



GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

February 2025

Upcoming Conventions		
Dannevang No. 7 & Danebod No. 16	April 10-12 2025	Hotel Mission De Oro, Santa Nella
Upcoming Installations		
Danmark #2 and Thyra #3	February 8 th 2025	Encinal Yacht Club in Alameda
Valborg #1 and Thyra #9	March 15, 2025	Union Hotel 401 First Street Benicia

Dannebrog & Dania Grand Presidents

She's here, my new granddaughter "Vienna Lily" and she is perfectly beautiful and healthy. We missed going to Fresno for an installation, since they decided to keep the same officers and skip it this year. However we did see most of the Fresno group at the memorial for Stan Kjar. Stan and I were Grand Presidents together in 2007-08, and we had a lot of fun. His son had many great stories to tell, Stan had a remarkable life, was a wonderful person and he will be missed.

It was also sad news indeed to hear of Mary Esther Filiau passing. Our condolences to Alan and family. She will be also be missed, she spear headed many installations in her time.

Speaking of installations, how enjoyable are they really? Perhaps it's time to streamline the ritual and what's that word, "redact" some of the repetitiveness. Just a thought and maybe something to bring up at convention. Speaking of convention, have you sent in your registration form yet? It's time.

See you in Alameda at the gorgeous yacht club for SF's installation on the 8th.

Grand Presidents Dan Holm and Kathy Thomsen

More Convention 2025 News

A big thanks to those of you who have submitted your registration forms. Let's keep them coming – early cut-off is March 10th. The form can be found on the website under "Upcoming Events and Announcements."

Wondering what Friday night's "Day at the Game" is all about? Whether you are a Giants, Niners, Warriors, or even a Dodgers fan, come dressed to

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

support your favorite team or sport. There is sure to be some friendly rivalry! It wouldn't be a Dania/Dannebrog convention without a raffle. If you have something you would like to donate, contact Tracey at tnlamee@yahoo.com or 925-819-2785.

Also, be sure to get your hotel reservations made. Instructions are on the registration form.
--The 2025 Convention Committee

IN MEMORIAM:

Eric Jorgensen, Thyra #9, Hayward CA
Edith Andersen, Danebod #16, Livermore
Helen Morse, Danebod #16, Livermore

SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND

Sena Marie Freeman in memory of Mary Esther Filiau

DANNEBROG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Signe Ann and Rowland McNeil in memory of Mary Esther Filiau
Doris Skow in memory of Mary Esther Filiau and [Edith Andersen](#)
[Glenn Fritz](#) in memory of Mary Esther Filiau and Stan Kjar

San Francisco, California

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

Happy Birthday wishes to all our February birthdays – Johanne Gade from Thyra #3. And from Danmark #2 – Peter Maris, Paul Tillisch, and our friend back in Denmark, Uffe Hellsten. Tillykke med fødselsdagen. Skåll!

And speaking of birthdays, my wife Dorothy and I were lucky enough to join Karen Lysmer at a special birthday dinner for her last month. Her daughter Annette reserved a table for twenty at a local Alameda restaurant called Hobnob. The food, the drinks, the jazz band, and the company were all fantastic. What a great turnout, no empty seats at that table. We rubbed elbows and shared cake with local musicians and city politicians (hard to say who has more influence in our little town). It was especially fun to see Karen get out on the dance floor when they played her favorite song, You Are The Sunshine Of My Life. A big thank you to Annette for arranging such a great evening. Mange Tak! We love you Karen!

We have decided that our January meeting is an Aebleskiver Feast, not Feed. As usual, the Aebleskiver were delicious. My favorites were the ones made by Tom Martin with real spiced apple slices. We had four varieties to choose from, plus a full lunch spread and appetizers. Meetings at the Odd Fellows Hall are always fun – a little business and a lot of food and socializing. Daniel brought a special guest to join us,

his friend Goldie Darling from the University Club. Goldie's mother was born in Denmark and she still has family there. She is local to San Francisco and was interested in becoming a member. She wanted to know where we purchased the Aalborg Jubilaemus, so I think we may have the Akvavit Committee to thank for recruitment.

This secretary is somehow overworked and forgetful. I missed the opportunity to announce our February Installation in the January newsletter. So better late than never. Please join us on Saturday February 8th at the Encinal Yacht Club in Alameda for Danmark #2 and Thyra #3's Installation of Officers. There is still time to RSVP but be quick. The price is \$30 a person, which includes two (yes only two!) drink tickets and your choice of Petit Filet or Salmon. Doors open at Noon. We'll start with a cocktail and socializing, then downstairs to the installation at about 12:30PM, then back upstairs for lunch. Send me an email or give me a call if you have not already. We would love to see you.

