



# GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

February 2024

## Dannebrog Grand President

Have you ever visited another branch of Dannebrog or Dania events besides your own branch activities? If not, you should try it. Read your monthly newsletter to see what events are happening. Mark your calendar and support your fellow lodge members.

In December, my wife and I attended Thyra #3 and Danmark #2 annual Christmas get together in Point Richmond. They had a nice crowd, great luncheon, awesome dessert, and great conversations.

Next up is the annual installation of officers in Fresno for Thora #11 and Thor #5 on Friday February 2, 2024.

Unfortunately, I will miss their installation as we are going to Cancun Mexico for a week with some of the family and our incredibly special cute granddaughter. In her twenty-one months with us she has already experienced multiple flights to Texas, Seattle, and southern California.

February 10, 2024 will be the installation of officers for San Francisco Thyra #3 and Danmark #2. Will be held at the beautiful Encinal Yacht Club in Alameda.

To wrap up the installation schedule we will celebrate installation with Valborg #1 and Thyra #9 at the historical Union Hotel in Benica, California at 12 noon for installation and lunch following.

For more installation news and information check your January 2024 and February 2024 newsletters for details.

May 4, 2024 the “Denmark Day” event will be held at 4560 Kastania Rd., Petaluma, CA from approximately 11am-3:30pm at the compound of the Danish Soldiers Club (DSC). Looking to be a nice affair. If you have never been to Kastania here is an opportunity to do so. See the article in the January newsletter for further information.

Stuart Mahler

## Dania Grand President

I started the month off with a trip to Solvang. The Grand Secretaries met me there and we enjoyed a very good fish luncheon at the Bit O Denmark. It was there I had the pleasure of presenting Slim Juhl and Knud Jacobsen with their 65-year membership pins. This was a first for me and I really enjoyed the looks and response from them and their families. It is not often that we get the opportunity to present these and both members are consistently involved with their branches, not just long-time members, but active members.

Two days later I drove to Fresno and attended their meeting at Denny’s. It was a small group with only a

## 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> tnlamee@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> jjensend2@gmail.com	<b>Kathy Christensen</b> pgchris@pacbell.net
Grand Trustee #2	<b>John Scheuber</b> consultingjohns@gmail.com	<b>Jessica Jobe Sea</b> jessica@jobesea.com
Grand Trustee #3	<b>Johanne Rasmussen Gade</b>	<b>Martha Nielsen</b> marthanielsen@yahoo.com

couple of their regulars missing. Don’t forget their installation on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:30 at the same Denny’s. On the way home, I stopped at the Mission Del Oro Hotel and checked out the convention site. It is very nice and I look forward to the festivities in April. The next day, Saturday, I attended the first meeting of the year for Valhalla and Ydun in Ferndale and was treated to a lunch catered by CC Market catering and, as usual, Sandra and company did not disappoint. There were a few members out sick with either a cold or Covid. Larry

Lancaster, their current president dragged himself out of bed to be there but when he saw me, he let us know that he wasn't well and asked if I would take charge of the meeting so he could go home and get some rest. I'm the VP there, so it was my duty and I ran the meeting. This was the first time in two years of being VP in Ferndale that I was called on and hopefully, Larry will be back in February, and I won't have to do it again.

Danmark #2 and Thyra #3 had our first meeting of the year back at the Odd Fellows Hall on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> at noon. We had our traditional æbleskiver fest and it was well attended. In addition to all of our regular members,

**Convention News 2024**

The Convention is quickly approaching, and we are excited to tell you about our guest speaker at Friday Night's Country Hoedown. Jesper Kamp, the Consulate General of Denmark, will be with us for the evening! He will give a brief talk about the Consulate, what they do, and give some insights into the Danish-American bilateral relationship. We are honored to have him join us. If you haven't already done so, please fill out and send in your registration form. And thanks to those who have already done so - it really helps. The form is available on the website under Upcoming Events and

**IN MEMORIAM:**

Pamela Kjar, Thora #11, Fresno

**DANIA NEW MEMBER:**

**DANIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Peder & Doris Hoy in memory of Gunver Olsen

**SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND**

Sena Marie Freeman in memory of Jamie Mortensen

**DANNEBROG SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Anette Christensen in memory of Ann-katherine Sawyer

Ingrid Hedman in memory of Ann-katherine Sawyer

Signe Ann McNeil in memory of Pam Kjar

**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**

We are looking forward to a great installation and luncheon this month. Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup>, it's right around the corner. If you are reading this before the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, you can still RSVP. Doors open at noon at the Encinal Yacht Club in Alameda. \$30 a person and that includes a drink ticket. It will be a blast just like last year – I guarantee it!

