



GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

March 2026

Upcoming Conventions		
Danmark #2 and Thyra #3, San Francisco	April 9-11 2026	Hotel Mission De Oro, Santa Nella
Upcoming Installations		
Thyra No. 9 & Valborg No. 1	March 21, 2026 12:30 PM	the Benicia Grill, Benicia

Dannebrog & Dania Grand Presidents

Our first official outing of 2026 was the Danmark #2/Thyra #3 installation of officers held at the beautiful Encinal Yacht Club in Alameda. The day was perfect – beautiful weather, great food, and wonderful conversation. Thank you, San Francisco, for hosting another successful installation.

At San Francisco's installation, the Grand Officers used the proposed, revised Combined Ritual for the Joint Installation of Branch Officers. It seemed to go very smoothly, and we look forward to using it again at the Thyra #9/Valborg #1, Hayward installation in March.

On a personal note, we took a driving trip to Utah to celebrate our granddaughter's birthday. What a beautiful drive across the Nevada desert. It looks completely different before and after a major snowstorm. Oh darn, we had to spend some extra time playing with the grandkids waiting for the storms to pass and the roads to open.

Convention is right around the corner – get those registration forms in!

Bob and Tracey, Grand Presidents, Dania and Dannebrog

FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY'S

Just a reminder that the Dania Branches, your first half of your annual tax is due. For those who have a net worth less than \$5,000.00 your tax is based on one half of \$20.00 per member as of January 1st, for the

IN MEMORIAM:

NEW MEMBERS:

SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND

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
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	Gregory A. Gleeson gleeson2@icloud.com	Susan Gauthier s.gauthier@sbcglobal.net
Grand Vice Marshal	John Jensen jajensend2@gmail.com	Anette Christensen anettechristensen@charter.net
Grand Trustee #1	Johanne Rasmussen Gade	Kathy Christensen pgchris@pacbell.net
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

rest of us it is half of \$30.00 per member as of January first. New on the website under Daina Forms, you can find the fillable registration for our 2026 convention. Natalie & Tim

DANNEBROG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

DANIA MEMORIAL 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 & Thyra #3 Secretary John A. Jensen, E-Mail: jajensend2@gmail.com

Time Marches on – it's March already! But we must stop for a moment and wish Happy Birthday to all our March birthdays. From Danmark #2, Anne Maris, Cameron Gearhart, my cousin Gary Rounds, and my brother James Olef. And from Thyra #3, Vibeke Jensen. Tillykke med fødselsdagen. Skål!

The San Francisco lodge thanks the Grand Presidents, Grand Marshals, and all our guest (Grand and otherwise) for attending our 2026 Installation of Officers last month. We are so happy that so many could join us at the Encinal Yacht Club in Alameda. What can I say? It was a great day with great food and great friends. We will certainly do it again next year. Congratulations to our returning President Dennis Nielsen and Vice President Ian Nielsen. And congratulations to our newest addition to the lineup, Thira Maris, who was installed as Marshal for Danmark #2. Once again, we are soliciting raffle donations for our upcoming convention. If you have something, please

contact our Raffle Chair Jessica Jobe Sea via email at jessica@jobesea.com. Please give us the item title or brief description, who has donated it, from which lodge, and an estimated value so we can create proper signage. We appreciate all donations!

The convention is right around the corner – April 9th through April 11th. Get your registration forms in by March 12th to get the discount Package Deal. The form is on our web site and has all the details, including the hotel reservation contact information. Feel free to reach out to me directly if you have any questions.

Our March meeting will be an in-person meeting in Brannan Hall at the Odd Fellows Building. We will meet at noon on Saturday March 14th. Don't miss out on what could be our inaugural gathering in this meeting hall. Check your email for more details.

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 have had so much rain we are assured that we will be having water for the irrigation of the orchards and crops in the valley. Hopefully the bees will be able to make their rounds.

We had a well-attended meeting in February with some long-time members coming in. Glenn, Lee, and Roseanna Jensen surprised even their cousin Carl Jensen by attending. We were happy to see them. We also had our newest members John and Hanne Christensen join us.

Cheer Chairman, Carl Jensen didn't have any sick members to report on. Kay Jensen had had her sister Gail visiting with her and is expecting her Son from Alaska soon.

I attended the San Francisco installation to see son, Dennis going out as Dannebrog President and coming in as Dania President. They always put on a great party, even had Steen Skjellerup and Daniel Joensen singing for us. Our next luncheon meeting will be the first Friday, March 6, 2026, at 11:30 am, held at Denny's on Shaw Ave. just east of First Street. Come join us, would love to visit with you. MN

Salinas, California

Freja No. 6 & Dana No. 15

Meeting: 1st. Sunday in August at 12:00 P.M.; Salinas Masonic Center, 48 East San Joaquin Street, Salinas CA Secretary, Natalie Heer, timandnatalie@sbcglobal.net

Thank you to those who have paid their dues! Just a reminder to those who haven't paid annual 2026 dues are \$15.00 for Dana and \$25.00 for Freja.

