



GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

April 2024

Dannebrog Grand President

It was almost a year ago that I became the Dannebrog Grand President in Newark California. As I reflect on the past year as Grand President, I also look back on my over fifty years in Dania and all the Dannebrog and Dania conventions I attended. A lot has changed over the years. The formal attire has gone by the wayside along with mandated articles in the newsletter from Grand Presidents. Local branches are starting to disappear and membership in both Dannebrog and Dania is disappearing as well.

The one thing that has not changed is the friendliness of the remaining membership. Socializing, getting together, creating new memories, new friends and the fun of conventions and local installations where we recall the past good times.

Any ideas on building new membership in both organizations? A lot of ideas have been tried in the past. Certainly, there could be new and improved ideas to sustain these two long-time organizations. Is doing what we have been doing for the last ten to twenty years the way to go?

Are we able to get our children to join? What about our grandchildren? We all have friends! Now, if we do get them to join how do we get them involved and to come back to subsequent meetings and events?

Remember the past festivities at lodge gatherings in addition to their annual installations of officers? We had a lot of get-togethers and a lot of fun! Could that be replicated into today's world! Are people no longer interested in getting together? Sure, folks today are busy and have a lot to do that is vying for their time. What could we do to become relevant in today's world?

This is my last article for the newsletter. I look forward to the upcoming convention hosted by the Livermore Lodges. They have done a lot of planning and work to make this a magnificent event! Hope to see many of you there. I wish Kathy Thomsen the best of luck in her term, and I am confident she will do an outstanding job as Dannebrog's Grand President!

Farewell, Stuart Mahler, Dannebrog Grand President

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 Danbholm@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 trlamee@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

Dania Grand President

April is just around the corner...

We wrapped up the installation schedule in Benicia at the Union Hotel where the Hayward lodges hosted a small but delightful luncheon and installation at the historic old inn. The executive committee meeting was held, audits were conducted; scholarships were awarded...a member of the year was decided...and a big Thank You to Stuart and Susan Mahler for hosting the afterparty at their home.

Secretaries

Convention News 2024

Convention is here!!

Some items of note:

- Hotel check-in starts at 3:00 p.m.
- Convention check-in also begins at 3:00 p.m. in the Business Center across from hotel check-in.
- Thursday's Welcome Reception will start at 6:00 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. We might as well get things started, right?

IN MEMORIAM:

Les Leal, Holger Danske No. 27, Santa Maria

Linda Cumming, Valborg No. 1, Hayward

DANIA NEW MEMBER:

DANIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND

DANNEBROG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Signe Ann & Rowland McNeil in memory of Linda Cumming

Danmark No. 2 & Thyra No. 3

Meeting: 2nd 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 Thyra #3 Secretary John A. Jensen

Welcome to our newest Danmark #2 member Yoko Ølsgaard. Yoko was initiated at our March meeting at the Odd Fellows Hall. It was appropriate that she was initiated in San Francisco because Yoko was born in San Francisco. She comes to us recommended by Scott and Ever as they know her from the Danish Soldiers Club. Our lodge is very lucky to get new active members, who just so happen to enjoy Danish cooking.

Our lodge wishes to thank the Hayward lodge for hosting such an excellent installation and luncheon in Benicia last month. The Union Hotel is a gem – such great service and great food. It was good to see Johanne and that she is on the mend. Hope you are feeling better every day. Special

Next up is the convention at the Hotel Mission Del Oro. I hope everyone is excited and ready for a good time. The Livermore folks have been working on this for a year and I'm sure no one will be disappointed. Please come ready to handle our business of having a great time! I look forward to seeing you all there.