In January we had our traditional Æbleskiver Feast at the Odd Fellows Hall. Another in person meeting, the second one in over three years. It was a lunchtime event and well worth it. Our President Mike Fox finally had a chance to run a live meeting. And just in time as he will be our Past President in just a few weeks. The gaveling, the marching,

we had several guests in attendance. Check John Jensen's report for more details.

Later that day, I attended the Livermore lodge's meeting and while a small group, they are well on their way to having the convention organized. I swore to silence, but I will tell you there are some great surprises coming and I hope everyone will attend.

I hope to see many of you in Fresno on February 2<sup>nd</sup> for their installation and again on February 10<sup>th</sup> in Alameda for Danmark #2's and Thyra #3's installation. Please check the newsletter for details.

Regards, Tom Martin, Grand President

Announcements. Remember, room reservations should be made directly with the hotel by calling 1-209-826-4444. Tell them you are with the Danish Convention.

Also, we are still in need of raffles prizes. If you have any treasures you would like to donate, contact Tracey at 925-819-2785 or [tnlamee@yahoo.com](mailto:tnlamee@yahoo.com).

We hope you are all looking forward to the April 11 – 13<sup>th</sup> Convention as much as we are!

Tracey Lamee on behalf of the 2024 Convention Committee

<b>Upcoming Conventions</b>		
Dannevang No. 7 & Danebod No. 16	April 11-13 2024	Hotel Mission De Oro, Santa Nella
<b>Upcoming Installations</b>		
Thor # 5 & Thora # 11	Feb. 2, 2024	Denny's 1110 Shaw Ave
Danmark #2 & Thyra #3	Feb 10, 2024	the Encinal Yacht Club
# 9 Thyra & Valborg #1	March 16, 2024	Union Hotel, Benicia

and Robert's Rules of Order. Who knew it could be so much fun? We had a great turn out and more Æbleskivers than we could eat. Thank you to our guests Eric Sleuter and Annette Bistrup for joining us. Eric's parents were members of Dania in the 1950's, which is how he first became interested in folk dancing. Annette was born in Denmark and moved to the U.S. in 1980 and has lived here ever since. Also, it was good to see our friend Anita Parham from Bornholm #14 again. And thank you Roger for supplying us with some great Jubilaem. Come to our installation if you would like a taste.

We are lucky to have so many events on our 2024 calendar. Of course, we have a convention this April 11-

13. Looking forward to our stay at the Hotel Mission De Oro. Like everybody, I have driven by this hotel so many times but now we get to stop and enjoy this iconic venue. Thank you, Livermore!

The following weekend there is the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Sacramento Scandinavian Festival. Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Lodge #6. Danmark #2 will be there manning an information/food booth. Who else from Dania and Dannebrog will be there representing the Danes? We need volunteers to man the information table and spread the word about Dania and Dannebrog. We need new members. Go to <https://www.monitorlodgesacramento.org/calendars->

### **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)**

Fresno has started out bitterly cold this winter. The fog is hanging around low which makes it feel even colder. Maybe by the first of February we will have a little sunshine.

We're very sad to lose another of our members, Pamela Kjar. Sending condolences to Stan and his family. There is no other news from Carl Jensen, my Cheer Committee Chairman, to report.

### **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)**

Dues for 2024 are due for Dana #15 \$15.00 and \$25.00 for Freja #6. Please make the checks to Freja #6, if for

### **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)**

Happy February! We enjoyed our first meeting of 2024 with delicious tortilla soup and all the fixings. We welcomed Grand President of Dania, Tom Marten, to our meeting. We have lots to discuss and appreciate words of wisdom to guide us along. No meeting planned for February, but we hope to see you all at the installations for Fresno and San Francisco. Our next meeting will be Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00, Farm Bureau Building. We will have plenty of pizza to enjoy.

### **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 the rare and distinct pleasure of initiating a new member to both lodges. She is Kiana Gleeson - granddaughter of our own Greg Gleeson. Being a student, we were able to perform the initiation during her Winter Break.

[events/scandinavian-festival/](#) or contact me for more information.

