



# GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

December 2024

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

## Dannebrog & Dania Grand Presidents

Nu er det jul igen”, og “det kimer nu til julefest”. Love the Danish Christmas songs and the traditions of getting out the decorations passed on from one generation to the next. Especially those yearly ornaments from Georg Jensen. Don’t even let us get started on the food. The cookies, if you’re making “klejner” this year we will stop by and help you eat them, yum!

We hope you and yours have a “hygge” holiday season with a lot of holiday cheer, and don’t forget to watch “Dinner for one” then you are ready. Godt Jul til det hele. Hope to see you at the holiday parties. Grand Presidents Dan Holm and Kathy Thomsen

## Secretaries:

### IN MEMORIAM:

#### DANIA NEW MEMBERS:

Madison Gleeson, Thyra No. 9, Hayward  
 Tyler Gleeson, Thyra No. 9, Hayward  
 Matthew Gleeson, Thyra No. 9, Hayward  
 Ayoe Fisher, Bornholm No. 14, Modesto  
 Sandra Scheuber, Bornholm No. 14, Modesto

#### DANIA GENERAL FUND:

#### DANIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

#### DANIA SCHOLARSHIP

#### SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND

Sena Marie Freeman in memory of Janet Pulsipher, PGT

#### DANNEBROG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Doris Skow in memory of Janet Pulsipher, PGT  
 Glenn Fritz in memory of Lavon Christensen, PGT

## 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

## San Francisco, California

### 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 Christmas Season is upon us! Glædelig jul! Merry Christmas! And Happy Birthday to all our Danmark #2 December birthdays – Robert Tiedeman, Tom Schroeder, Peter Schakow, Jim Gearhart, Sven Kjærsgaard, and Rik Leipold. Tillykke med fødselsdagen. Skål!

We had a good turnout for our meeting and lunch at the Odd Fellows Hall in November. Our 2025 officers have all been nominated. What a relief. A bit of a juggling act to make sure we do not have conflicting offices, but we got it done. And then we treated ourselves to some smørrebrød from Copenhagen Bakery in Burlingame. Delicious! (Almost as good as what was served at the Reno Installation) Everyone pitched in with salads and desserts to make it a memorable lunch. We once again had a variety of akvavit to choose from thanks to the Akvavit Committee. The akvavit and the acoustics of the sixth-floor kitchen really helped our singing.

## Fresno, California

### 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)**

Hope your Thanksgiving was wonderful. Our last meeting was attended by our usual member/Officers. It was decided since everyone will be remaining in their same positions, we would not be having an installation this year. I talked with our Cheer Chairman Carl Jensen and he's recovered from the case of shingles and is feeling well. He had talked to Gail Hansen's daughter, and she says Gail is doing well and is very happy with her friends at The Bethel Home Care Facility. Past President Kay Jensen has been keeper of the funds for our Thora #11 Past President's luncheon, which we haven't had for a number of years since the Covid shutdown. It was decided by our Past Presidents that we

I hope you have got the invitation already, but one last time. Please join the San Francisco Lodge at the Hotel Mac for our 2024 Christmas Luncheon. The date is Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup> at noon. The price is \$30 per person, and the menu selection is, as always, salmon or steak. And a surprise specialty cocktail will be served – even I don't know what it is yet. The last day to RSVP is Friday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, so call quick or RSVP with menu choices to my email below.

Hope the year was a good one for all our members. It was great to see everyone in 2024 and I look forward to seeing all of you in 2025. Glædelig jul og godt nytår!  
Med venlig hilsen, John A. Jensen, Secretary,  
[jajensend2@gmail.com](mailto:jajensend2@gmail.com) , 1-510-697-4658

would have a Christmas luncheon and use those funds in the kitty.

Remember coming January 2025, your dues will need to be sent into the Treasurer Christie Pettitt, 1291 E Floral, Fresno, CA 93725. Thor #5 dues have been reduced to \$20. Thora #11 dues remain the same at \$20.

