



GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

May 2024

Dannebrog & Dania Grand Presidents

First off we would like to give our thanks to the crew at Mission de Oro & Livermore lodge for helping to make a successful start to our year as Grand Presidents. Thank you for electing us as your Grand Presidents and congratulations to all the newly elected Grand Officers, it's going to be a grand year. The first responsibility of our office was to award the member of the year awards on Saturday night. It was with heavy heart and also an honor to bring the Ferndale group up to accept the award for Christian Nielsen, who passed away March 30th. He will be greatly missed. It was also a privilege to present Beth Cowan, of Hayward lodge Valborg No. 1, with Dannebrog's member of the year. Well-deserved awards, both of them.

Next on our agenda we look forward to attending Denmark Day, May 4th, at Kastania park in Petaluma, along with the Danish Soldiers club and several other Danish groups coming together to celebrate Danish traditions. We are definitely looking forward to this event.

Tickets must be purchased in advance. Please spread the word about our organization, and how much fun we have. Perhaps we can even get more of our own family members to join in on the fun. Hope to see you all soon.
Dan Holm and Kathy Thomsen, your Grand Presidents.

Secretaries

IN MEMORIAM:

Christian Nielsen, Valhalla # 11, Ferndale.
Dianne Geiger, Freja #6 & Dana #15, Salinas

DANIA GENERAL FUND:

Glenn Fritz in memory of Linda Cumming
Glenn Fritz in Memory of Christian Nielsen

DANIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Danmark #2

DANIA SCHOLARSHIP

Doris Skow in memory of Christian Nielsen

SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND

DANNEBROG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Valborg #1 in memory of Linda Cumming

Grand Officers

	Dania	Dannebrog
Grand Past President	Tom Martin thommartin99@gmail.com	Stuart O Mahler smahler52@gmail.com
Grand President	Dan Holm Danholm@gmail.com	Kathy Thomsen danskfarm@yahoo.com
Grand Vice President	Robert Lamee robertlamee@yahoo.com	Tracey Lamee tnlamee@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	James O Jensen jamesolefjensen@yahoo.com	Dennis Nielsen nielsen.dennis.a@gmail.com
Grand Vice Marshal	Gregory A. Gleeson gleeson2@icloud.com	Susan Gauthier s.gauthier@sbcglobal.net
Grand Trustee #1	John Scheuber consultingjohns@gmail.com	Jessica Jobe Sea jessica@jobesea.com
Grand Trustee #2	Johanne Rasmussen Gade	Kathy Christensen pgchris@pacbell.net
Grand Trustee #3	John Jensen jajensend2@gmail.com	Jillian Baker jillian.n.baker@gmail.com

Upcoming Conventions

Dannevang No. 7 & Danebod No. 16	April 10-12 2025	Hotel Mission De Oro, Santa Nella
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Upcoming Installations

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**

Is it May already? Happy Mother's Day!

April was a very busy, very fun month for everyone. But I am surprised that it is over. Time flies when you're dancing in a conga line. We must of course thank the Livermore Lodges once again for such a successful and fabulous convention. They found a great venue and I am certain we will be returning to Hotel Mission De Oro in the years to come. Congratulations to our new Grand Officers! It is great to see my brother James moving through the chairs. We can't wait to see all of you at local lodge events throughout the year.

The weekend following the convention was the Sacramento Scandinavian Festival. I must say it was a blast and I highly recommend it in the future. The event was very well attended. There was a lot of music, dancing, and singing. There was a fashion show where the traditional dress of various Scandinavian countries was displayed. Our very own Scott and Ever showed traditional Danish fashion. Ever wore a beautiful dress and bonnet (I am not sure the year it was from) and Scott wore the uniform of a Danish horse soldier, but without the horse of course. There was great food as well. Scott and Ever, with the help of our friend Yoko and other members of the Danish Soldiers Club, served up aebleskiver to a seemingly never ending line. Delicious! There were many baked goods for sale as well as a huge array of arts and crafts. And Vikings – the armor and weapons display by the Icelandic Vikings was very authentic and impressive. Tom, James, and I

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

We had a great convention in Santa Nella. The Grand President, Stuart Mahler, and his board expertly ran our Dannebrog meeting with the new Grand Vice Marshal, Dennis Nielsen, taking care of the door. Congratulations to our new Grand Presidents Kathy Thomsen and Dan Holm. The Livermore lodges did a tremendous job of putting on the convention. Bob and Tracey Lamee had everything running smoothly, if only the weather had been a bit warmer and less windy. It looks like Santa Nella will be the location of next year's convention as well.

