



GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

June 2025

Upcoming Conventions		
Danmark #2 and Thyra #3, San Francisco	April 9-11 2026	Hotel Mission De Oro, Santa Nella
Upcoming Installations		

Dannebrog & Dania Grand Presidents

After a short breather following the convention, Tracey's cousins from Colorado came for a visit to escape from the cold. We fooled them – it was cold and windy! The four of us then drove back to Colorado, telling stories and laughing the whole way. We decided to check one off the bucket list and drive home via Highway 50 across Nevada. If you haven't done it, DO IT! It's full of mountain passes, huge valleys, and gorgeous rock formations. But be sure to fill up your gas tank before heading across – there aren't many towns (or gas or potty stops). But what a beautiful drive. Our convention committee decided to return to Hotel Mission De Oro to "put a bow on it." We enjoyed a delicious lunch and had a great time talking about the fun times we've had over the past two years. We met briefly with the dynamic duo – Lisa and Chanacey - and they are looking forward seeing us again next year. We also passed along the Dania and Dannebrog Resolutions, and they were both very appreciative.

Following our grandkids' last ball game for the season, we went to Bente Ellis's house for Modesto's Welcome Back Delegates meeting. We enjoyed visiting with the Bornholm members, and meeting some of the new folks who have transferred from San Jose. What a feast we had – complete with aquavit and kransekage! Thank you to Bente, Bodil, George and Johanna for an absolutely delicious meal. And happy 130th birthday to Bornholm #14! Bob & Tracey Lamee, Grand Presidents

FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY'S

IN MEMORIAM:

Leif Larsen, Valdemar No 12, Reno NV
Ruth Christensen, Thora No 11. Fresno

SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND

Sena Marie Freeman in memory of Leif Larsen

DANIA GRAND LODGE

Glenn Fritz in memory of Leif Larsen

DANIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Doris Skow in memory of Leif Larsen

Grand Officers

	Dania	Dannebrog
Grand Past President	Dan Holm Danbholm@gmail.com	Kathy Thomsen danskfarm@yahoo.com
Grand President	Robert Lamee robertlamee@yahoo.com	Tracey Lamee tnlamee@yahoo.com
Grand Vice President	James O Jensen jamesolefjensen@yahoo.com	Dennis Nielsen nielsen.dennis.a@gmail.com
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Grand Trustee #2	Steen Skjellerup stivaxsteen@gmail.com	Daniel Joensen dj@danken.com
Grand Trustee #3	John Scheuber consultingjohns@gmail.com	Jessica Jobe Sea jessica@jobesea.com

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

Is it June already? Happy Birthday to all our June birthdays in the San Francisco lodge – Renae Nielsen Fish, Jim Jensen (Hi Dad!), Lisa Filiss (Hi Sis!), Stig Hansen, and Paul Nielsen. Tillykke med fødselsdagen. Skål!

We had a good turnout for our live in person meeting at our favorite Odd Fellows Hall in May. Most of our agenda was finishing up with convention business. New officers and new passwords. But of course, we also had a nice lunch with all the traditional fare, including an Akvavit tasting menu. We all look forward to our usual line up of food and drink. Not only did Johanne bring her famous leverpostej, but she also found a line on some excellent Danish blue cheese. Not to be missed! I do believe we are spoiled.

June will be a Zoom meeting for our lodge. With all that is going on for our members in June, we still have not made a plan for our social event. So I guess we have at least this one item for our New Business come Wednesday the 11th. In July we will be back at the Odd Fellows Hall for our traditional non-meeting meeting. Hot dogs and nickel beers in the kitchen. Fastest meeting possible on the roof (Anne Gearhart still has the record at under 4 minutes). Our schedule is for the second Saturday at noon, but all summer events are subject to members' scheduling. Put a pin in Saturday July 12th for now and give me a call if you'd like to join us on the roof.

Hope to see everyone again very soon. Congratulations to all the graduates! And Happy Father's Day!

Med venlig hilsen, John A. Jensen, Secretary,
jajensend2@gmail.com

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're almost into our summer and in Fresno we are already having heat in the 90's.

It's been a very busy April and May, with our Convention, then the Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood convention held in Solvang the end of April. Then in-between them I attended my granddaughter's wedding in Santa Barbara. Lots of driving.

We have lost another one of our long time members, Ruth Christensen passed May 10, 2025. She has been in a care facility for a while. Her DOB 8-27-1928.

We will not be having a meeting as we are off the hot months of June, July and August. Our next meeting will be Sept. 5, 2025, at the usual place.