We will be having our Christmas luncheon on our usual date of the first Friday, December 6, 2024. at Denny's on Shaw Ave. just east of First St. Come celebrate with us.

May you have a Wonderful, Joyous Holiday Season with lots of parties spent with Family and Friends.  
Merry Christmas!! Martha Nielsen

## Salinas, California

### 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)**

Hoping all had a Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends. Tim and I spent time with some of his brothers and sisters at the Heer's cabin in Arroyo Seco. Wishing all the Merry Christmas Season.

We are continuing to have hopes that our Branches will continue. This will take all of us working together to put the energy into planning meetings and activities to attract attendance. nfh

## Livermore, California

### 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)**

Merry Christmas from the gang here in Livermore. At our November meeting we were a small but mighty group. Dan Holm was presented with his past president's pin and his cousin Helle Holm was a visitor to our meeting, (I think she was scared away when I told her I printed an

application for her). Plans were made for the upcoming year as to dates we needed the hall. Naturally a few convention details were discussed. We will not meet in December but will meet again in January with details in the next newsletter. Godt Jul! KRT

### **Hayward, California**

#### **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)**

At our November monthly Zoom meeting we initiated three new members into Valborg #1 and Thyra #9. Welcome to Maddison, Matthew, and Tyler. Grandpa Greg Gleeson was enormously proud! Beth Cowan won the Valborg attendance drawing and David Mahler lost out on the \$50 Thyra attendance drawing. At our December meeting Thyra will have two drawings, one for \$50 and a second one for \$10. You might just want to check in on one of our future Zoom meetings!

Come join us for our annual Christmas party. We will celebrate the Holidays with a potluck dinner on Saturday, December 21st at the home of Susan Gauthier in Tracy. We will gather around 6 p.m. for beverages and appetizers,

with dinner around 7 p.m. If you would like, please bring your favorite dish to share – an appetizer, salad, hot or cold side dish, or a dessert. Just a minimal charge of \$10 per person to help defray costs of the event. Please RSVP to Susan no later than December 15th at 510-299-9172 or [s.gauthier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.gauthier@sbcglobal.net). We hope you will join us! We hold meetings via Zoom so, members, if you desire to attend any of our future meetings, please contact Stuart Mahler for the meeting number. Next Valborg and Thyra meeting will be held on the second Thursday of December (the12th) see you there.

The HAWK

### **Petaluma, California**

#### **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)**

### **Ferndale, California**

#### **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, Donald T. Christensen, [dtchkhc@gmail.com](mailto:dtchkhc@gmail.com)**

Days have turned colder, and winter rainfall is here. This first Saturday, 7 December, members of Valhalla and Ydun will enjoy a wonderful Christmas dinner provided by CC Catering. It may not be too late to call Mel Lundberg for reservations. Sandra's tasty dishes are not to be missed. The first meeting for next year is Saturday, 4 January 2025,

the new year is but a month away. Following the meeting, members will celebrate Danish Constitution Day. Grundlovsdag does take place 5 June, but Valhalla will celebrate its 132nd anniversary that month, so we are observing Denmark's National Day five months early. It is widely celebrated throughout Denmark.

### **Reno Nevada**

#### **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 at the Odd Fellows Hall Friday November 1st at 6:30 pm for a wonderful early Thanksgiving Potluck. Lars Jensen roasted a perfect Turkey in record time, as you have in the previous years. We had 24 in attendance with 2 guests, Remi and Brooke (Anette's grandchildren) and of course 9-month Baby Graysen. After our yummy Thanksgiving potluck and full tummies, Anette opened the meeting during desserts of cookies, Danish rice pudding and pumpkin bread. This was our last meeting of the year,

and it was all about our December 6th Christmas Party. Lars Jensen oversees handling the reservations for the party. It is \$20 per member and \$25 guests. R.S.V.P. to Lars by November 25th. His email is [lgj100@gmail.com](mailto:lgj100@gmail.com). Everyone from California is invited & \$20 for you as well. Anette asked us if anyone can come at 2 pm to help set up. Sena-Marie is going to bring chocolate chip cookies. The evening will start at 6 pm with Gløgg and æbleskiver, 6:30 pm we will have the beautiful St. Lucia performance. After the performance we will enjoy the Danish Smorgasbord

