



# GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

January 2024

## Dannebrog Grand President

**Save the date:** May 4, 2024, for “Denmark Day” event 4560 Kastania Rd., Petaluma, CA from approximately 11am-3:30pm at the compound of the Danish Soldiers Club (DSC).

DSC are inviting Dania and Dannebrog to co-sponsor this event. There is no expense to Dania and Dannebrog; funding has already been secured. They are inviting Dania and Dannebrog members to wear some sort of traditional costume, if possible. Those who wish to volunteer may also do so.

It is anticipated that the Denmark Day event will have Young Scandinavians Club members present as well as other Danes, Dania and Dannebrog's participation would be a wonderful way to entice new members. It is anticipated that the Denmark Day event will be jointly sponsored by:

- Danish Soldiers Club
- Young Scandinavians Club
- Danish-American Chamber of Commerce, and
- Dania and Dannebrog

Anticipated entertainment:

- Grammy-winning Danish violinist Mads Tolling will be performing his repertoire of pop and folk hits (1960s-Present).
- Sacramento Area Nordic Dancers (SAND) will perform several Danish folk dances while in costume.
- Danish food (frikadeller, red cabbage, aebleskiver, kransekage) will be served.
- Danish folk costumes will be worn by many participants.
- There will be a flag/national anthem ceremony with a vocalist.
- Flying Suitcase Wines, a Danish-American winery, will be on-hand serving their award-winning Syrah.
- We are working to secure the attendance of the Danish consul.
- Costume contest if time permits.

So please join me as we support this momentous event!  
Stuart Mahler

<i>Grand Officers</i>		
	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> tlamee@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

**Dania Grand President**

I hope everyone had a fabulous holiday season. I attended Danmark #2's terrific party at the Hotel Mac on December 9<sup>th</sup>. It was very nice to see so many people from other lodges joining us for our annual festivities. The food was better than expected and the company even better.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> I attended the San Jose lodge's party at Bente Ellis' home. All I will say is you never want to miss out on one of Bente's parties. She, with the help of a few members, put together a very nice meal and the presentation was spectacular (as usual). There were a few travelers adding to the mix. It was nice to see so many faces that I don't see often.

That same evening, Greg and Pat hosted Hayward's party at Greg's house. I was so full from Bente's

**IN MEMORIAM:**

Agnes Larsen, Hejls Minde #23, Solvang  
Gunver Thunbo Olsen, Bornholm #14, Modesto

**DANIA NEW MEMBER:**

Kiana Gleeson, Thyra #9, Hayward

**DANIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Doris Skow in memory of Ann-katherine Sawyer, PGP  
Tim & Natalie Heer in memory of Ann-katherine Sawyer, PGP  
Johanne Gade in memory of Ann-katherine Sawyer, PGP  
Yvonne & Rudy Galli in memory of Ann-katherine Sawyer, PGP  
John Plough in memory of Ann-katherine Sawyer, PGP  
Glenn Fritz in memory of Ann-katherine Sawyer, PGP  
Karen Faraldo in memory of Ann-katherine Sawyer, PGP  
Mignonne Mollet Tinkham in memory of Ann-katherine Sawyer, PGP  
Dale & Patricia Magnin in memory of Ann-katherine Sawyer, PGP

**SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND**

Sena Marie Freeman in memory of Ann-katherine Sawyer PGP

**DANNEBROG SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**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**

Happy New Year! Godt Nytår! It is 2024 and like many others I can't believe that 2023 is over. What a year we had.

I must start by thanking everyone who joined us last month at our Christmas Luncheon. And thank you to everyone who thanked me and Danmark #2 for hosting. It was our pleasure. What a great party – the Bloody Mary's, the food, the singing, the poinsettias, the sweaters! Congratulations to Kathy Christensen for the most Beautiful (not Ugly) Christmas Sweater. We plan on returning to the Hotel Mac this year. They mentioned they had fun listening to our singing, so let's do it again in 2024.

