



# GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

**March 2024**

## Dannebrog Grand President

Looking forward to seeing many of you on March 16, 2024 at noon for the last installation for your current Grand Officers. It will be in downtown Old Benicia at the historic Benicia Hotel. Oldtimers even say it is haunted!

Coming up in April will be the annual Dannebrog/Dania convention hosted by the Livermore lodges. They have been doing a lot of planning and it looks like another exciting time. Have you sent in your registration forms? Have you made your hotel reservations?

For more information on the Thyra #9 and Valborg #1 installations look further in this newsletter or last month's newsletter. Same thing for the April convention. The registration form and hotel information with convention schedule is located on the Dania&Dannebrog web site. If you are having challenges locating the information message me. I will forward the details to you.

Stuart Mahler, Dannebrog Grand President

## Dania Grand President

Tired of the cold and rain yet? Spring is just around the corner.

February was a busy month with installations in Fresno and Alameda (SF lodge Danmark #2) and a visit to Solvang and Modesto.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, I had the distinct pleasure of presenting Carl Jensen his 75-year membership pin. Carl has been an active member for over 76 years and will be turning 96 this July. He is truly an inspiring member and I seriously doubt I will ever get the chance to present another 75-year pin. This may well turn out to be the highlight of my term as Grand President.

I had a nice visit with the folks in Solvang on the 7<sup>th</sup> and another wonderful meal at the Bit O' Denmark. It was nice to see the room full and everyone involved. They have decided to retain their same officers for the next year. Congratulations to Kristen Worthy, their local president. Danmark #2 held their installation at the Encinal Yacht Club in Alameda on the 10<sup>th</sup> and a nice turnout for a great meal and what a nice view from the club. I think we'll be back there again.

On the 16<sup>th</sup>, I visited the fine folks of Bornholm at the home of David and Marete Meeks in Escalon. We had a full house with Jason LeBouf running the show. Marete provided quite a feast for the members and the few guests that attended. It looks like Mike Gearhart will be joining the lodge there as well as Roger Gearhart becoming a

### Grand Officers

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

secondary member there too. It is nice to see some of the branches growing their membership.

Next up on the calendar is the Hayward installation at the Union Hotel in Benecia on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Please come out and support the other branches. I'm sure this will be another fabulous event. Get your RSVPs into Signe Ann and plan for a fun day in the former state capitol.

In other Scandinavian happenings, the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Sacramento Scandinavian festival will be held Saturday,

April 20<sup>th</sup> (one week after convention) at the Elks Lodge on Riverside Blvd in Sacramento. I encourage everyone to attend. For more details, see their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/sacramentosandinavianfestival](http://www.facebook.com/sacramentosandinavianfestival). Denmark Day at Kastania Fællid in Petaluma is on May 4<sup>th</sup> and will be a big event deserving of your attendance as

**Secretaries**

Both Grand Lodges are holding their annual Executive Meetings at 11:00 AM before the Hayward installation on March 16. If

**Convention News 2024**

Convention is right around the corner! Early registration cutoff is March 11, so get those registration forms filled out and send them in. Also, be sure to make your room reservation. The hotel number is 1-209-826-4444 – tell them you are with the Danish Convention.

**IN MEMORIAM:**

Elouise Degrendle, Bornholm #14, Modesto

**DANIA NEW MEMBER:**

Olivia Tomozy, Valdemar #12, Reno

**DANIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

**SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND**

**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 John A. Jensen**

The entire San Francisco lodge congratulates Carl Jensen on receiving his 75-year Dania Membership pin. Truly a milestone to be admired. Thank you for three quarters of a century of service and membership. Congratulations Carl!

We wish Johanne a speedy recovery from her recent surgery. I'm not going to give details, but Johanne has been SHOULDERING so many responsibilities for Dania and Dannebrog that there is really no REPLACEMENT for her. Hope you are feeling fine soon!

We had a great installation last month. Everyone had a good time with friends, great food, and a great view of the Oakland Estuary (In Alameda, we call it the Oakland Riviera). Thank you, Grand Officers, – we hope you like the cheese. And thank you to all our guests and their “thank yous”. It is truly our pleasure to host such events and keep everybody connected. It's a great venue and, you guessed it, we will be at the Encinal Yacht Club again next year. Mark your calendars for February 8, 2025. Hope we get another sunny day.