Tom Martin, Grand President

- Remember, the Senior Assistance Fund meeting will be held on Friday morning beginning at 9:00 a.m.
 - The coffee break follows the SAF meeting, with Dania/Dannebrog meetings starting at 10:30 a.m.
- We look forward to seeing you all soon,
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		

thanks to Stuart and Susan for opening their home for an after lunch get together. What a great day – Mange Tak! Did you think March was busy with installations, meetings, spring break, and Easter? Well here comes April. If you're not ready for the convention, then get ready! The convention is less than two weeks away. Get out your tuxedo and dancing shoes. I am looking forward to another successful and fun convention. Then the following weekend is the Scandinavian Festival in Sacramento. These two events alone are enough to fill the month of April, but I hear it all starts off with a solar eclipse. What else can I say? Can't wait to see you in Santa Nella. Med venlig hilsen, John A. Jensen, Secretary, jajensend2@gmail.com , 1-510-697-4658

Thor No. 5 & Thora No. 11

Meeting: 1st 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

I hope everyone had a happy Easter. It is now officially Spring with all of the trees and flowers blooming. I attended Hayward's installation with my son, Dennis. The installation was held at the Union Hotel in the heart of the historic Old Town Benecia. The dinner was impressive with rib-eye steaks that were almost as large as the plate and served by the owner. Stewart and Susan hosted an after-party at their home in the hills. It was nice to have the opportunity to extend our visit after dinner. Our lodges are gearing up for the convention at Santa Nella with our delegates selected and installations completed. We will have a new board as everyone moves

up to the next position. The evening parties are what make the convention fun as we don't have as much business to take care of.

There isn't a lot of local news. Kay Jensen is in her new home at The Bethel Village in Selma and seems to be very happy. Carl Jensen reported he just talked to Stan Kjar and Stan was doing very well and sounded good. Carl himself is doing well and still mowing his own lawn. I have been busy packing this month in preparation for moving off the farm in April and into town.

I hope to see all of you at the convention. Stay healthy and enjoy the warmer weather. 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

We have been trying to figure out our next meeting. If you are interested, please give us a call. We have missed gathering with you and have been remiss in scheduling a meeting.

We have had such fun and want to share this with others. Keep in mind, we are here for our Danish community and welcome anyone who is interested in continuing the Salinas Lodges.

Convention starts April 12, 2024, hope to see you there soon, NT

Dannevang No. 7 & Danebod No. 16

Meet 2nd Saturday at 5:00PM; the Farm Bureau Building, 638 Enos Way, Livermore. Dannevang #7 Secretary, Robert Lamee, Robertlamee@yahoo.com Danebod Secretary, Kathy Thomsen, danskfarm@yahoo.com

Happy April, Happy Spring! Hayward had a fun and unique installation at the Union Hotel in Benecia. We followed it up in Stuart and Sue Mahler's lovely backyard. Reminds me of the fun pre-installation gatherings we used

to have, including several at my parents' house, Sigurd and Ruth Thomsen.

No meeting in Livermore this month, we will follow up in May.

See y'all at the Mission De Oro KRT

No. 9 Thyra & Valborg No. 1

Meeting: 2nd Thursday every month 6:30 PM; On Zoom President, Eric Jorgensen, e.jorgensen.54@gmail.com #9 Thyra/Valborg #1 Secretary, Beth Cowan, beth.cowan@att.net

Our condolences to Andrew Cumming and family on the passing of his mother recently. A celebration of Linda's life will be held on Saturday April 6, 2024, at 1PM at Eden United Church of Christ located at 21455 Birch Street Hayward in the Pioneer Chapel. Hayward lodges conducted their annual installation of officers on March 16 at the Union Hotel in downtown Benecia. Although the room was small, we were still able to get the job done. Thank you to the Grand Officers who attended to install our officers and the other out-of-town guests who joined us as well. I think all of us who attended

enjoyed the luncheon which followed. You should have seen the size of those steaks and salmon!

Valborg and Thyra will not hold a meeting on April 24, 2024, as most of our members will be attending the Livermore convention. Looking forward to seeing a lot of our friends at the convention.