We hope everyone had a great Christmas season with friends and family. I know many of our lodge members traveled in December and some are still traveling. May the fortunes of good weather and smooth airport logistics bless you all!

We had our first in person meeting in 2023 since March of 2020. This year we must keep these in person meetings going. January

party that I only ate a couple of cookies and a piece of pie. It looked good but there was no room... It was nice to see a couple of travelers at this party too. A couple of glasses of wine and before you know it the evening had gotten away.

Gloria is off to Peru for the holidays with her family and I will be slumming in Santa Cruz with my Jewish friends. My good friend Joe will celebrate his birthday on Christmas eve and his father's on Christmas day. We won't need a tree to have a good party.

Gloria and I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and we look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

Tom Martin

<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	TBD

will be our first and it will be our aebleskiver feast. You cannot enjoy aebleskiver via Zoom no matter how much lingonberry jam you have. And you can't sing together over Zoom either (someone always mutes me). Maybe a Saturday every other month will work? I hope so because it is great to return to the old Odd Fellows Hall whenever we can. Somebody make a motion.

Looking forward to 2024 we have our installation coming up right around the corner in February. Everyone is of course invited. It is not too soon to RSVP to our luncheon on Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we will hold the event at the Encinal Yacht Club in my hometown of Alameda.

I can't say it enough – Happy New Year everybody! Hope to see you soon. 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)**

I hope you enjoyed the Holiday Season and all of those Danish parties. We had our Fresno luncheon with a decorated tree, but no sitting on Santa's lap or singing Christmas carols. That evening our Fresno Danish Dancers celebrated with our musicians. We sang all of the traditional American carols to live music.

I went to San Francisco's lodge party held in Richmond. We started off with Bloody Mary's and lots of skoals through our time together. My son Dennis, grandson Ian, and girlfriend Andrea attended as well. We sang all of the Danish carols and almost all of the lodges were represented. The next day I attended Modesto's Christmas lunch held at a Mexican restaurant. It was a nice change of menu. I'm a Dania member of Modesto and had a good time visiting with everyone. The following Saturday I attended San Jose's Christmas luncheon held at Bente Ellis' home. She prepared a very Danish meal with the first course being several kinds of fish - pickled herring, red herring, and smoked salmon. She even had the curried egg salad to put on the fish, plus all the other condiments. The second course was the traditional pork loin with a crispy crackling skin, red cabbage, browned caramel potatoes, and mashed potatoes. We had lots of Aquavit and the wine was flowing as well. We topped it off with a dessert of Ris a L'amande. I went from Bente's to Scotts Valley to attend a Christmas dinner party my daughter, Renae was hosting. The

party consisted of lots of friends that have been together since their kids were in elementary school.

I came home Sunday night so I could attend Betty Green's graveside funeral service early Monday morning in Easton. It was a very chilly morning. Carl Jensen, his son John, Kay Jensen, and I represented the Fresno Lodge. Betty was an active member serving as President and Secretary over her 27 years with the lodge.

Cheer Chairman, Carl Jensen, has sent cards to many members of our lodge that we haven't seen for a while. We will be having our first meeting of the year on January 5, 2024, at Denny's Restaurant at 1110 Shaw Ave (just East of first street) at 11:30AM. We will have our lodge installation on Friday, February 2, 2024, at 11:30AM at the aforementioned Denny's. You have a choice of salmon or chicken, and the price is \$20. You need to call Christie Pettitt with your reservation by January 24, 2024. Her number is 559-259-0718.

Dues for 2024 need to be sent to Treasurer Christie Pettitt, Thora #11, and pay \$20. Thor #5 pay \$35 for a social member and \$40 for a benefit member. If you want a hard copy of the newsletter, add \$10 to your dues. Send your checks made to Thora #11 or Thor #5 to Treasurer Christie Pettitt at 1291 East Floral, Fresno, CA 93725. Wishing you health, peace, and happiness in the 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)**

Godt Nyår! Dues for 2024 need to be paid to Treasurer Tim Heer for Dana #15 \$15.00 and \$25.00 for Freja. Please make the checks out to Freja #6, if for Dana, put a note in the memo and send them to: Tim Heer, 487 Paradise Park, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Let's work to make a time for us to gather and renew a face to face meeting.