The Danish Historical Society will be having their Aebleskiver breakfast in Selma, on Saturday, May 31, 2025. Have a great summer. MNielsen

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

Hope everyone is enjoying these first hints of summer. The next available date for an in-person gathering of Freja and Dana is August 3, but in the meantime plans are in the works to set up Zoom meetings to keep our out-of-towner's in the loop. It was their heartfelt sentiments and encouragement that largely contributed to our discussions last month and ultimately agreeing to move forward. I think the biggest challenge for all our individual lodges is attracting and holding on to members that don't have a

built-in connection to Danish culture. Especially the younger generations that have little to no experience with membership in an organization like ours. We gotta make it interesting and relevant to today while maintaining and honoring our history and local communities. I can feel my ancestors nudging me saying "This isn't your Great Grandparent's Danish Lodge anymore. Honor us by making it work for this 21st Century." Ok, we'll give it our best shot. JH

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 June, the weather is heating up and the days are getting longer.

We will hold our next meeting Saturday, June 21st, 11:00 at Bob & Tracey's house. Hamburgers are on the menu to

celebrate an early July 4th. I'm bringing apple pie and ice cream, no fireworks though. See you there, KRT

Hayward, California

No. 9 Thyra & Valborg No. 1

Meeting: 2nd Thursday every month 6:30 PM; On Zoom

President, Susan Gauthier, s.gauthier@sbcglobal.net, #9 Thyra/Valborg #1 Secretary, Beth Cowan, beth.cowan@att.net

The next Valborg and Thyra meeting will be held via Zoom on the second Thursday of June (12th) at 6:30 p.m. The Zoom link will be sent to our members a few days prior to the meeting. If you are a member in other branch

and would like to join in, contact Susan Gauthier at s.gauthier@sbcglobal.net and we will send you the link. Kind Regards, Susan

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, Mary Kemp, marykempgigi1@gmail.com

The next meeting for Valhalla/Ydun will actually be a social hour beginning at 4pm at the Danish Hall with a catered dinner to follow at 5pm on Saturday, June 7. Please contact Mel Lundberg to make reservations. You're invited to hear an interesting speaker and topic at the Norway Building. Dr. Kyle Ward, Director of Social Studies at Minnesota State University, will make a one hour presentation about the 98th Infantry Battalion, a group of Norwegian-American ski troopers in WWII. Tuesday, June 17th, 6 pm at the Norway Building, 1619

California Street, Eureka, upstairs on the second floor. Coffee and cookies will be served. RSVPs are strongly encouraged and made to Judy at (707) 499-1643. Mary Kemp was assisting Don Christensen as Secretary before his surgery. She has been doing a wonderful job working as Secretary since Don's prolonged stay at the VA Hospital at Ft. Miley in San Francisco. He has returned to his house while he continues to heal with physical therapy, including twice a week at the hospital in Eureka. We hope to see him very soon!! Lynn

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 May 2nd at 6:30 pm at the Odd Fellows Hall with 16 members in attendance. Very nice potluck with a lot of assorted food items. During desserts and coffee Anette opened the meeting. First on the agenda, Anette announced the sad news that our Vice President, Leif Larsen passed away.

Anette would send out an email to let the rest of our members know. Thank You Anette. The rest of our

meeting was about our Sankt Hans Fest on Friday June 20th at the River School Farm - the same place as in the past years. Please join us for lots of fun and everyone is invited. We especially encourage families with children. You should bring your own food and drinks and something to share. The lodge will supply plates, napkins, and plastic ware. There is a grill available, if you choose to BBQ something and the lodge will provide the coals. Sena Marie will bring chocolate chip cookies. You may also

bring a “Witch” for the bon-fire as it is tradition to send them off to the Broken Mountain in Germany. (I wonder how many of them make it there. ☺)

For our June meeting on Friday June 6th, we will have our first official BBQ of the year. You should bring something to grill and something to share. I, Sena Marie, will make dessert. At this meeting we will also have election of officers for our October 3rd installation.

We missed several of our regular members, hope everyone is doing well. I had lunch on May 1st with the Olsen's.

Ruth is doing as well as can be expected. Karen (daughter) said she is doing ok. It is nice to see them once a month. Barbara Iler is doing well also. We missed seeing Kurt and Olivia, and hopefully Kurt is doing better after his horrible fall. We also want to wish Bob Lamee a speedy recovery from his knee surgery.

We are saddened by the loss of our Vice President, Leif Larsen who passed away suddenly on Monday April 28, 2025. Leif was born in Slagelse, Denmark on October 5, 1940, and emigrated to the US with his parents when he was very young. His Mom, Grete Svendsen was very involved in the Danish Club and was a Past Grand President of Dannebrog from 1980 – 1981. Leif has been a

member of the Danish Club, Valdemar #12 in Reno since November 7, 2014, and have held several positions in the club as Auditor, Trustee and lastly as Vice President.

We are sending our sincere condolences to his wife, Bonnie, granddaughter Karina and the extended family. May they find comfort in all the beautiful memories they shared with Leif.

We have lost a wonderful member, and he will be missed.

Rest in peace dear friend. Here's a link Leif's obituary:

<https://www.rgj.com/obituaries/pnvs1191636>

Friends are invited to a memorial, June 6 at 1:00 p.m. at the Odd Fellows Hall, 1300 Stardust Street, Reno.