So let's get going into February. It's getting colder so stay warm. Happy Super Bowl Party and Happy Valentine's Day to everyone!

Med venlig hilsen, John A. Jensen, Secretary,
jajensend2@gmail.com , 1-510-697-4658

Fresno, California

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

It's been a dry month, meaning no rain, just freezing cold nights and warm sunny afternoons.

I talked with Cheer Chairman Carl Jensen and there wasn't anything to report. I heard that Ruth Christensen was in the hospital suffering from a fall. Hope she's recovering.

We have lost another member, Past President Stanley J Kjar, had been a member for 26 years. He served as Grand President in 2007-2008. DOB 1946, died December 29, 2024. His graveside service was well attended by his many friends, Past Grand Officers and lodge members.

Fresno will not be having an installation this year, but we will be having our regular lunch/meeting on February 7, 2025, 11:30 am. at Denny's, just east of First St. on Shaw Ave. Come join us.

Remember we have Valentine's Day this month, it's a time to show those special people in your life that you love and care for them.

Have a Happy Valentine's Day. M. Nielsen

Salinas, California

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

Livermore, California

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

Welcome February, please bring some rain. The Livermore group had a pleasant meeting in January and were honored to have guests, Susan Gauthier, Scott and Ever joined us. Once again, we had a lot of good food and open-faced sandwiches. Dorothy Lamee's egg sandwiches made by Tracey and Bob are always a treat. Dannebrog paid per capita tax on 32 members. Convention details (of which there are very many) were discussed and delegates were chosen. We received a letter from the executor for the estate of

Edith Andersen and Helen Morse informing us of both of their passing in 2024. Edith, passed in May, born in Vejle Denmark, joined in 1958 and Helen passed in September and joined in 1957. They were mostly social members but always made sure we had Kringle from the Danish bakery for installations. Our next meeting will be March 8th, 12:00 at the Farm Bureau building. That time seems to work better for our group. See you there, KRT

Hayward, California

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

I am sad to report on the passing of two our resolute members here in Hayward. Our condolences to both families.

Mary Esther Filiau joined Valborg #1 July 15, 1972. She was born December 20, 1943, and passed away December 27, 2024. In her 52-1/2 years as a member, she held the office of President and many years as Trustee. She was always an active member serving on committees, assisting the drill team, and wherever she was needed. She was also active in the Grand Lodge having served as Grand President and Grand Trustee. Mary Esther is also a recipient of the prestigious Dannebrog Member of the Year recognition. She was instrumental in two fundraisers selling cookbooks, "Cooking with the Danes," from gathering recipes from the members and getting the cookbooks published. Even though in recent years, she and Alan moved to Minnesota, they were still able to join our monthly Zoom meetings. She will be missed.

Eric Jorgensen joined Thyra #9 November 20, 1971. He was born April 27, 1954, and passed away

December 26, 2024. During his time in Thyra #9 he first went through the chairs the first time and was president in 1975. Since then, he has repeatedly led our lodge as president and a long-time trustee, following in the steps of his father! He served on countless committees. During the Danish picnics at Little Hills Ranch he showed his talent, with other young members, in getting folks to park in an orderly manner. As Santa's helper he checked out Thyra's attendance drawing box. Once he located his number he taped it to a full Michelob beer bottle. However, Eric was absent at the next meeting. Neils Walter Hansen brought out the drawing box before the meeting and noticed the unusual weight of the box. Once he opened it, he laughed and pulled the number from the bottle and drank the beer. When the time for the drawing arrived...Eric's number was selected! 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 Benicia. The installation will be held on

Saturday March 15, 2025 at 12 noon with lunch at 1PM. Please RSVP to Signe Ann McNeil at 510-490-6114 or signemcneil@gmail.com. Lunch menu selections are Hanger steak, 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. Please RSVP

by March 10, 2025. The price for the event is \$50.00 per person. Look forward to seeing you on March 15th! Inflation has impacted on our price for the luncheon. However, the people who attended last year thought it was a great meal.
The HAWK

Petaluma, California
Sønderjylland 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

Ferndale, California
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 members of Valhalla and Ydun enjoyed a Lunar nytår potluck the first of February. January 29th marked the start of the Year of the Wood Snake. The Lunar New Year celebration, one of the most culturally significant world holidays, lasts for 15 days, ending February 12th with a lantern festival. The snake is the sixth of the 12 zodiac animals, and in blending the qualities of wood, represents growth, resilience and looking to the future.