**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 New Year! Let's make it a good one! After a couple of months off Livermore will resume meeting, Saturday, January 13, 5:00 Farm Bureau Building. See you there.

Here is some exciting news that our group has been working hard on.

Convention 2024

Dannevang #7 and Danebod #16 Livermore are excited to be hosting the 2024 convention. It will be held April 11-13, 2024, at Hotel Mission De Oro in Santa Nella, California.

The registration form has been posted on the Danish Society website, and we are ready for signups. When making your hotel reservations, be sure to call the hotel directly to get the convention rate; DO NOT book on-line or through a third party.

We welcome donations for the raffle. Please contact Tracey Lamee if you have an item to donate.

More to follow next month. Happy New Year to All! —The Livermore Convention Committee

**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)**

Greg and Pat Hosted Hayward members for the annual Christmas celebration. Thank you, Greg and Pat, Our monthly meetings will resume on January 11th. Meetings are held via Zoom. If you desire to attend our meeting, please contact Stuart Mahler for the meeting number.

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  
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)**

**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)**

Valhalla and Ydun will meet on January 6 for a meeting at 11:00 with a catered lunch following. Contact Mel Lundberg 707.822.3787 for reservations.

Christian

**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)**

Before I start the newsletter, I want to thank everyone for the calls, emails, texts and all the love and support you all showed us during this most difficult time. Ann-katherine Sawyer will be missed by our family and dear Danish friends.

The Reno Lodges of Valdemar #12 and Dannevirke #9 met December 1st at 6 pm for our annual Christmas Party with 104 in attendance. Lots of darling children and a lot of members we have not seen in a very long time. A complete Danish Party with Gløgg and Æbleskivers to start the evening. Then the darling St. Lucia Performance of children ages from 2 – 14 years directed by Ingrid Hedman. Following the beautiful performance, we went to the Danish Smørrebrød of which most of the meals was prepared by our own Anette. The many hours of preparing everything at home, shopping etc. Thank You - you are the greatest. Thank you to Marian Gndt for the delicious Rice Pudding (Ris a L'amande). Thank you, Christian Christensen for making "Aunt Kaki" cabbage with bacon. (Ann-katherine's favorite and that she used to make for us). We know she would be proud. Thank you to everyone that brought cookies - Kristen Eliassen brought "Pebbernødder" (pepper cookies) Sena Marie brought chocolate chip cookies and Joan Topoian brought "Vaniliekranse" (Danish vanilla cookies) Everything was so great! After dinner, our Nisse (Elf) Steve Myers performed a great skit for the kids and adults. He handed out gifts to all the children. After dessert and coffee, we had a great raffle with lots of prizes. We hope everyone had a great time.

Thank you to everyone that came at 2 pm to help set it up and everyone to help clean up. I know I got home a little after 11 pm. A big thank you to the group that helped with the final preps in the kitchen before dinner, Lars Jensen, Jens Christiansen, and Carl Christiansen in the bar. A huge thank you to everyone that helped with the dishes and cleaning up after such a great party.

Our January 5th meeting will be at 6:30 pm with our annual Fish Dinner, Cod (Tork), mustard gravy and potatoes. There might be a small charge. There is not much of a sick list. Glad to see Glenn Fritz attending. He sure looked good after his back surgery. Janet Pulsipher, according to her sister-in-law is about the same.

