



GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

January 2025

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

Dannebrog & Dania Grand Presidents

Happy New Year! Hope all of you had a fantastic holiday. We had a great time at the SF party at Hotel Mac in Richmond. What can go wrong when you walk in and are handed a Bloody Mary? The drinks were flowing, the food was great, but it was the people that made it all wonderful. Only please hold off on demanding the Grand Presidents be recognized (you know who you are, Martha) we just want to blend in and enjoy the festivities. Unfortunately, we didn't make it to any other lodge Christmas parties, seemed like Christmas came in like a freight train and left just as fast. We went to Costco today and it appears that now is the time to get organized and fulfill all those New Year's resolutions, if you're so inclined to make one. Speaking of New Year, it will be interesting to see what is in store for Dania/Dannebrog in 2025. San Jose has closed, Petaluma may be next, but yet some are thriving, Reno and San Francisco for instance, and Modesto is getting to be too big to meet in houses and is looking for a new location. Something to ponder and discuss at the upcoming convention in April. Speaking of which I think the information is going to be included in this newsletter. At the time of writing the next newsletter I'm hoping to have a new granddaughter, my son Zack and Chelsea are expecting a baby girl the end of January. So to close, Dan and I are looking forward to the remaining installations, San Francisco and Hayward, (get any scholarship applications in prior to Hayward) and preparations for the upcoming convention. Godt Nytaar! Grand Presidents Dan Holm and Kathy Thomsen

Secretaries:

After many years Danneskjold No. 17 has handed in their charter and have closed as of December 31, 2024. Their members will be transferring their membership as follows. Renae Nielsen Fish is transferring her membership to Danmark #2. Kim Nielsen Giacinto, Maude Hansen, Lisa McDaniel, Ronald Nielsen, Doris Skow, Karl Skow, Laila Solyst, are transferring their membership to Bornholm #14

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

Robert Lacey Sr, Lis Lacey, Robert M Lacey, Bob Lacey Jr., Michael A Lacey, Britta Lange, Torben Rasmussen, Jona Rasmussen, Jonna Robinson, John Christiansen, Hanna Christiansen, Leroy Dove, are transferring their membership to Grand Lodge.

IN MEMORIAM:

PGP Mary Esther Filiau, Valborg No. 1, Hayward.

PGP Stanley Kjar, Thor #5, Fresno

DANIA NEW MEMBERS:

Michael Gearhart, Bornholm No. 14, Modesto

Tom Gundershaug, Bornholm No. 14, Modesto

DANIA GENERAL FUND:

DANIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

DANIA SCHOLARSHIP

SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND

DANNEBROG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

It's 2025! Godt Nytår! Let's start the year off right with Happy Birthday wishes to all our January birthdays – Gerry Grey and Robert Johnson from Danmark #2 and Karen Lysmer from Thyra #3. Tillykke med fødselsdagen. Skål!

Our Christmas Luncheon was a great success! Thanks to everyone who joined us. It is not a party without you, and it looks like we all had a good time. Our singing is getting better every year, maybe. The Hotel Mac put on an excellent event for us once again and we hope to do it again next year with all of you. Congratulations to Thira Maris for winning the Ugly/Beautiful Christmas Sweater contest. With that outfit, there really was no contest. Special thanks to Jytte Stoeker and her son Mike for

presenting us with a “vintage” bottle of akvavit from our friend and past Dannebrog member Lisa Van der Beck. The Akvavit Committee says Mange Tak! In January we always have our Aebleskiver Feed with our monthly meeting. This month we will be at the Odd Fellows Hall on Saturday the 11th at noon. The usual time at the hall is appetizers, a live business meeting, and then lunch. There will be a variety of aebleskiver recipes to taste, as well as a schnaps tasting menu from the Akvavit Committee. We would love to see you. Please call or email me if you would like to join us and I'll get you the details. And one more time – Happy New Year! Godt Nytår! 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