Please Mail to 487 Paradise Park, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

May the luck of the Irish be with you! T&N

Livermore, California

Dannevang No. 7 & Danebod No. 16

**Meet 2nd Saturday at 5:00PM; the Farm Bureau Building, 638 Enos Way, Livermore.
Dannevang #7 & Danebod #16 Secretary Kathy Thomsen, danskfarm@yahoo.com**

Happy Spring y'all! Also St Patrick's Day and the beginning of tax season. But what I'm most looking forward to is our frikadeller dinner/lunch at our next meeting which is March 7th (yes it's on the first Saturday) 12:00 at the farm bureau building. Once again we are

looking forward to a full table while we enjoy good food, good company and perhaps take care of a little bit of business. After that is Hayward's installation on the 21st. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on the 8th. 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 Hayward Lodges will be meeting via Zoom on Thursday, March 12th at 6:30 p.m. The Zoom link will be sent out a few days prior to the meeting. If you are a member in another branch and would like to join us, please contact Susan Gauthier at s.gauthier@sbcglobal.net and she will send you the link.

Valborg #1 and Thyra #9 invite you to join us at our annual installation of officers and luncheon at the Benicia Grill located at 4760 East 2nd Street, Benicia CA 94510.

The installation will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2026 at 12:30PM, with a buffet lunch to follow. Please let us know if you'll be joining us by contacting Signe Ann via call or text at 510-872-4997 or email at signemcneil@gmail.com. The buffet lunch will be \$50 per person. Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Please RSVP by March 9, 2026. We look forward to seeing you on March 21st!

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**

Ydun 10 and Valhalla 11 will be meeting on Saturday, 7 March, at 11am at the Danish Hall in Ferndale. The rain has let up for a while, so we should have no problems with flooding in getting there. The committee of Mary Kemp, Don and Hans Kristian Christensen, and Daniel Barney will provide hot dogs, buns, condiments, lemon pie, and Clendenen's apple cider. Members can bring salads and desserts. The theme is a Saint Patrick's Day Party. Be sure to wear some green!! St. Patrick is attributed to ridding Ireland of snakes.

Several roads were closed because of flooding. An acquaintance was relieved to be able to come to work from Ferndale to Fortuna. The bridge at Fernbridge is not the problem. The entrances to the bridge flood, especially on the Ferndale side. In the past, I have walked onto the bridge from the Fernbridge side when it was closed. A lot of water can flow underneath!! Some herds of cows had to be moved to higher ground. We hope that everyone has stayed safe! LW

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 February 6th at the Odd Fellows Hall at 6:30 pm with 12 in attendance plus our little "man" Graysen. Our theme for the night were soups and there were 3 different soups,

"hvidkåls suppe med sylte (cabbage soup with "headcheese"), potato soup with bacon and split pea soup along with fruit, chips and dips.

The meeting was opened during dessert of Ingrid's wonderful Swedish pancakes and Debbie's great almond cake. The meeting was mostly about the upcoming convention. Our delegates for Valdemar are Kurt and Olivia Tomozy and the delegates for Dannevirke are Bonnie Larsen and Karina Davies. Sena-Marie is the representative for the S.A.F. meeting. Nina, Jordan and Graysen had a bout with the flu. I'm glad all 3 are doing better and were able to attend. We hope everyone is doing well, even though we missed several of our regular members.

Our March 6th meeting will be a potluck and on April 3rd we will celebrate with an Easter potluck. Sena-Marie will make desserts for both months. Then we are off to the convention.

I spoke to Ruth Olsen's daughter, Karen and she told me that everything is pretty much the same. I will not be meeting with the Olsen's this month because I am leaving February 11th for a Freeman Family reunion in Fairfield CA, and I will be home on February 15th. I am traveling by train and will enjoy the lovely scenery over the summit. Barbara Iler is doing well as well. Congratulations to Glenn Fritz for being a lifetime member of San Francisco Danmark #2.

Our March Birthdays are Cynthia Burk, Karina Davies, Barbara Iler and Ina Segesman.

Modesto, California

Bornholm No. 14

Meeting: 2nd Thursday at 5 p.m. Perko's Restaurant

President Jason LeBeouf, jlebeouf@yahoo.com, Secretary Marge Scheuber, olemarge1@sbcglobal.net

Sixteen of our members gathered in our delightful country themed back room with red and white checkered tablecloths at Perkos'. We were happy to see Ayoe Fisher who drove all the way from Yuba City to be with us. Vice President Merete Meeks ran the meeting since Jason was recuperating after having shoulder surgery. Our member Maud Hansen from San Jose is also recuperating from surgery on her shoulder. Lisa McDaniel from Sunnyvale is in our thoughts as she is still recovering. We wish them all a speedy recovery. Happy Birthday greetings to our members who were born in February: Johanne Gade, George Dutra and Richard Olsen. We accomplished the following matters of business: Trustee John Scheuber gave

Solvang, California

Hejls Minde No. 23

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

Important! 2026 dues are payable now. The Bit O' Denmark Restaurant located in the heart of Solvang, the "Danish Capital of America," by Karen Hauge: one of Solvang's oldest and notable buildings with authentic architecture is a lovely family-owned restaurant. It dates back to its original construction in 1911 as a Danish folk school for three years, then it held

HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE. Be safe, healthy, and take care, Sena-Marie.