This is just a friendly reminder that January is "dues month." Valdemar dues are \$30 and to be sent to Carl Christiansen and Dannevirke's dues are \$20 and to be sent to Ingrid Hedman. When I sent the Christmas cards out the addresses to Carl and Ingrid were enclosed. You can also pay at our January meeting. OUR JANUARY BIRTHDAYS are Ingrid Hedman, Marline Swaffar, Jens Christiansen, and John Matuzak. HAPPY BIRTHDAY everyone. One last thing before I close, I want to thank Zoey (Anette's Granddaughter) for helping me out to my car with all my things and putting my walker in the car. Anette and Lisa, you should be very proud of this young lady. The Reno Lodges wants to wish everyone a very happy holiday season. Here's to 2024, be safe, stay healthy and take care. 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)**

Bornholm#14 Meetings 3rd Friday every month. Time and place to be determined.

President Jason LeBeouf [jlebeouf@yahoo.com](mailto:jlebeouf@yahoo.com) Marge Scheuber [olemarge1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olemarge1@sbcglobal.net)

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas. John and I accepted the invitation from San Francisco's Dania Lodges to attend their Christmas Party on Dec 9, in Richmond and as always had a wonderful time. They know how to have a fun party! There were five of us there from Bornholm: Bente Ellis, Johanne Gade and Martha Nielsen also represent their other lodges. Our new member Anita Parham was also in attendance.

Upon entering the reserved room upstairs in the Hotel Mac, we were treated to some tasty, spicy Bloody Mary's topped off with Giardiniera. (Italian pickled veggies) That set the mood for the friendly conversations catching up with members from other lodges.

The dinner was awesome! I enjoyed the rich buttery flavor of the salmon and John was more than satisfied with his tasty medium rare steak. We would never be able to have a dinner in a restaurant as this for the price we paid. Thanks, Danmark #2 and Thyra #3 for being so generous.

We enjoyed their tradition of voting for the ugliest Christmas Sweater. It isn't always ugly but fun for the participants and the audience. Thanks to John Jensen, Daniel Joensen, and Peter Schakow for leading us in the traditional singing of Danish Christmas Carols.

John and I took the opportunity to head over to the Rosie the Riveter/WW-II Home Front National Historic Park in

Richmond after the dinner. It has been on my bucket list for some time. We only had time to tour the museum but there is much more to see where the shipbuilding took place during WW-II. My aunt Opal Craig came to Richmond to be one of the lady riveters when she was about 19 years old. My dad and three of his Olsen brothers worked in the shipyards (until they were drafted) building the many ships needed during WW-II.

On Sunday Dec 10 our members met for our Christmas Dinner at La Parilla in Modesto. We had 19 in attendance. We were happy to see our out-of-town members Henning and Elsy Rasmussen and Martha Nielsen make the trip to Mo Town.

On to some sad news for our members. My Aunt Gunver Olsen passed away peacefully in her sleep on Dec 3 at the age of 93.

She has been a member of Bornholm for 31 years and before that a member of Alpha. She came to America in 1952 with her husband Wilhelm Miller and daughter Ayoe. They lived for a time across the street from John with a Danish family. He has fond memories getting to know her. He was about 13 at the time. Several years later she married my Uncle Alvin Olsen. We were thrilled to have Gunver join our Olsen Clan. She was a special lady, and we will miss her so much.

Health and happiness to all of you in 2024!

Important Reminder: Membership dues of \$30 are due January 1, 2024. Please send your check made out to Dania Bornholm # 14 to Johanne Gade 12707 South Cometa, Oakdale, CA.

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)**

### **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**

Members and friends met at Bit of Denmark at noon December 6<sup>th</sup> for our annual Christmas party. A delicious Smørrebrød and entertainment of singing was enjoyed by all. We were happy to have Natalie and Tim Heer joining us. Lots of fun being with friends to start the holiday season.

At our November meeting we celebrated Hank Hauge's return from the Honor Flight to Washington DC war memorials. He

gave us a recap of all the places he visited, and it was quite a trip. Hank is the third member of Hejls Minde to take that trip. Slim Juhl went last year, and Erling Grumstrup took the trip just before he became 100 years old. A very special way to show appreciation and honor our veterans.

Happy New Year to 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**