We enjoyed a lot of goodies in our convention bags including apricots from Doris Skow, almonds from Kathy Thomsen, and wine from Johanne Gade and the Scheubers. I brought Sun Maid raisins for everyone to enjoy. For our coffee breaks, Bent Olsen supplied us with his Danish Kringle filled with lots of almond paste and raisins.

manned a table and talked to many people about Dania and Dannebrog. The business cards seem to work great. Now let's see how many responses we get. Even though we no longer have a Sacramento lodge, there was a Dania presence at the festival. We ran into George Dutra, Anita Parham and Roger Gearhart, all up from Modesto. Even though Yoko, Scott, and Ever were there representing the Danish Soldiers Club, they helped us at our table and displayed the Dania & Dannebrog logo at the aebleskiver station. Now that we have been and know what to expect, and what is expected from us, we will do even better next time. But unfortunately, next year's festival is the same weekend as next year's convention. Drat. We will keep checking and updating the calendar in the years to come. And speaking of calendars, I hope you have your tickets to Denmark Day this Saturday May 4th at the Danish Soldiers Club in Petaluma. I heard the tickets sold out during the early access offering – is that true? We are all looking forward to this event and I hope to see many of you there. Denmark #2 and Thyra #3 will meet for a business meeting and lunch at the Odd Fellows Hall in San Francisco on Saturday May 11th at noon. We are getting into a regular schedule of a live meeting on the second Saturday of every other month. You must hear the gavel in person as it just does not work in a Zoom meeting. Once again Happy Mother's Day! See you soon. Med venlig hilsen, John A. Jensen, Secretary, jajensend2@gmail.com , 1-510-697-4658

Speaking of raisins, I'm not planning on making any this year. I've moved off the ranch, but I am still in the process of clearing out all of the farm equipment. Gunnar had a collection of antique tractors that I now need to sell. He had them all running at one time, but they've since been sitting a while. If you're interested in the farm or the tractors, you know how to find me.

Our lodges are now moving into the summer mode. After our May meeting we won't be meeting again until Fall. I hope all of the mothers have a wonderful Mother's Day with their family and friends. The third weekend in May is Kingsburg's Swedish Days and the Fresno Danish Folk Dancers will be dancing with the Swedes. At the end of the month, we'll celebrate Memorial Day to honor all of the men and women that have given their lives for the freedoms we experience daily in our country. I hope you'll be able to enjoy all of the celebrations in May. - 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 would like to thank the 2024 Convention Committee for all of their hard work in putting on a very successful convention. 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.

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 May to all from the Livermore group. It was sure fun to see all the happy faces at the convention, and it's also a bit of relief to put it behind us. All the planning and anticipating paid off well. We will have our next meeting, May 18th at 5:00, location to be determined. We usually meet on the second Saturday but decided to make the

change due to Mother's Day. The theme is based on Cinco de Mayo (which was Diane Reinstein's birthday). Happy Birthday to Jackie also, and any other May birthdays. Hope your May is blessed with spring flowers, Mother's Day celebrations and ending with Memorial Day, see you soon, 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**

Kudos to the Livermore lodges on an outstanding convention. Looking forward to next year's convention at the same place. The facilities were great and easy to get around. All had an enjoyable time. Congratulations to the newly installed grand officers in Dannebrog and Dania! Our next Zoom meeting for Valborg #1 and Thyra #9 will be Thursday May 9, 2024 at 6:30PM. The Zoom link

will be out to our members at the beginning of the week. If you are a member in other Dannebrog or Dania branches and would like to join in let Stuart Mahler know at smahler52@gmail.com and he will forward, you the 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**

Sønderjylland #10 decided to cancel their April 13, 2024 meeting. Only three members were able to attend, and since the weather forecast was for rain, it was decided to cancel the outdoor meeting and reschedule it for June 8, 2024. We may have the June meeting at member Birthe Baekgaard's home in Santa Rosa instead of at the Danish Soldiers Club facilities in Petaluma. We will decide before the June Newsletter.

