valdemar #12 and Dannevirke # 9 met November 3rd at 6:30 pm with a wonderful fest of an early Thanksgiving Potluck. We had the whole feast of turkey roasted by Lars Jensen, it was so yummy with potatoes, gravy, caramelized potatoes, dressing, green bean casserole, salad, and homemade breads. A perfect Thanksgiving feasts! We had a very nice turn out with 23 members, 3 guests, and 2 darling little girls, Grae-Marie and grandchildren of Carl and Helen Christiansen. After we all were stuffed from head to toe, Anette opened our meeting during dessert and coffee, consisting of apple cake, strawberry cake, and 3 different kinds of cookies. This was our last meeting of the year, because we don't have a meeting for our Christmas Party which is December 1st. It was so nice to see members we have not seen in a while. Solveig and John La Roache, Erik Jensen, Denise Topolin, and Greg Nielsen. Nice to see that Ann-katherine was able to attend, thank you Nina and Jordan for bringing her. We really had a wonderful evening and who knew that this would be her last meeting.

It is with a heavy heart that I must report that Ann-kathrine Sawyer slept peacefully in on November 23, Thanksgiving evening. She was 87 years young and has been a member of Dannevirke #9 for 57 years. She also joined Valdemar #12 to keep up with what was happening in the Dania lodge. Ann-kathrine was a Past Grand President in Dannebrog from 1999-2000 and enjoyed spending time with her Danish friends. We are sending our sincere condolences to her Daughter Nina and son-in-law Jordan Potter. Her brother and sister-in-law Paul and Cindy Christensen and her brother David Christensen in Idaho and finally her cousin, Sena-Marie Freeman, with

whom she was very close. May family and friends find comfort in all the beautiful memories you shared with Ann-kathrine. She will be missed by all of us. There will be a service for Ann-kathrine on Saturday December 16, 2023 at 1:00 pm at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 3835 Lakeside Dr, Reno, NV 89509. The family are asking that any donations to be donated to the Dannebrog Scholarship Fund. "Æret være hendes minde" We hope that Grand President Tom Martin has a speedy recovery after hip surgery, Janet Pulsipher remains the same. Glenn Fritz is on the mend after his back surgery. He did not attend our November meeting because he was really tired. Get well so you can attend our Christmas Party. Hope everyone else is doing well.

Our Christmas party is Friday December 1 and we will start at 6 pm with Glogg and aebleskiver, then Santa Lucia performance directed by Ingrid Hedman. After that we serve dinner of Danish Smorgasbord with all the traditional dishes. Steve Myers, our local Nisse will perform for children and adults alike and passing out gifts for the children. Dessert follows with rice pudding & cherry sauce, cookies and much more. Sena-Marie will be at the table selling raffle tickets, for our wonderful raffle and I will also be glad to accept dues for Valdemar and Dannevirke members.

Our December Birthdays are Grae-Marie Biggs, Nina Brandt, Monica Brooks, Cindy Christensen, Susie Jensen, Heather Matuzak, and Marie Stafford. HAPPY BIRTHDAY everyone.

Happy Holidays to all and the best New Year ever, Take Care, Stay Healthy, and Be Safe. See you all in 2024. Sena-Marie

**Bornholm No. 14**

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

**President Jason LaBeouf, Secretary Marge Scheuber, [olemarge1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olemarge1@sbcglobal.net)**

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and didn't gobble up too much turkey and pumpkin pie. We had a bit of a set back in our lodge. We were all looking forward to having our meeting at our new president Jason LeBeouf's home. We received a phone call from his wife Danielle that Jason was in the hospital. He had a burst appendix. Ouch! On top of that there were complications after the surgery. We are keeping informed on his progress as he recuperates and wishing him well soon.

Our meeting was held at our house with 12 members attending. After appetizers and libations, we began our meeting. Thanks to Brian Mefford our new vice president for running the meeting. We made plans for our annual

Christmas contribution to the local Soroptomist Club which buys clothes and gifts for children in need. We miss the days when we could deliver these items to their homes. It would really put us in the spirit of Christmas.

We made plans for our annual Christmas dinner. We are once again going to have dinner at LaParilla restaurant in McHenry Village in Modesto.

After our meeting we enjoyed Trader Joe's pumpkin kringle, almond kringle and a delicious Danish Kage made by our new member Anita Parham.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Marge Scheuber, Secretary

**Danneskjold No. 17**

**Meeting: 3rd 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)**

Hi everyone, I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving Holiday.. I have so much to be thankful for that I can't remember it all. Most of all after my family I am thankful for all of you.

Now, here we are entering the last month of the year and probably the busiest for most of us. As for me it has already become a revolving door of family and friends, but that's what it's all about right.

Talking about being busy, I hope you already marked your calendar for Danneskjolds' Christmas luncheon at Bente's on Saturday, December 16, starting at 12 noon. Be sure to call her by Dec. 8 to let her know if you are coming or not. 408-981-3562.

I am happy to report that I have not heard about any of our members being on the sick list. Let's keep it that way. Glaede Jul, DWS

**Hejls Minde No. 23**

**Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup>. Wednesday 12 noon at Bit O' Denmark,**

**Secretary, Darlene Iversen and Elaine Anes**

**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**