February, we had a Zoom meeting for business. One of our lodge traditions is a Danish Word of the Month from the President each meeting. For Jessica's first meeting as President, the word was Venskab, “friendship”. Very appropriate. Roger pointed out that it was the first time in many years that a Gearhart was not in our roll call. Anne has been Vice Marshal,

well. There will be a lot of festivities including a performance by Mads Tolling and plenty of speechifying by those you'd rather hear than me. Come on out and enjoy the fun.

I look forward to seeing you all at these upcoming events. Regards, Tom Martin, Grand President

you have a candidate for Member of the year or application for a scholarship mail or e-mail them to us before March 12.

Have you thought about what duds you'll wear for Friday night's Country Hoedown? Based on previous years, it's certain y'all won't disappoint!

Donations for raffle prizes are still welcome. Contact Tracey at 925-819-2785 or [tlamee@yahoo.com](mailto:tlamee@yahoo.com).

Tracey Lamee on behalf of the 2024 Convention Committee

Upcoming Conventions		
Dannevang No. 7 & Danebod No. 16	April 11-13 2024	Hotel Mission De Oro, Santa Nella
Upcoming Installations		
# 9 Thyra & Valborg #1	March 16, 2024	Union Hotel, Benicia

Vice President, President for four years, and Past President up until last month, so she has been in the roll call for seven years! And prior to that, Roger was Secretary for ... was it over twenty years? We lost count. Thank you, Anne, for so many years of service, even if those extra COVID years were unplanned. You did a great job! And Roger, well, you owe me a report, my friend! In March we will meet in person again. A Saturday meeting and lunch at the Odd Fellows Hall will hopefully become a rule, not a habit, this year. March used to be our annual corned beef and cabbage dinner, but for lunch we have to down scale a bit and go with corned beef sandwiches. Rye bread, Swiss cheese and sauerkraut – I think we will be OK.

Deadline is approaching and I need to sign off. Just one more thing – Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Danish Soldier's Club in Petaluma is Danish Craft Beer Day, 11am to 2pm. (here is a link <https://mailchi.mp/bbdc5701287a/danish-craft-beer-day-saturday-march-2-2024?e=0029bd35df>). I won't be able to make it, but I hear that some of the beer might make it to the Odd Fellows Hall (thanks Scott!).

Happy Saint Patrick's Day! Register for the Convention! The deal price ends soon. See you in Santa Nella! 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 were barely into Feb. when we had our installation. It was well attended with most of the Grand Lodge Board coming in. Before handing the gavel over, Grand President Tom Martin had Carl Jensen escorted to the front and presented him with a 75-year Pin. Kathy Thomsen did a fine job of stepping into the Grand President Stuart's shoes to install our Dannebrog officers. We did miss Stuart's humor.

The following weekend we were at the Yacht Club for San Francisco's installation. It's a lovely view right on the bay watching all the sailboats drafting by in their race. They started us off with any cocktail we desired which put everyone in a very social mood. The highlight for me was having Grand President Stuart Mahler pinning on my 50-year membership pin. He surprised me by having my son, Dennis and grandson, Ian, escorting me up to receive it. Then also introduced my daughter Renae.

I've talked with our Cheer Chairman Carl Jensen to get his monthly report. He's doing well and is always so sharp. Kay Jensen will be moving to an apartment at Bethel in Selma very soon. Stan Kjar has moved to Oak Mont Care home in Fresno following the loss of Pam. Carl said her service was well attended by our lodge and friends.

I saw Norm Jensen at a breakfast meeting, he was looking good and doing well. Wanted me to give him a call to remind him of

our next meeting. He's no longer doing the USDA fig inspection.

Heard that Bob Lacey was in the hospital having a circulation problem with his legs. This is the same Bob that always rides his Danish Nimbus motorcycle in the Solvang Danish Day's Parade. Bob, we're thinking of you and there's no words to convey how much we're feeling for you in this difficult time. The next installation is March 16, for the Hayward lodge, so if you want to visit with the other lodges and have a good time, you need to be there. Our local lodges are getting smaller, and this is one way to stay connected.

I attended Bornholm's meeting in Modesto which I'm a member. They had a large gathering for dinner at the Meeks lovely home. Dania's Grand President Tom Martin drove over to attend. He is trying to make as many local meetings as possible and it's nice to have him.