We started off December with our own Christmas lunch, (no meeting). We had a surprise guest, Grand Past President Tom Martin who came down to join us. We also had a few of our own members that we don't see often, Jorgen and Kristine Clausen, and Jens Andersen. I talked with Carl Jensen, our Cheer Committee Chairman as he wasn't able to come to our lunch. He had a fall on his shoulder and landed in the hospital. Fortunately, nothing was broken, but very badly bruised. Modesto had their Christmas luncheon and had a nice gathering at a local restaurant that I attended. I was able to attend San Francisco's party held at Point Richmond at an old restaurant. This is the party you don't want to miss, as it certainly exceeds your expectations with

the before-dinner drinks to the delicious dinner and even dessert and after-dinner drinks. They do it all!! Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with their closest relatives, children and grandchildren. We're now into the New Year. We will not be having an installation on the first of February, since all the officers will remain the same. Remember to send in your dues for 2025. Dannebrog is \$20., and reduced dues for Dania of \$20. Send to Treasurer Christie Pettitt, her address was in the December issue. The next meeting will be on Friday, January 3, 2025, at 11:30 a.m., held at our usual Denny's on Shaw Ave. just east of First Street. Come join us, we would love to have you. Happy New Year!!
Martha 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

Happy New Year from our group here in Livermore. We will meet Saturday, January 11th, 12:00 at the Farm Bureau Building in Livermore to kick off the New Year. Yes, 12:00 is a new meeting time, but it works for those of us who drive in from out of town. I think we decided on a theme of open face sandwiches. As a tribute to Danish

tradition, I will bring pickled herring, Danish rye bread and aquavit (which of course no one in our group will eat except for Dan and myself so maybe I'll skip that one for now). Come and join us if you are able and willing, we are a fun group and we do have a big convention to plan. 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

The Hayward Lodges hope you enjoyed your Christmas Holiday and wish you a Happy and calm New Year. By now the Hayward Lodge Christmas Celebration held at Susan and Mike Gauthier's home has passed. I'm sure Haywardites celebrated the season in grand style. Thank you to the Gauthiers' for hosting this year. Hayward will be holding the annual election of officers and delegates at the January 9th meeting. That meeting will be held on Zoom as we are spread across the country. Anyone desiring to attend our meetings should contact Stuart Mahler at smahler52@gmail.com to get onto the Zoom link distribution list.

A note from Hayward Treasurers:

Membership dues are payable for the upcoming year, 2025. Please mail your dues to the respective Treasurers. Checks payable to Valborg #1 in the amount of \$12 are to be mailed to Pat Brouillette, 1400 Jacqueline Place, San Lorenzo CA 94580. Checks payable to Thyra #9 in the amount of \$35 for sick benefits members and \$29 for social members are to be mailed to Stuart Mahler, 803 Bantry Way, Benicia CA 94510

Submitted by Eric Jorgensen setting the record for his earliest submittal

At our monthly December Zoom meeting no one from Thyra won the attendance drawing so at the January meeting we will have a drawing for \$50 and another one for \$20. You might just want to check in on one of our future Zoom meetings and test your luck!

Our annual Christmas dinner get together had a nice intimate crowd. Thank you to Susan and Mike Gauthier for hosting. It was a fine evening with a lot of spirited talk! Future get togethers will occur before convention to fine tune and see if some future changes may be in order for Dania.

Signe Ann has been going through some health issues. Somewhat better but now they want to do some surgery

on her to wrap this up and get back to normal. Mac McNeil(sen) has been doing yeoman's work being a nurse helping out his wife during this time. Signe Ann received a call from Alan Filiau. He reported Mary Esther had her last cancer treatment the other day. Later in the evening she was experiencing breathing issues, and an ambulance was summoned. On the way to the hospital, she then went into cardiac arrest. At this time, we have no further information on Mary Esther's condition. Rowland MacNeil(sen), not wanting to be out done by the attention his wife was getting, went to Kaiser to pick up some items for his wife. As he was heading to the car he apparently was walking too fast through the lot and a speed bump took him out, and down he went. As you know, Mac could be a bit stubborn and said he did not need to go to the hospital to be checked out. As the evening progressed, he got worse so off to Kaiser they went. After the examination Kaiser had him transferred to Washington Hospital via ambulance as they have a better trauma center. Mac sustained some internal damage causing bleeding. The hospital is working on a strategy to help him out and get him on his way. As of this writing, he may be in the hospital several days.

We wish all three our best!

Valborg and Thyra will hold their installation of officers on March 15, 2025, at 12 noon at the historic Benicia Hotel in downtown Benicia. More information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

Valborg and Thyra annual dues are now due. For Valborg send your dues to Pat Brouillette and Thyra dues to Stuart Mahler.

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 January (the 9th) see you then.