At this meeting we will have nominations to the Board and we will discuss our future operation. Please let Secretary/Treasurer John Cruger-Hansen know if you will attend or bring a guest. 510-375-5070. Guests are always welcome. 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: 1st. Saturday every month at 11:00 A.M., Danish Hall, Ferndale, CA 95536
Secretary, Donald T. Christensen, dtchkhc@gmail.com**

The lodge charter was draped for Christian Nielsen, who passed away 30 March. It was a shock, to say the least. He was a long-time recording secretary and manager of the Danish Hall, and member since 7 March 1980. Those of you who have attended past installation weekends knew Christian as the friendly force behind many an event at the hall. President Larry Lancaster conducted the memorial service, including the Lord's Prayer. Members spoke lovingly in remembrance. Monetary donations were made

to the Grand Lodge and to Hospice of Humboldt in his memory. Valhalla's delegates Daniel Barney, Tamara Barney, Larry Lancaster, and Ydun's delegate Lynn Wachter are looking forward to this month's Grand Lodge convention, especially Friday evening's dinner and dance and presence of the Consulate General of Denmark. Tillykke med fødselsdagen til Tamara, Deloris, Kristina, Irene, Lynn and Felicity. Christian would have been 61 this month. "En fødselsdagsskål til jer alle!"

Following the meeting, twenty members and friends enjoyed an Easter potluck of velsmagende sandwich, salater og dessert, as well as appealing decorations. Sadly, a number of conversations consisted of how much Christian will be missed. He was family.

Colleen, Pat and Lynn are the committee for fejrer norsk uafhængighedsdag following May's meeting. Their annual Syttende Mai celebration is always a look-forward-to luncheon.

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 met Friday April 5th at 6:30 pm. We had a nice Easter Potluck with Ham, potatoes, and a lot of different veggies, and macaroni salad. 22 members, 3 visitors, and baby Graysen attended. Anette opened the meeting during coffee & dessert, chocolate cake and cookies. Most of the discussion was about the convention coming up on April 11th. For our May 3rd meeting we will have a potluck and Sena-Marie will bring dessert. We will have election of officers to be installed at our October installation. St. Hans Fest will be on Sunday June 23rd at the River School starting at 7 pm, so mark your calendars for that. There will be more information about it, but you can start working on your witch now. 😊

At the end of the meeting, Anette had her granddaughter Zoey bring me a piece of paper. Inside was her application for membership. I read it and without any hesitation, we voted to accept her with open arms. Glad to have her as a member and most of us have known her since she was born. WELCOME ZOEY. Our two visitors Klaus & Magda were promptly handed an application for membership 😊 Maybe more news at our May meeting. As of now Dannevirke #9 has 45 members and Valdemar #12 has 22 members. Thank you, Nina and Jordan, for bringing Graysen to our meetings, he is getting cuter every month & getting bigger.

Before Anette closed the meeting, birthday wishes went out to Kurt, Carl, and Sena-Marie. Our congratulations go out to Judi Heer (now Bonner) on her marriage to George. I found out when she called me about the Grand Past Presidents Luncheon. We wish you well.

Bornholm No. 14

**Meeting: 3rd. Friday every month 7:00 PM To Be Determined
President Jason LaBeouf, Secretary Marge Scheuber, olemarge1@sbcglobal.net**

Our delegates and other members have returned home from a delightful and successful convention. We were in awe of the beautiful Mission De Oro Hotel with its similarity in architecture to the notable 21 missions in California founded by Father Junipero Serra in the late 1700's. As guests we admired the fine art collection which included paintings and sculptures displayed on walls throughout the hotel and in the courtyard. It seemed

No meeting in June due to Valhalla's 131st Anniversary catered dinner. If interested in joining us, contact Mel Lundberg. That same month the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival will be held at Fireman's Park, only a couple of blocks from the hall. Flags of the Nordic countries will be on display in addition to various foods and live accordion music for Gustaf's Skoal, a waltz, a schottische and a polka or two. More info about the anniversary and the festival next month. DTC

On a sad note, the Reno Lodges send their sympathies to the families of Linda Cumming and Christian Nielsen in your losses. They will be missed very much. Bonnie Larsen is doing better, still walking with a cane, but looking forward to the convention. Janet Pulsipher is the same. Ruth Olsen's Easter Dinner went well according to her sister-in law Peggy. I had Easter dinner in Verdi at Barbara Iler's daughter's home. Barbara is doing well and thank you Lori and Don for the nice evening and birthday wishes. Our May Birthdays are Marian Gndt, Nina Potter, Lars Jensen (happy 70th), Greg Nielsen, Eugene Gndt, and our newest member Zoey Christensen.