We will be having Easter on the last Sunday of March. So, you need to get those bunnies busy coloring those eggs ready for the big day, of course you can replace it with those large Chocolate eggs and bunnies that taste just wonderful.

Stay well and have a Happy Easter with family and friends. 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, [timandnatalie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:timandnatalie@sbcglobal.net)**

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

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

**Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 5:00PM; 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)**

The almonds have blossomed, daffodils are blooming, the sun is shining, no, wait it's raining again. We'll take it!

Livermore had a productive meeting in January, starting off with delicious tortilla soup and all the fixings and ending with pomegranate pie. Thanks to Grand President of Dania, Tom Martin for joining us. Annual reports were filled out and per capita sent off to Grand Lodge. So disappointing to see our membership dwindling down from what is used to be.

The farm bureau hall has been paid for the year and we are scheduled to meet there Saturday, March 9th, 5:00. We will have a lot to discuss since it's our last meeting prior to convention. Come enjoy some pizza with us, and maybe a beer or two while we sit around the dining table. Please read our wonderful and efficient convention committee's report for details. We look forward to Haywards installation at a new location in Benecia., at the Union Hotel. Have a wonderful March and a Hoppy Happy Easter. 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)**

Hayward's next meeting will be held via Zoom on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Stuart Mahler to obtain the Zoom meeting link. Valborg #1 and Thyra #9 invite you to join us at our annual installation of officers and luncheon at the historic Union Hotel located at 401 First Street in downtown Benecia. The installation will be held on Saturday March 16, 2024, at 12 noon with lunch at 1PM.

Please RSVP to Signe Ann McNeil at 510-490-6114 or [signemcneil@gmail.com](mailto:signemcneil@gmail.com).

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. Look forward to seeing you on March 16<sup>th</sup>!

There will be no meeting held in April as we will be attending the Annual Convention.

**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)**

Sonderjylland #10 had no meeting in February 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. Please let me know if you will be attending and if you will bring any guests.

The 2024 membership fee is now due, \$45.00 per person. If you haven't already, 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

**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)**

March 2 Valhalla – Ydun will meet at 11:00 for a business meeting with a potluck lunch to follow. Members are asked to bring something to share. Christian

**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; President, Anette Christensen, [anettechristensen@charter.net](mailto:anettechristensen@charter.net)**

The Reno Lodges of Valdemar #12 and Dannevirke #9 met February 2nd at 6:30 pm at the Odd Fellows Hall. 25 members in attendance and 2 visitors, 1 of those was 13 days old Graysen Lars Potter. He attended his 1st Danish Lodge meeting with mom and dad, Nina and Jordan Potter. Such a cute baby and everyone was all around to see the little cutie. We had such a lovely dinner of Split Pea Soup with all the fixings and Swedish pancakes. Ingrid brought all Swedish table coverings, flowers and other Swedish decorations. Thank You Ingrid for such a great Job. We also had desserts and a Happy Birthday Cake for John LaRoach's who's 80th birthday was a few days later. During coffee and dessert, Anette opened the meeting with the first thing on the agenda - Delegates for convention. We are proud to announce that there will be 8 from Reno this year. The delegates for Valdemar #12 are Leif Larsen and Kurt Tomozy. The delegates for Dannevirke #9 are Bonnie Larsen and Jillian Baker. It is nice to see our newer members join us for the convention. Welcome Kurt, Olivia and Jillian and hope you have as good of a time as we "old timers" do. We really hope the new 3 members will enjoy their 1st convention. Next on the agenda, we took in a new member to Valdemar #12, Kurt's wife Olivia. Welcome! Our March 1st meeting will be Corn Beef and Cabbage potluck. Lars and Leif will cook corn beef and Anette asked everyone to bring veggies to go with the meat or appetizer and dessert. Sena-Marie will be opening the hall since Anette will be arriving late.

We have not heard about anyone on our sick list. Janet Pulsipher is about the same, no real changes. Bonnie Larsen was in a wheelchair; she broke her foot. She said she is doing okay and will be able to attend the convention. Glad to see Solveig and John. Solveig said she is still in a lot of pain, but she tries to keep going. Ruth Olsen is about the same. Karen, her daughter, told me this when I called her about Baby Potter. Glenn Fritz was not able to be in attendance, because a big windstorm blew shingles off his roof.