Then on May 4<sup>th</sup>, there is the Annual Denmark Day at the Danish Soldier's Club in Petaluma. This is a special event with many guests and performers. I know that many Dania and Dannebrog members will be there. How about you? Contact me or Scott Johnson ([rscottjohnson3@gmail.com](mailto:rscottjohnson3@gmail.com)) for more event details. Hope to see you soon at one or more of these events!

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

We will have our installation at Denny's, at 1110 Shaw Ave (just East of First Street) on February 2 at 11:30 AM. The installation will begin after everyone arrives, then lunch will follow. It is the same menu as last year, salmon or chicken, for \$20.

I hope no one catches the nasty bug I've had this week. Fortunately, I am on the upswing and feeling better. Stay well and I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our installation. - Martha Nielsen

Dana and put a note in the memo and send them to: Tim Heer, 487 Paradise Park, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
An in-person meeting is in the works! Stay tuned!!

For the Viking in you that wants to explore your roots there is a tour planned of many historical sites in Denmark and Germany in late May, go to [archaeologychannel.org/denmark-tour](http://archaeologychannel.org/denmark-tour) for more information.

Our sympathy goes out to Stan Kjar and his family in the loss of his wife, precious Pam Kjar. Our thoughts are with you.

Hope to see a lot of your faces at the installations, and Happy Valentines Day KRT

We then tied up loose details regarding Officer's Election, Convention Delegate choices and planning for our Installation of Officers.

Our first drawing of \$50 went to Alan Filiu and a beaming Grandpa Greg won our second prize of \$20 Valborg #1 and Thyra #9 invite you to join us for our annual installation of officers and luncheon at the historic

Union Hotel located at 401 First Street in downtown Benicia. The installation will be held on Saturday March 16, 2024 at 12 noon with lunch at 1PM. Lunch menu selections are Rib Eye, Grilled Atlantic Salmon, Chicken Marsala, or Butternut Squash Ravioli. Salad selections are Caesar Salad or Napa Salad.

There will be two choices for dessert after lunch. The price for the event is \$40.00 per person. Please RSVP to Signe Ann McNeil at 510-490-6114 or [signemcneil@gmail.com](mailto:signemcneil@gmail.com).

Please RSVP by March 9, 2024

Meetings are held via Zoom. If you desire to attend our meeting, please contact Stuart Mahler for the meeting number.

### **Sonderjylland No. 10**

**Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of April, June, August, and October at 11:30am, at the Danish Soldiers Club Facility at 4560 Kastania Road, 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)**

Sønderjylland #10 had no meeting in January 2024.

Our next regular scheduled meeting is on Saturday, April 13 at 11:30 at Kastania Fælled in Petaluma.

We are planning to serve Danish Smørrebrød at this meeting.

We will try to revive our Valentine's Day meeting in late February or early March, more detail to come.

### **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)**

February 3 Valhalla / Ydun will meet at 11:00 for a business meeting with a potluck lunch to follow. We wish all the best to our new King Frederick X of Denmark.

### **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 of Valdemar #12 and Dannevirke #9 met January 5th at the Odd Fellows Hall at 6:30 pm with 17 members and 2 visitors in attendance. We had a very nice fish dinner, potatoes, and mustard gravy. Thank you, Anette, for putting all this together, shopping and cooking this great meal. For dessert we had cookies, apple cakes, tapioca pudding. During coffee and desserts, Anette opened the meeting. Sena-Marie read the correspondence we received. Anette said we need delegates for our convention April 11-13th at San Nella. So far, we have Leif and Bonnie Larsen. Thank you for offering your time. Hope we have a couple more people joining us.

We also agreed to have our installations on the 1st Friday in October every year. Sena-Marie will send emails to the newly elected Presidents and Marshals about having it on October 4th, 2024. More about this in future newsletters. Our February 2nd meeting will be Split Pea Soup with

A Note from Hayward Treasurers:

Membership dues are payable for the coming year.

Checks payable to Valborg #1, in the amount of \$12, should be mailed 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, should be mailed to Stuart Mahler, 803 Bantry Way, Benicia CA 94510.

The Hayward lodges want to wish everyone a very Happy and Prosperous New Year

The 2024 membership fee is now due, \$45.00 per person. Please mail check made out to Sønderjylland #10 c/o Treasurer John Cruger-Hansen, 8426 Bel View Court, El Cerrito, CA 94530-2557.

