



GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

September 2026

Upcoming Conventions		
Thyra No. 9, and Valborg No. 1	April 8-10 2027	Hotel Mission De Oro, Santa Nella
Upcoming Installations		
Valhalla No. 11 & Ydun No. 10	September 5 2026	Ferndale, Danish Hall
Valdemar #12. Dannevirke # 9	Oct 2, 2026	Reno, IOOF Hall
Dannevang # 7 Danebod # 16	Oct. 17. 2026	Lamee Villa Livermore

Dannebrog & Dania Grand Presidents

Dear Dania and Dannebrog Members,
We had excellent travels this month, visiting the Ferndale and Salinas lodges.

Our first trip was to the quaint town of Ferndale to attend the Valhalla No. 11 and Ydun No. 10 meeting for the nomination of officers. President Tom Martin conducted the process, and all positions were filled. Following adjournment, we enjoyed a wonderful luncheon with delicious food and desserts and then took the opportunity to sing Happy Birthday to Don Christensen. On the drive back, we traveled through the beautiful Redwood Giants. We were later diverted from Highway 101 due to a fire near Hopland and took a scenic route along Highways 253 and 128 before returning to the Bay Area.

The second trip was with Tom Martin to the Masonic Center in Salinas for coffee and cake with the members of Freja No. 6 and Dana No. 15. We enjoyed decadent desserts and coffee served from a treasured family heirloom; Steen Skjellerup's vintage coffee service. The afternoon featured great conversation, including several Danish historical and Lodge member stories

that expanded on both tradition and facts, alongside a display of past photos and documents. It is always interesting to hear about our Danish ancestry and how these lodges continue to thrive today. Our trip back through another beautiful part of California took us along the back roads of Santa Cruz Mountains, one of Tom's frequent motorcycle routes, where we were able to view more picturesque dense forests and rural settings along the way. We enjoyed the San Francisco BBQ in Sunol. It was great to visit with all the attendees, and we missed those who could not make it this year. The dishes and dessert were delicious, and the grill didn't add any heat to the comfortable weather; and we can't forget to mention those that took the plunge in the pool! We wish everyone a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Best regards,

Dennis Nielsen and James Jensen, Grand Presidents Dannebrog and Dania

Grand Officers

	Dania	Dannebrog
Grand Past President	Robert Lamee robertlamee@yahoo.com	Tracey Lamee tnlamee@yahoo.com
Grand President	James O Jensen jamesolefjensen@yahoo.com	Dennis Nielsen nielsen.dennis.a@gmail.com
Grand Vice President	Gregory A. Gleeson gleeson2@icloud.com	Susan Gauthier s.gauthier@sbcglobal.net
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	John Jensen jajensend2@gmail.com	Anette Christensen anettechristensen@charter.net
Grand Vice Marshal	Stuart Mahler smahler52@gmail.com	Susan Mirkovich Mahler mirkmahler@att.net
Grand Trustee #1	Steen Skjellerup stivaxsteen@gmail.com	Daniel Joensen dj@danken.com
Grand Trustee #2	John Scheuber consultingjohns@gmail.com	Jessica Jobe Sea jessica@jobesea.com
Grand Trustee #3	Johanne Rasmussen Gade	Kathy Christensen pgchris@pacbell.net

IN MEMORIAM:

Jorgen Clausen, Thor #5, Fresno

NEW MEMBERS:

Zoe Noel Fish, Thor #5 and Thora #11, Fresno

SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND

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DANNEBROG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

DANIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

San Francisco

Danmark No. 2 & Thyra No. 3

Meeting: 2nd Wednesday every month 7:30 PM The Masonic Hall 2668 Mission St, San Francisco, CA

Danmark #2 & Thyra #3 Secretary John A. Jensen, E-Mail: jajensend2@gmail.com

Let's start with Happy Birthday wishes to our September birthdays. Happy Birthday to Erik Eichner, Glenn Fritz, Allan Maris, Gordon Pedersen, Brad Porter, and Maribeth Jensen (Hi sis!). Tillykke med fødselsdagen. Skål!

We had another awesome time in Sunol at our annual summer BBQ and pool party. It was a great turnout this year and we thank everyone for joining us. The weather was perfect and the food was plentiful. A hearty thanks to Grand President Dennis Nielsen for running the grill, with apron and all. Thanks also to Dennis, Johanne, and Tom for showing up early and helping to set up the event. The food and company were fantastic. And it was great to see Jim and Elizabeth Jensen at the party. I believe we had a

record attendance at the swimming pool this year with five members in the water at once. We will do it again next year!