We will resume our Zoom meetings on May 9, 2024, at 6:30PM. Other non-Hayward lodge members are always welcome to join us. If interested contact Stuart Mahler and he will be more than happy to provide you with the Zoom link. The Hawk

Sonderjylland No. 10

**Meeting 2nd 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

We will be discussing our future operation at this meeting. We are down to only 13 paying members, of which my family is five of them and I pay my three daughters membership fee mainly to support our branch. Four of our members are unable to drive themselves to our meetings, relying on family or friends for transportation and one member lives over 80 miles away from Petaluma and rarely attends. My three daughters generally do not attend because of commitments with their own children, so that leaves only 5 of us attending on a regular basis. Also, meeting at the Soldiers Club facilities, however great it is, is expensive, (we pay \$50 each time we meet at the facility).

My wife Debbie, as President, and myself as Secretary/Treasurer, have continued as President and Sec/Treas of the branch for several years now as nobody else has been willing to step up and take over. I just turned 80 and I am not sure I have the energy to continue. We may decide to have to look into closing down

Sonderjylland #10 if nobody volunteers to take over the running of the branch.

Sonderjylland #10 has a Morgan Stanley Brokerage account valued at approximately \$23,000 and a checking account valued at approximately \$2,000 at this time.

Most of our members, except myself and my family, are members of the Danish Soldiers Club. Since we have a very close relationship with the Soldiers Club, at whose facilities we have been meeting for decades, we discussed earlier about merging with them and bringing our funds with us in the merger in support of the Soldiers Club. I understand that may not be possible. I think most of our members still would like to do that.

You are welcome to bring up this situation at the Dania Convention in April and see if there is any way to facilitate such a merger.

We will certainly seek the council of Dania before we make any definite decision of whether to close down or not.

Best John Cruger-Hansen, 510-375-5070

Valhalla No. 11 & Ydun No. 10

Meeting: 1st. Saturday every month at 11:00 A.M., Danish Hall, Ferndale, CA 95536

Secretary, Christian Nielsen, ChristianNielsen@suddenlink.net

April 6 Valhalla – Ydun will meet at 11:00 for a business meeting with a sandwich, salad and dessert potluck lunch to follow. Members are asked to bring something to share. Happenings and other things.

April 6 Danish Soldiers Club will be having a Danish Viking Mead Day. \$26.50 for lunch, \$4.00 per drink more

information on their web

site www.DanishSoldiersClub.com

May 4 Danish Soldiers Club will be celebrating Denmark Day. See their web site for more information. Special Guest speaker Tom Martin, Grand President Dania along with Karin Wasler, District President of Danish Sisterhood of America. Christian Nielsen, Secretary

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; President, Anette Christensen, anettechristensen@charter.net

The Reno Lodges of Valdemar # 12 and Dannevirke #9 canceled our March 1st meeting due to a very large snowstorm. We missed out on our corned beef and cabbage meal. Oh Well, Next Year. The Reno Lodges will meet for an Easter Potluck April 5th at 630 pm. Weather supposed to be nice. Ha Ha. We will miss Bob Lacey at the convention. Bob, I will do my best to conduct the S.A.F. meeting. Speedy Recover. I had dinner with my cousin Rossie after his wife's death. He is doing well. Baby Graysen is now 2 months old. Cute as can be. Janet

Pulsipher no changes. Ruth Olsen is having Easter Dinner at her home, with the help of her large family. Anette is having fun in Denmark. Lots of rain. She will be home April 1st. No Fooling. Our April Birthdays are Sena-Marie Freeman, Brandur Jensen, Glenn Christensen. Carl Christiansen, Peter Jensen, Kurt Tomozy and Gregg DiMartino. HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALL. Hope everyone had a nice Easter. All 8 of us will see you at the convention, Safe Travels, take care, be safe and stay healthy Sena-Marie for Anette in Denmark.