Please stay safe, stay healthy, and stay in contact with each other. Respectfully, John Cruger-Hansen  
Secretary/Treasurer

Christian

Swedish pancakes made by Ingrid Hedman and her crew. Ingrid asked everyone to bring an appetizer, and empty tummy. Thank You Ingrid for coordinating this treat for us.

We have not heard anything about anyone being sick. Janet Pulsipher is about the same. No significant difference according to her sister-in-law. Ruth Olsen is doing well, however walks with a walker and stays close to home. There were 68 family members at the Olsen house for Thanksgiving. What a family. Glenn Fritz left early because he fell again on his stairs and hurt his ribs. He told me that he was hurting a lot.

On a personal note: On behalf of Nina, Jordan, and myself, thank you for all the donations, texts, emails, cards, and attending Ann-katherine's service. As we can see Ann-katherine was loved very much. Nina and Jordan, you both did an outstanding job in the memory of your mom and

my dear cousin. It was a nice get together at the gravesite and lunch after and after the service you were having me join the family for dinner. Thank you Christian for the ride and making sure I got home safe. I love you all.

On a happier note: Congratulations to Nina and Jordan who welcomed their baby boy, Graysen Lars Potter on January 20 at 4:18 pm. A beautiful healthy boy at 8 lbs. 12 oz. and 22 inches. It is too bad that Ann-katherine did not get to meet him, she would have loved being a grandmother.

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

**Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup>. Friday every month 7:00 PM To Be Determined**

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

Welcome 2024! Hope everyone is keeping their New Year resolutions. Not me! After a great presentation of appetizers, libations, and pizza at the home of Jason and Danielle LeBeouf assisted by Roger and Cindy Higby, the meeting was called to order by our new President Jason LeBeouf. There were 16, members and one guest attending. Roger Gearhart is always welcome.

Jason reminded members of the upcoming convention to be held at the Hotel Mission De Oro in Santa Nella. The delegates voted in the following to represent our lodge: George Dutra, Bodil Whitehouse and Merete Meeks. Marge Scheuber will be the alternate. Bodil was assigned as the #1 delegate and will represent us at the Senior Assistance Fund Meeting.

Members volunteered their homes for the upcoming meetings and suggested some activities that we could

Just another reminder that Dues are due to Ingrid and Carl. Valdemar's dues are \$30.00 and to be sent to Carl Christiansen and Dannevirke are \$20.00 and to be sent to Ingrid Hedman.

Our February Birthdays are Lisa Christensen, Kristen Eliassen, Gianna Merlino, Peter Eliassen, Erik Hansen, and John LaRoche. HAPPY BIRTHDAY everyone and Happy Valentines Day also - Happy Leap Year, be safe, stay healthy and take care. Sena-Marie

partake in such as George Dutra's suggestion of an outing by camper or a location where some could rent cottages. John Scheuber offered to bring his boat if he hasn't sold it by then.

For the good of the order John Scheuber reported he has made his goal of his trek the distance around the world which is 24,901 miles. He accomplished this after 10 years, 9 months and 15 days. His daughter Sandi who also accomplished this feat a few months ago presented him with a shirt with the words "I walked around the World." Our next meeting will be held at the home of David and Merete Meeks.

Reminder: If you have not paid dues for 2024, please send your check to Johanne Gade. 12707 South Cometa Oakdale, CA 95361

#### **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)**

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

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

**President, Kristin Worthley, Secretary, Darlene Iversen and Elaine Anes**

The holidays were magical in Solvang with many buildings and trees decorated with tiny white lights. Decorated Christmas trees were outside most of the downtown businesses. Beautiful colored lights outlined the motorized trolleys and the horse-drawn trolley, which were filled with many people. A light and music show was held in Solvang Park every evening on the hour.

President Kristin Worthley called our first meeting of the year to order on January 3, 2024, whereby we

sang, God Bless America. The meeting was well attended with 17 members, and we welcomed Grand President, Tom Martin, and Grand Secretaries, Tim & Natalie Heer. Tom Martin presented Knud Jacobsen with a 68-year membership pin and Elwin (Slim) Juhl with a 67-year membership pin. Congratulations were extended.

After much conversation, a delicious fiske fillet lunch and aquavit, we sang the Danish National Anthem and the meeting adjourned. Karen

#### **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**