Update from 2024 Convention in Santa Nella, CA. We want to thank the Livermore lodges for a successful and well-organized convention. Leif & Bonnie Larsen, Kurt & Olivia Tomozy, Sena-Marie Freeman, Glenn Fritz, Jillian Baker, and Anette Christensen— we all had a wonderful time. Congratulations to the newly elected Grand Officers. We are proud to have Jillian Baker from Dannevirke #9 as a newly elected Grand Trustee and wish all the Grand Officers a successful year. Congratulations to Beth Cowen for receiving, Dannebrog member of the year – so well deserved. Congratulations, also goes to Dania member of the year – Christian Nielsen, posthumous. So sad that he did not get to receive the honor. Grand Past President, Tom Martin made a beautiful speech and presented the award to Daniel & Tamara Barney from Valhalla #11. Hope everyone had a wonderful time at the convention and made it home safe.

Take Care, Sena-Marie

everyone was having a super fun time after the daily meetings enjoying delicious dinners served by a pleasing, friendly staff. What a surprise to hear a very interesting speech by Jesper Kemp Consulate General of Denmark! Dancing is always a highlight whether you take part or enjoy others kicking up a storm. John and I were thoroughly enjoying watching John Jensen give it his all.

We were pleased to have four Past Grand Presidents attending: Peder Hoy (and wife Doris) John Scheuber, Johanne Gade and Bente Ellis. Our delegates attending: Bodil Whitehouse, George Dutra and Marge Scheuber. Many thanks to Livermore's Tracy and Bob Lamee and their committee for the yearlong dedication to ensure our

convention went like clockwork. Congratulations to Dania/Dannebrog newly installed Grand Presidents Dan Holmes and Kathy Thomsen and their officers. We look forward to spending next year's convention again at Mission De Oro.
Secretary, Marge Scheuber

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

I want to start this article off with a Huge Hurrah to the 2024 Convention Committee. You did such a great job, and everyone had such a good time. Hard to top but I know you will. On the same convention note, Bob Lacey asked me to convey his thanks and appreciation to all who signed the card at convention and for all of the many cards of greeting and support that he continues to receive. He is progressing on schedule and hearing from all of you. Cards can be sent to the house and Lis takes them to him at the rehab center. The address is 101 Calle Marguerita, Los Gatos, CA 95032. His cell # is 408-489-0320. Afternoons or evenings are best to call as he has his therapy in the mornings.

Danneskjold # 17 will not meet this month but will hold their next meeting on Saturday June 1 at my ranch in Hollister. At that time, we will have the convention report and any special presentations.

As I said Bob is recovering and making progress. Maud Hansen is home with round the clock caregivers. She is still struggling with the cramps and pain in her legs. I'm happy to report that both Lisa McDaniel and Ron Nielsen are doing well.

Happy Birthday greetings go out to Karl Skow, Ron Nielsen and Lis Lacey. Many Happy Returns. To all the mothers we say Happy Mother's Day.

See you in June. DWS

Hejls Minde No. 23

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

President, Kristin Worthley, Karen Hauge, Co-Secretary, and Secretary, Elaine Anes.

April is an historical month. Our third major total solar eclipse in eight years begins on April 8, which will last four minutes and 28 seconds, the longest in the 21st century, according to Google. Then, ten days from today, Hejls Minde #23, was created in the new town of Solvang 112 years ago on April 13, 1912.

Kristin Worthley called the meeting to order at 12:06 and welcomed 19 members and one guest, Cinda Price, a friend of Elaine Anes. We sang God Bless America. Members sang, Happy Birthday, was Jytte Kirk & Karen Hauge.

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

Karen Hauge will share a short story about the oldest organization in Solvang at the May 1 meeting.

After a delicious fiske fillet lunch, along with aquavit, we sang the Danish National Anthem. The meeting was adjourned, and our next meeting will be at noon on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at the Bit O' Denmark restaurant. In the meantime, enjoy springtime and all its beauty. Karen Hauge, co-secretary.

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