Dinner. The Nisse (Elf) Steve Myers will be performing and passing out gifts to the children. Members are to bring a gift for their children and please make sure their names are on the gifts. We conclude the evening with our ever-popular raffle.

I will be sending out Christmas cards to the Grand Officers during Thanksgiving weekend and to our members. Inside the members cards there will be information reminding everyone about their dues in January. We have decided that the deadline for dues is January 31st, or there will be a late fee. At the party, I will be selling raffle tickets at the table as always and I will be glad to accept the dues and help you out as well as the treasurers.

Our sick list is really sad. We lost our long-time member, Janet Pulsipher on October 21st. May she rest in peace with our Danish families who went before her. Our hearts go out to her husband, Cleo of 64 years of marriage and at

96 years old, son Gary & family, Peggy and Ruth Olsen (sisters-in-law) and lots and lots of nieces and nephews. Her Celebration of Life was November 16th at St. Luke's Church in Reno at 1 pm and it was a beautiful service. We have not heard of anyone else that has been ill. Sorry if I missed anyone. My cousin Barbara Iler is a great grandmother and Lori and Don are grandparents to a little baby girl, 8 lbs. 13 oz. 20 inches long. Lainey Jean. Barbara and Lori arrived in Tennessee on Saturday Nov. 2 and the baby was born in the afternoon on Sunday. 2 new cousins to the Garson Family in 2024. Wow - all of a sudden, we are growing. Good News, Anette's mom is coming from Denmark for Christmas and will be at our Christmas party. Our December birthdays are Grae-Marie Biggs, Nina Brandt, Cindy Christensen, Susie Jensen, Heather Matuzak, Marie Stafford, and Irene Schrack Von Brockdorff. HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALL. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Be safe and healthy and Take Care, Sena-Marie

### **Modesto, California**

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

**Meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday evening (Time to be announced) **every month Time and place to be Determined.**

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

Our meeting was held at the home of Brian and Susan Mefford. We were in awe of Susan's beautiful table setting of Danish China and floral decorations. Brian greeted us with offerings of appetizers and wine choices. Following this we enjoyed Susan's home-made Mexican soup and cornbread muffins. After the meeting we sat around and visited while Susan served us coffee, Danish Kringle and cookies.

Our meeting was opened by our Vice President Brian Mefford. Two guests were introduced and signed up as new members. They are Ayoe Fisher and Sandra Scheuber. We will soon be welcoming Doris Skow as a transfer member. We had a total of 15 in attendance.

John Scheuber reported on the success of our October picnic. He then introduced Peder Hoy as our member speaker of the month. Peder spoke about his life in Denmark, losing his father at the age of 7 and his choice to come to America at the age of 24 to begin a new life. After earning enough money at a creamery and a dairy, he

returned to Denmark to marry his sweetheart, Doris. He has been a successful dairyman and now heavily involved in growing almonds and walnuts. He and Doris are thankful for their success, for their children and grandchildren. Peder expressed his happiness to meet so many wonderful Danish people in America. Our next month's speaker will be George Dutra.

Since our membership has increased, we have discussed maybe finding another meeting place. Bodil Whitehouse and George Dutra have checked into us possibly meeting at Perko's restaurant located at Sylvan and Oakdale roads. They have a back room that would be available on the Thursday night we meet. Members agree that we could try it out for the months of January through March. We will still welcome those who have the room and want to host sometimes throughout the year. Bodil will contact the restaurant manager to make arrangements.