In Denmark, an elder's birthday, particularly when it's a multiple of ten, is considered a significant event, celebrated with a larger party and special attention compared to a regular birthday and is the focus of short speeches and celebratory toasts. Mel Lundberg celebrated his 90th birthday this past Saturday

afternoon at the Danish Hall with a catered party. At least 50 friends and members were in attendance, seated at long tables to socialize, enjoy the splendid buffet, partake in glasses of wine and akvavit and recognize Mel's special day with many songs, toasts and tributes.

A catered lunch to fejre det grønne (celebrate the green) is scheduled for March first following the meeting. No charge to members in good standing. If you plan to attend, let us know a week before the end of February. CC Catering will provide their always scrumptious fresh-cooked food. Var iverne i Island for vikingerne?

. DTC

Reno Nevada
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 on January 3 at 6:30 pm at the Odd Fellows Hall There with 17 members in attendance and 2 guests, Anette's mom, Gerda and baby Graysen. We welcomed the new year with an excellent fish dinner, Cod with potatoes and mustard sauce. This Secretary brought a Subway Sandwich, since I do not like fish. ☺ It was a very nice evening, and Anette had brought New Year decorations to hang on the walls and candles on the table. Anette opened the meeting during coffee and a very nice assortment of desserts.

An annual list of activities for the year was passed around and approved by everyone. Our February 7th meeting will be a soup potluck. Everyone can bring different soups, others can bring appetizers, bread or salads. (I hope Anette makes her Danish veggie soup) Sena-Marie will bring a dessert - something for Valentine's Day has been requested. I will have to think about that one. We will also be electing Delegates to our Convention at that meeting. We encourage everyone to be going as a delegate or as a guest. We always have a lot of fun at the convention and enjoying seeing our other Danish

Members. I have been going since 1972. This is always my mini vacation. We missed Glenn Fritz at our meeting. He wasn't feeling well. I called him the next day and he said he was doing better. We also missed Bonnie Larsen who was home with a cold. Have not heard about anyone else. We missed Carl and Helen; hope Carl had a nice late Christmas holiday with family in Denmark. We are going to miss Anette's mom when she returns to Denmark in January. What a great kitchen helper she is! Barbara Iler is doing pretty well after all her hospital stays. I had lunch with Ruth Olsen, her daughter, nephew, and sister-in-law Peggy the day before our meeting. Everyone is doing well. Ruth told me, she just has more aches and pains.

Modesto, California

Bornholm No. 14

Meeting: 2nd Thursday evening (Time to be announced) **every month Time and place to be Determined.**
President Jason LaBeouf, Secretary Marge Scheuber, olemarge1@sbcglobal.net

Wishing you a February filled with love and happiness"
Our first meeting of 2025 was held on January 9, at Perko's Restaurant in Modesto. We enjoyed a dinner of our choice before our president Jason LeBeouf called the meeting to order. We had 16 in attendance. We were pleased to have three guests for the evening: Past President of the Grand Lodge Dania, Tom Martin, Scott Johnson and Ever Domingues all from San Francisco Lodge. We were saddened to hear Roger Gearhart is still in rehab after having foot surgery. John Scheuber made a visit to him, and he is anxious to get home. Anita Parham gave a detailed report on his progress. We learned one of our transfer members Maud Jensen has been ill and we sent her a card with our get well wishes. Speaking of transfer members, we are excited to receive some fine folks from San Jose. I am sure they

Our sincere condolences go out to Alan Filiau and family in the loss of his wife and our Past Grand President of Dannebrog, Mary Esther Filiau. Additional sincere condolences go to Past Grand President of Dania, Stan Kjar's family. Both Stan and Mary Esther were a big asset to Dania and Dannebrog and they will be missed. "Æret være deres minde"
Our February Birthdays are Lisa Christensen, Kristin Eliassen, Gianna Merlino, Peter Eliassen, Eric Hansen and John La Roache. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** everyone! Happy Valentine's Day, be safe and healthy. Take Care Sena-Marie

are sad about their closing of Danneskjold No. 17. We are hoping to put together soon a Welcoming Party for them. Maybe we will plan it in San Jose so more of them will be able to attend. We started the process of the nomination of officers and will conclude it at the next meeting. John Scheuber passed out to each member attending an updated address list and a 2025 program booklet. We are continuing our Dania Bornholm Story where a member will prepare a speech about their life and their connection to Dania. So far, we have had Roger Gearhart, John Scheuber, Peder Hoy and George Dutra. It is fascinating to learn more about our members. Next month Bodil Whitehouse will tell her Story. Our next meeting will again be at Perko's Restaurant on February 13th starting at 5 p.m. in their back room. Friendly reminder from our treasurer to pay 2025 dues. Thanks to all who have done so. Secretary, Marge Scheuber

Solvang, California

Hejls Minde No. 23

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

Our next meeting will be at noon on Wednesday, February 5 at Bit 'O Denmark restaurant in Solvang.

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