“Æret være hans minde”

Our June Birthdays are Helen Christiansen, Hanna Matuzak, Louise Myers, LaRee Purdum, Jillian Baker, Cortney Webb and Alex Baker. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE!**

Before I close this newsletter, our congratulations to Anette for being our new Grand Vice Marshal and a very sad goodbye to Jillian Baker. We will miss her very much as we all want to wish her well at her new job in Florida.

She left Reno on May 5th. Good Luck Jillian

Happy June, stay well and 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

Awe! June brings the beginning of summer, the most daylight hours, Father's Day, kids on summer vacation, flowers blooming, birds singing, and much more. Happy June everybody!

Our May meeting was held at Bente Ellis's home to welcome Dania delegates back from Dania Convention and to meet our new members from Danneskjold No 17. We were honored to have three guests: Our 2025 Grand Presidents, Bob and Tracey Lamee and Grand Past President Tom Martin. We were served an authentic, delicious Danish meal prepared by Bente with assistance from Johanne Gade, Bodil Whitehouse and George Dutra. Johanne surprised us with a flaming Kransekage. Many thanks to all of them for making it a special day in San Jose.

Solvang, California

Hejls Minde No. 23

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

A little Danish History - Maya Wilson related a story about May 5. Yes, it is Cinco de Mayo, but did you know that it is also the anniversary of the liberation of Denmark from the Germans? In fact, 2025 is the 80th anniversary of the liberation. King Christian X conceded to Germany on April 9, 1940, and on May 5, 1945, they were liberated.

Our delegates Bodil, George, and Bente gave their reports on the convention with much praise for the success of the convention due to the dedication of Bob and Tracey and their committee and the people pleasing hotel staff. They commented on the good food, great music for dancing, great raffle prizes, delicious pastry from Bent Olsen and more. Others added compliments as well. If you haven't been to Mission De Oro, you have a chance to experience this lovely hotel and its beautiful surroundings by attending the convention there in 2026.

We have some members that are having some health problems. Our thoughts and prayers are with Peder Hoy, Bob Lacey, and Lisa McDaniel. We wish them well.

Our next meeting will be held on June 12th at Perko's in Modesto on Sylvan and Oakdale Rd. at 5 p.m. Members and guests purchase their meals. Marge Scheuber

Definitely a time to celebrate! My dad, Slim Juhl, and his family were on a family vacation in Denmark in 1939. My dad was just 6 years old at the time. As it turned out, they left Denmark about 7 months prior to Germany invading the country. The ship they sailed on had just picked up Polish refugees after Germany had overrun Poland. Poland

had been invaded on September 1, 1939, and War was declared by Great Britain and France on September 3, 1939. This marked the start of WWII in Europe! AND, Marie Jaeger and her family were on the very first ship allowed to return to Denmark in 1945! They were greeted by cheering crowds. What an emotional sight this had to be! She can still remember it as if it were yesterday. It is amazing how we are all connected, and in my humble opinion, how much history is being lost with our elders passing on before their stories are being written down and saved for our future generations.

18 members of Hejls Minde #23 joined together for a delicious Frikadeller lunch and were joined by guests, Tim and Natalie Heer (Dania/Dannebrog Grand Secretaries), and a visitor brought by Mark Bates, Brian Olesen. We celebrated the anniversaries of two of our members who have made it another year around the sun – Elaine Anes and Jeannette Richardson - with the singing of Happy Birthday!

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

The Holger Danske #27 & Valkyrien #23 Lodges in Santa Maria would like to extend an invitation to everyone to come down and join in a wonderful Santa Maria Style BBQ being held on Friday, July 4, at Waller Park Sp#5 in Santa Maria, from noon until 4 p.m. hors d'oeuvres will be served at noon, and lunch will be served at 1 p.m. We will be enjoying barbecued Top Sirloin, Pinquito Beans, Bread, Side Dishes, Salads, and Desserts. Please bring your own

Elaine won our 50/50 drawing this month.

Darlene Iversen was hospitalized in April but is back home recuperating. We are all sending good vibes and well wishes her way. Doris Jensen has been moved to an extended care facility.

Bent Olsen reported on his experiences, notes, and insights at this year's convention. Elvin "Slim" Juhl was honored at the convention for his 68 years of Dania service in Holger Danske #27 and given a "Member of the Year" plaque. His daughter and her husband, Elizabeth and Trinidad Martinez, accompanied him. Elaine read and passed around the plaque at our meeting. Congratulations! Kristin Worthley will be presenting a \$500 scholarship check to the high school senior who won it for 2025 at the Scholarship Awards Night being held tonight, May 7.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at the Bit O' Denmark in Solvang, CA

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Anes, Secretary

plates, utensils and beverages. There are picnic tables and benches; however, many will be bringing folding chairs to sit under the trees or in the beautiful sun in order to visit and enjoy the day. Some will be bringing pop-up tents to provide shade over the tables. If you have one and have room in your car to bring it with you, feel welcome. There will be a raffle with many wonderful prizes. EA