Now, I would like to tell something that is special to me: My first convention was in 1972. I went in as Grand Trustee and met a lot of my longtime friends from Dania and Dannebrog; Doris Skow, Bob and Agnes Lind and many, many more. Well, here is my story. My parents were unable to go with me to Fresno in 1973 for their installation, so I flew to Fresno. Bob and Agnes picked me up at the airport and I was welcomed to their home.

There, I met their children. Daughter Gale, and I hit it off right away and we always kept in touch with letters and cards. I was invited to her wedding in 1982 and watched their children, Jennifer and Julie grow up and when they had children of their own. Gale kept me in touch with pictures of the girls, and the grandchildren. Every time I went to Fresno, I always made time to visit with her and her family. I heard that she was not doing well in November of 2025 and sadly, I lost one of my best friends on January 3, 2026. May she rest in peace with her Danish Family, Mom and Dad, Aunt Ingrid and Uncle Vick. (By the way, Agnes was my advisor when I was Grand President (1990-1991)),

I love you, Rest in peace dear friend. I hope all the older members remember this amazing family. Sena-Marie

the monthly Trustee report followed by our Annual Report. He thanked fellow trustee Danielle LeBeouf and auditors Susan Mefford and Bodil Whitehouse and Treasurer Johanne Gade for their assistance in accomplishing these tasks. The following delegates were selected for the upcoming convention: Anita Parham and Michael Gearhart. Johanne is still collecting 2026 dues for those who may have forgotten. Her address is 12707 South Cometa, Oakdale, CA. Since I am a bit Irish along with my Danish ancestry, I will end with these words: "For each petal on the shamrock this brings a wish your way: Good Health, Good Luck and Happiness for today and every day." Marge Scheuber, Secretary

church services for approximately fifteen years. Since 1929, it has served as a restaurant. It was remodeled in 1963 and transformed into a widely recognized restaurant serving Danish and contemporary European cooking. Hejls Minde No. 23 is very fortunate to hold meetings there surrounded by old-world craftsmanship in a

comfortable atmosphere and enjoy delicious Danish food every first Wednesday of the month.
Birthdays Celebrated Today: December Wayne Allen and Tom Wilson. January Jim Richardson and Maia Wilson. February Marie Jaeger and Slim Juhl.
Sunshine Report: Birgit Nelson celebrated her 100th birthday. Finn Runge and Ken Harwod are taking life easy.

Congratulations to Marie Jaeger, winner of the 50/50 drawing.

After a delicious lunch of frikadeller in a rich cream sauce with carrots, peas, and potatoes. Dessert was vanilla ice cream, a little whipped cream with Pirouline dark chocolate, crème filled rolled wafers ending with coffee and singing the Danish National Anthem.

Our next meeting will be at noon at the Bit O' Denmark restaurant on March 4, 2026.

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

TAX TIME

April is fast approaching and question of taxes fill the air like pollen, both are a known irritant. Dania is a Tax exempt not for profit Organization under 501(c8) in the IRS Tax code. What this means is that Dania and Dania Branches do not pay a Tax on any money they receive in the way of donations, Dues or Fund raisers. It does require that every year before May 15 a tax form needs to be filed with the IRS and SFTB, I do fill out the forms using the financial information provided in your Annual report. This is a relatively new requirement as it went into effect for the 2007 tax year, which we are in compliance with. There were some 501(c8) organizations that did not comply with this new requirement, and after five years of not filling their tax exempt status was removed for failure to conform to the tax code. It took them many years and much expense to regain their exempt status. 501 (c8) organizations are defined as an organization that offers Insurance to its members, like our Funeral

Benefit, it has charities that support only its member like our Senior Assistance Fund, Dania Scholarship and the Memorial Scholarship, and our income goes to primarily supporting our membership. It may be time to remind our members that if you want to use Branch fund to support a charitable organization outside the Grand Lodge we all run the risk of losing our Tax status for all of Dania not just your local Branch. I am neither a CPA nor a Tax attorney so I do not know the percentages of funds going to Grand Lodge and funds going to other organization that would keep us legal in the eyes of the IRS but I do know we need to be careful.

Thank you for your attention, and I think we can agree that we do not want to start paying taxes on our incomes.

Tim Heer, Grand Secretary.