Marge Scheuber

### **San Jose, California**

#### **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)**

Well, here we are at the end of November and Turkey Day has come and gone. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Holiday.

Our members are all doing pretty well. Maud Hansen is still having some shoulder pain, Lisa McDanial will have cataract surgery on Dec. 6, Ron Nielsen is doing pretty well and Bob Lacey is getting around on his new leg but no Boston Marathon for him this year though.

This is a difficult article for me to write as it will be the last one both for me and for Danneskjold #17. Effective December 31, 2024, Danneskjold will close their books for the last time. We have seen this day coming for a while now but had hoped to avoid it. We have 23 members, some live too far away to come to meetings, our President Laila Solyst lives in Everett, WA, our Secretary Kim Nielsen Giacinto will be moving away

after the first of the year, our Trustee Britta Lange will be moving back to Denmark in the beginning of the year and I cannot always make the meetings since I no longer drive. After over 120 years in operation, it is sad to see it close. We have had the honor of having 8 Past Grand Presidents from our branch. I am glad to see that 5 of our members will be transferring to Bornholm #14 in Modesto, 1 will be transferring to Denmark #2 as well as joining Thyra #3 in San Francisco. If you have not gotten in touch with Kim to let her know if you wish to transfer

### **Solvang, California**

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

**Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup>. Wednesday 12 noon at Bit O' Denmark, President, Kristin Worthley, Karen Haugse, Co-Secretary, and Secretary, Elaine Anes.**

A little island history from Karen Haugse. By definition, an island needs to be surrounded by free-flowing, natural water at least one-half meter deep and have land vegetation. There are around 1,400 islands in Denmark. About 409 of the islands are named, 70 of them are populated while the rest are uninhabited. Morsø is an island in the shallow sound called Limfjorden within Denmark's Jutland peninsula. The main town on Morsø is called Nykøbing Mors. Morsø is where my family came from in the mid-1940s to raise sheep in Western New York. Our solid, two-story, beautiful farmhouse was built in 1832 and is still standing, currently occupied, and well cared for.

President, Kristin Worthley, called the meeting to order and welcomed 16 members. There were no visitors, guests, or new members. The meeting began with singing, *God Bless America*.

There were no November birthdays. We congratulated Slim Juhl who won \$28.50 in the 50/50 drawing.

Sunshine Report: Darlene Iversen is recovering from Covid.

The Christmas luncheon in December was discussed. Members were asked to decide if they wanted it on the

### **Santa Maria, California**

#### **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**

to another branch, join Grand Lodge or drop out completely, Please do so no later than Dec. 8. If she has not heard from you by then, you will be dropped from our records.

Although the lodge is closing, I am hopeful that we will gather as friends for a social now and then.

I bid you all a happy holiday season and look forward to seeing some of you at the convention.

Glaedejul og Godt Nytarr USDK Doris W. Skow

scheduled meeting date or on a different date. Because of several schedule conflicts, the decision was made to have the party on December 11 at noon, instead of on December 4, at Bit O' Denmark restaurant with frikadeller as the top lunch choice. The cost is \$25 for members and \$15 for the Lodge subsidy.

Alice Quimby reported that she read a nice article written about Marie Jaeger in the 2024 *Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital Foundation Report to the Community* brochure. Marie, who is a founding Auxiliary Charter Member at the Santa Ynez Valley Hospital in Solvang, was celebrated for 60 years of community service as a volunteer at the hospital. Congratulations, Marie!

We sang the *Danish National Anthem* after lunch and the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be our Christmas luncheon at the Bit O' Denmark restaurant (in the back room) at noon on Wednesday, December 11.

**Note:** Because the next scheduled meeting is on New Year's Day, it will be discussed at the Christmas luncheon to see if the group would like to skip the January meeting, move it to another date, or keep it as is.

Karen Haugse, co-secretary