Our September meeting will be a live meeting at the Mission Masonic Lodge in San Francisco. We will meet on Saturday September 12th at noon. We will have our business meeting then a pot-luck lunch. It will be a casserole themed luncheon, so get creative. Details will be emailed out as the date approaches.

Please reach out if you have questions.

Hope everyone made it back to school in style. Here's to a great Labor Day weekend. Hope to see you in Ferndale for the annual festivities.

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

Vacations are over with the schools back in session, another term begins.

We will be meeting on September 11, the second Friday at 11:30 am, at Denny's on Shaw Ave., just east of First Street.

Carl Jensen reports that Kay just loves it at her new place in Alaska, also that Gail Hansen is still at the Bethal Home in Selma and is doing well.

Doris Lastreto had her 100th year Birthday party that Carl and I attended at Fort Washington Country

Club. It was a really nice party with speeches by family members.

September is when Solvang has the Danish Days weekend. Dancing for 3 days starting with the Friday night opening parade, ceremony, dancing and Saturday morning making and serving the Æbleskivers on the street. This makes a fun and busy weekend.

Come have lunch with us at our September meeting. Surprise us, would love to see you. Martha Nielsen

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

Our Eftermiddagskaffe (afternoon coffee) on Aug. 2 would have made any Bestemor proud. Happy guests

arrived carrying their tasty contributions, cloth covered tables set with Steen Skjellerup's mother's

China, lively conversations, stories shared, new acquaintances made and families reunited. Our current and past Grand Presidents made the trip to Salinas, Mange Tak to James, Dennis, Tom and Steen. Heer cousins from their mother's oldest sister's family came to see what we've been up to all these years in Dania and Dannebrog. We all enjoyed Steen's bit of history about the very early days in Denmark before coffee was even available (fortunately snaps goes very well with cake) plus a memory from his youth of an

introduction to his date's family over a tableful of cakes and cookies. Olé Petersen also had a family memory to share, and Tim's history table got a lot of attention, and I learned that there is a proper way to set a place for eftermiddagskaffe. Freja and Dana are pleased to have discovered a new lodge tradition and look forward to gathering more heirloom China and setting more places. 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 & Danebod #16 Secretary Kathy Thomsen, danskfarm@yahoo.com**

Happy September Y'all! Greetings from Kodiak Alaska. We will be back in California in time for our next meeting, Saturday, September 12, 12:00 for a good old-fashioned potluck. Remember to save the

date for our installation, Saturday October 17th. Contact Tracey to let us know you are coming. Thanks to San Francisco for a lovely picnic with perfect weather. See you soon 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

Hope you're all soaking up this beautiful sunshine! The Hayward Lodges will be meeting via Zoom on Thursday, September 10th 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. Wishing everyone a wonderful week of great weather. Looking forward to crossing paths at an upcoming meeting or installation soon. Skall

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**

Valhalla 11 and Ydun 10 members are preparing for our Labor Day weekend Installation. We will be at the hall beginning at 1pm on Friday. If you arrive Friday afternoon, stop by and say "hello". We were very pleased to have our Grand Presidents drive up to attend last month's meeting and Don Christensen's birthday celebration.

Those of us with connections to Norway are saddened by the passing of King Harald V. He was 89 years old. Those who watched 'Atlantic Crossing' may

remember the poignant scene when Crown Princess Märtha and the children were riding in a boat to a ship headed to the U.S. Norwegian fishermen nearby began singing the National Anthem when seeing the royal family. Crown Princess Märtha put Harald higher in the boat so that the fishermen could more easily see the future king. King Harald's grandfather, the then king, was King Haakon VII. Born August 3, 1872, at Charlottenlund Castle, Denmark, and died September 21, 1957, at the Royal Palace, Oslo. He

was called Carl at birth and was the second son of the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Denmark (later King Frederik VIII and Queen Louise). After the 1905 dissolution of the Norway-Sweden Union, Prince Carl was approached about serving as King of Norway. He wanted a referendum, or vote, by the Norwegian people, who approved by 79%. So Danish Prince Carl became Norway's first independent

monarch in 1918 years. He and his wife were crowned in a ceremony at Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim as King Haakon VII (an Old Norse name) and Queen Maud in 1906. He always spoke Danish—close enough to Norwegian. King Haakon VIII became king following his father's, King Harald's, death with his wife, Mette-Marit queen. Next in line is Crown Princess Ingrid Alexandra. Lynn Wachter

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 Friday August 7th at 6:30 pm with 20 in attendance. I was absent because our elevators in our apartment complex were down, and I was stuck in my apartment until 7:30 pm. When I called Anette in the morning, she thought they would have the elevator fix by the end of the day. But they didn't so she said, "I was in prison" HA, HA. This was the first meeting I missed in July 2021 when I had emergency surgery. Anette told me that the potluck was very good. Lars Jensen had made a cabbage & sausage casserole and Carl Henrik Christiansen had made Frikadeller, potatoes and gravy. We also had salad and other great side dishes. Anette opened a short meeting during coffee and dessert. (Correction by Anette: we didn't have coffee - only dessert and cookies. This is what happens when Sena Marie is not here 😊) I, Sena Marie, was supposed to bring pistachio bread, so now I will bring it to our September meeting. Anette said the meeting was mostly about our Election of Officers.