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

On 5 December a 7.0 earthquake occurred 60 miles offshore southwest of Ferndale. Heavy shaking of the late morning quake caused drywall to crack downstairs, mainly in the kitchen. The building was otherwise not damaged; the Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department turned off the gas to the hall. The program for 2025 was approved during the November meeting. Good turnout of members for December's meeting and Christmas catered lunch. Danish

Constitution Day will be observed with a potluck following the 4 January meeting. Grundlovsdag is celebrated in Denmark on 5 June, but Valhalla Lodge's 132nd anniversary dinner is scheduled for 7 June. Both constitutions of 1849 and 1953 are recognized on 5 June. Additionally, Danish women received the right to vote the same day in 1915. A lunar Nytår potluck is scheduled for the first of February. 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 had our Christmas Party Friday, December 6th, with 114 in attendance. WHOW – What a Great Danish Dinner and evening.

We started at 6 pm with Gløgg and æbleskiver, then St. Lucia Performance singing in Swedish, led by Ingrid Hedman. Then followed the Christmas smorgasbord with all the traditional dishes.

Steve Myers, our Danish Elf, performed for the children and adults alike and passed out presents to the children. You always do such a great job! Coffee and dessert were enjoyed while the raffle prizes were handed out with enthusiasm. The party was a great success with several surprises, and it was nice to see all the children and grandchildren of our members having such a good time. Our own Baby Graysen (1st Christmas) had a good time as well and everyone told me that he was so well behaved.

During the Lucia performance Jillian Baker, Grand Trustee #3 had arranged for all previous Lucia performances to join in singing “Nu tændes tusind julelys”, in Swedish, which is Ingrid's favorite song. There were 13 additional “children” who are now in their 20's and 30's and have children of their own, who are now in the Lucia performance.

Ingrid joined Dannevirke #9 Nov.3 2006, and the first St. Lucia was December 2006 at our Christmas party. She has taught the children since 2000 when she was still in the Vasa Swedish Lodge. We are so grateful to have her continue the tradition in the Danish club for the 18th year.

Another surprise to Ingrid was that Anette and her mom, Gerda sang “En Rose så jeg skyde” - Ingrid told me it brought her to tears.

Thank you, Anette, for all the work to put into this dinner. Thank you, Lars Jensen, for all your work in the kitchen and for making the red cabbage. Thank you, Marian (Lars' wife) for the wonderful rice pudding with cherry sauce. Thank you, Christian Christensen for making your aunt Ann-katherine's Fanø cabbage. She would have been so happy that you make this dish every year from her recipe. We all appreciated Zoey (Anette's granddaughter) and Itzel, a friend of one of our members, for washing all the dishes. It was so nice to see Anette's mom from Denmark. She really enjoyed the party according to Anette. Last, thank you to everyone who stayed and cleaned up. I skipped out at 11 pm.

Our next meeting is January 3rd, 2025 (yes 2025) and we will serve fish dinner (Torsk with potatoes and mustard sauce) that will start at 6: 30 pm. Sena-Marie will bring a lemon cake. We will hold our regular meeting during dessert and coffee as usual. Don't forget to pay your dues to Carl Christiansen (Valdemar #12) or Ingrid Hedman (Dannevirke #9) by January 31st, or there will be a late fee. Our sick list: We missed Glenn Fritz at our party, he wasn't feeling well. I had lunch with Ruth Olsen and her daughter Karen on December 5th, she is doing pretty well, just the normal aches and pains like the rest of us. Congratulations to Peter and Kristin Eliassen on their baby boy Gunnar who was born Monday, December 9th, just 3 days after they attended our party. They have 2 darling little girls also. Barbara Iler is on the mend and was at our Christmas Party with her daughter Lori. She told me she

was happy to be able to see her Great Granddaughter and be a great grandma. Haven't heard about anyone else on our sick list.

January Birthdays are Ingrid Hedman, Marlene Swaffar, Jens Christiansen, John Matuzak, and Ted Johnson.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE! Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Reno wishes everyone in 2025, good health, and happiness.

Take Care, Sena-Marie

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

Starting January 9th Bornholm will be meeting at 5pm at Perko's Restaurant in North Modesto. Each member is to

buy a meal and we don't have to pay rent. This is a trial to see if we like it. More to come. John 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.

Happy New year. There won't be a meeting in Jan. Next meeting on the first Wed in February. Thanks, Kristin

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

Note from the Editor:

The 2025 Convention Registration form can be found by going to our website at Danishsociety.com and looking under the "upcoming events tab." This is a fillable PDF form. If you have any questions or a problem finding the file please let me know and I will e-mail you a copy.

Tim and Natalie