I want to explain the donation to the S.A.F. for Jamie Mortensen. Jamie was my cousin's wife who passed away January 4th. They live in Virginia City. Ross' parents (my aunt and uncle) belonged to the lodge for years and the 3 cousins and I were all raised in Verdi. We were more like siblings than cousins, and Rossie and I visited each other a lot.

Nina asked me what I wanted to be named when Graysen gets older. They are going to make sure he knows who Ann-katherine was. Jordan, Nina and I decided, I would be named "Cousin Granny" - and I love it!

Our March Birthdays are Cynthia Burk, Barbara Iler, Janet Pulsipher, Ina Segesman and Karina Davies. HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE! Happy St. Patty's Day, stay safe, healthy and see you in April. Take Care, Sena-Marie

**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)**

Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month Time to be Determined.

President Jason LeBeouf, Secretary, Marge Scheuber

[olemarge1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olemarge1@sbcglobal.net)

Beware of the Ides of March said Julius Caesar! Why should we when it means we are that much closer to Dania and Dannebrog Convention. From the video I just viewed of the recently renovated luxurious Mission De Oro, we are all in for a memorable time in this beautiful historic hotel. I am looking forward to the fine art collection and the wine museum. Our

delegates for the convention will be Bodil Whitehouse, George Dutra and Marge Scheuber.

We had our February 16 meeting in Escalon at the lovely country home of David and Merete Meeks. Merete prepared a delicious pasta dinner for 22 of us. We welcomed the following guests: Roger Gearhart, Michael Gearhart, and our Dania Grand President Tom Martin. A big thank you to Tom for keeping us informed of the upcoming convention, and other Danish and Scandinavian activities.

We reviewed our interest in having a camp out and received a few more suggestions on possible places to go such as 49-ers in Plymouth, California.

John Scheuber distributed the 2024 program booklet which includes all the upcoming meetings, their hosts and membership list with contact information.

John also reported that a memorial service would be held on Sunday in Ripon at the Deegan Memorial Chapel for our long-time member Elouise Degrendle who passed away on January 19<sup>th</sup> with a reception following at the Persuasion Brewery in Modesto.

### **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 to all, I am finally back on the ball and getting an article in on time.

Our next business meeting will be at Kim's home. We will gather at 12:30 and begin with our meeting, followed by lunch and socializing. Be sure you call or email her, so she knows if you are coming or not.

Her # 408-314-8626 or email [kimgiacinto@gmail.com](mailto:kimgiacinto@gmail.com).

Please remember that the convention will be in April so if you have anything you want brought up, it needs to be decided at this meeting.

I have talked with Lisa McDaniel and Ron Nielsen and both are feeling well even though they both have some health issues.. I know that Maud Hansen is back in the hospital with a pulmonary problem. She does not take visitors or phone calls, so we are requesting cards sent to her home. Her homecare lady feeds the cat, the birds and will drop off cards to the hospital for

We are happy to report that we have a younger group taking leadership positions in our lodge and member attendance has been increasing. We are looking into returning to a venue that will give us more room. Mike Gearhart is going to check on a place in Escalon. Susan Mefford is going to check on using the back room at Round Table Pizza in Riverbank.

A friendly reminder to members who need to pay their dues. Send to our treasurer Johanne Gade 12707 South Cometa, Oakdale, CA 95361

her.

Bob Lacey has been moved to the White Blossom Care Center in San Jose, for extensive physical therapy following surgery to remove his right leg just below the knee. He is in good spirits and I know he would also enjoy cards, which can be sent to the house and Lis will take to him... Until we know more about his PT schedule, calls and visits are not a good idea. As soon as I have any further information about either of these members, I will let you know.

I hope you all had a nice Valentine Day and I wish you a Sunny Easter. DWS

PS. I talked with Bob, and he said he would enjoy visitors. Suggest late afternoons or Saturday /Sunday. He has most of his therapy in the morning hours but that could change. His cell phone is 408-489-0320. His spirits are good, but he said he is bored. DWS

### **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**

Hejls Minde No23. held its monthly meeting on Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Bit of Denmark Restaurant in

Solvang CA Please join us and enjoy a fine meal with good friends, even in the rain.

### **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**