The officers for 2026 - 2027 are: Past President Glenn Fritz, President Anette Christensen, Vice President Gregg Di Martino, Secretary Sena-Marie Freeman (#52), Treasurers Carl Christiansen, and Ingrid Hedman, Marshal Nina Potter, Vice Marshal Erik Jensen, Trustees: Jordan Potter, Helen Christiansen

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

Summer seems to be slowly slipping away as the days become shorter and the evenings become cooler. Summer vacations and other activities resulted in fewer members being able to attend our July and August meetings. George and Bodil Whitehouse are

and Jens Christiansen Auditors: Kurt Tomozy, Lars Jensen, and Linda Hill.

We are looking forward to seeing all our Danish Friends for the instillation of officers on October 2nd. Sena-Marie will be taking reservations by September 25th at danishgal9@gmail.com or call 775-224-6230. Please RSVP so we know how many sandwiches to prepare.

Our September 4th meeting will be our regular potluck. I will be sure to bring dessert of the Pistachio Bread. Our sick list is about the same. Good to see Glenn Fritz, it's been a while since he was here. I had breakfast with the Olsen family on August 5th, Ruth is looking and doing well. On August 9th she was 90 years old. The restaurant surprised her with a small dessert with a candle and sang her happy birthday. Barbara Iler had surgery to repair her vertebra. 3 days later Lori, Barb and I went to breakfast. She looked great. I was glad to hear that Kurt Tomozy was doing better after his fall. Our September Birthdays are Jennifer Baker, Brenda Barr, Anette Christensen, Glenn Fritz, Bonnie Larsen, Eva Loevgren, Kaylee Merlino, Chris Halabird, and Steve Myers. HAPPY BIRTHDAY Everyone. Stay healthy, stay cool. I hope Reno's 100s go away soon. Take Care, Sena-Marie

traveling across country and will again be attending the Danebod Folk Meeting in Tyler Minnesota. Bente Ellis, who has attended for many years, will be there also. As I reported last year this is a folk school experience including fellowship, singing, nature walks,

folk dancing and worship in the context of Danish American tradition. We will be anxious to hear about their experience again when they return. Ben Hoover will vacation in Italy leaving on Aug. 24th. He has been teaching himself to speak Italian. His Spanish is helpful. Some of our members attended the Celebration of Life for Bente's son Ford who sadly lost his battle with cancer. John Scheuber reported that it was a lovely tribute to a life well lived. Two days after Doris Skow attended our July meeting, she

fell and couldn't get up. She went by ambulance to the hospital. Fortunately, no bones were broken but she did have stitches on one of her fingers. Our Vice President Merete Meeks led our August meeting. She brought Danish Horn cookies (Mandelhornchen) to celebrate the August birthdays. Members having been born in August are: Bente Ellis, Aug 6th, Merete Meeks, Aug 7, Marge Scheuber, Aug 8th and Jason LeBeouf, Aug 30. Secretary, Marge Scheuber

Solvang, California

Hejls Minde No. 23

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

Here is the summary of the Hejls Minde #23 meeting held on Wednesday, August 5, at Bit O' Denmark Restaurant in Solvang, CA.

Secretary, Elaine Anes, opened the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

There were 10 of us at this month's meeting/luncheon. There were no birthdays, so we just sang "God Bless America" to celebrate living in this beautiful country.

Mark Bates won the 50/50 drawing for \$25.00, but he donated it back to the Lodge.

Elaine read a heartfelt thank-you from our high school scholarship recipient, Addie Madrid. She is attending San Diego State University this fall.

It was reported to our Sunshine Committee that Wayne Allen has been recuperating from a short hospital stay and some treatments that he has been undergoing. His daughter, Renee, has been coming over from Tehachapi to take care of him and get him to his appointments. Thank you, Renee, for taking such good care of your dad. We love him.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at noon at Solvang's Bit O' Denmark. -Elaine Anes

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

Wishing everyone a wonderful month. School begins this month, so please watch out for kids and families crossing streets.