Bornholm No. 14

Meeting: 3rd. Friday every month 7:00 PM To Be Determined

President Jason LaBeouf, Secretary Marge Scheuber, olemargel@sbcglobal.net

Our March meeting was held in the spacious home of Peder and Doris Hoy. We always love admiring all the beautiful Danish décor Doris has displayed around their house. First, we enjoyed wine and appetizers followed by Mountain Mike's Pizza. Doris treated us to homemade baked cake and Danish cookies and of course real coffee. There were only 13 attending this month's meeting. Irene Petersen, a guest of Anita Parham may be interested in becoming a member. Four of our members were in Switzerland. Our president Jason being one of them. Our Vice President, Brian Mefford was unable to make the meeting due to a bad cold. John Scheuber filled in to run the meeting. We were pleased to see that Johanne is recuperating from her recent surgery on her shoulder. She has suffered in pain way too many months, but always a

Danneskjold No. 17

Meeting: 3rd Saturday at 12 Noon in various homes.

President, Laila Solyst atlailaspring@hotmail.com Secretary, Kim Nielsen Giacinto, kimgiacinto@gmail.com

Hi all, I hope you had a lovely Easter, and the Easter Bunny left you lots of goodies.

We held our March meeting at the home of Kim Giacinto with our President Laila on facetime and 7 members present.

We changed things up a bit by holding our meeting first and then followed it with lunch.

Under new business the lodge approved my being the rep. to the SAF Meeting and the Dania Convention. An item relative to the Funeral/Death Benefit was discussed and will be brought up at the convention in Santa Nella this month. I will report on that issue in the next Newsletter. I am sad to report that Lisa McDaniel's daughter-in-law passed away April 20, just 11 days after being diagnosed with lung cancer. Our prayers and sympathies go out to both Lisa and her son Poul.

On a happy note, I am pleased to tell you that I had a very short but upbeat call from Maud Hansen on the 28th of March. She is now home with 24 round the clock

Hejls Minde No. 23

Meeting: 1st. Wednesday 12 noon at Bit O' Denmark,

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

After intermittent rain showers days before, Kristin Worthley called the meeting to order on a bright, sunny day and welcomed thirteen members and two guests, Finn's wife, Kristina, and Inge, with the singing of God Bless America. We celebrated Kristin, Mark, and Alice's birthdays with more singing.

Kristin shared some family history about moving from Iowa to California and how life was during the time changing from potato farming to dairy farming. After her interesting and inspiring story, members were encouraged to contribute at future meetings.

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

dedicated officer and member to always show up. We were a bit worried about Bente. She was caught in the Friday traffic but never fear Bente seems to always make it here and as usual bringing a lovely bouquet of flowers for the hostess. I was able to make it to this meeting without my cane after two weeks of physical therapy. (due to a fall 6 weeks ago) We continued our discussion from last month about planning a camp out. We may plan on that for the month of October and combine it with our annual picnic. George Dutra, Bodil Whitehouse and Merete Meeks are going to check out some possible places to set up camp. We will not be meeting next month because of the convention. Those of us attending the convention are looking forward to a great time at Hotel Mission De Oro. See you there! Marge Scheuber

care. She had a severe case of Pneumonia. After spending time in the hospital and then rehab, she went home for 3 days, only to return to the hospital and again to rehab. I am so glad to say that she has now been home for over a week and is improving slowly. She still is not up for company, but I suggest continuing the shower of cards. Maud especially asked me to thank everyone for all the cards and notes she received. She said she is not planning any events or meetings for some time. Lis Lacey reported on Bob's progress. He has been moved to the Princess Lodge Rehab Center on Hacienda just off Winchester in Campbell. He is now enjoying visitors in the afternoon or weekends. Ron Nielsen says he is feeling good, and I will say he is looking good.

Our next meeting together will be at my ranch in Hollister on June 1, 2024. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Have a wonderful spring. Well, that's it for this issue. DWS

Representing our Lodge as delegates, Elaine Anes and Bent Olsen, will be attending the Convention in Santa Nella.

After a delicious cod fish lunch, along with aquavit, much laughter and conversation, we sang the Danish National Anthem. The meeting was adjourned, and our next meeting will be at noon on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at the Bit O' Denmark restaurant. In the meantime, Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Easter.

Karen Haugse, co-secretary.