

Serving the
Danish Sisterhood of America Since 1947

Danish Sisterhood News

AUGUST 2026



PHOTO ABOVE: This photo is John Kørner's skulptur af Peter Freuchen på Enehøje.

In This Issue: * Learn about Tools to Evaluate the Health of your Lodge. *

* The Round Tower in Denmark. * Butikken: Items available for purchase! *

* Seeking a Newsletter Editor; reach out to Nealna Gylling to apply. *

* Various Lodge Events. * Membership Corner.* Where did Hans Christian Andersen live?*



President's Corner



Hello Everyone,

Summer is a time for festivals, parades and lots of community activities. It is a great time to promote your lodge and the Danish Sisterhood of America. As Trustee Carol Rudisill and Trustee Marilyn Dore reach out to lodges, they consistently hear membership concerns. There are so many opportunities to let your community know about you, what you do and how to become part of that. HOWEVER, it does take some work.

Don and I were just at "Art in the Park" in Brainerd. There was a whole row of booths showing off community organizations. What an opportunity that would have been for us to show off Amber Lodge and the Danish Sisterhood. We missed that opportunity. It will come again next year; hopefully we will be more proactive at that time. How about you and your lodge? Are you looking for places to let the community know about you? Membership growth does not happen by wishful thinking. It only happens when you work to make it happen.

The July Newsletter had a picture of Lodge #4 with their banner on a pole walking in a parade. Do you have a parade in your town? Does your lodge participate? Sometimes, because we know so well who we are, we forget that everyone doesn't know us. One of our lodge members had lived in Brainerd for 15 years before she discovered there was a Danish Sisterhood organization here. Obviously, we were not doing a very good job of getting out to the public so they could see we exist. Yes, it takes work, but working together is an enjoyable experience and then it doesn't seem like so much work.

In the next months, in the membership column, Trustees Carol and Marilyn will be giving us all some tools to evaluate the health of our lodges. USE the tools to make the changes you want for YOUR lodge. We can't do it for you, BUT YOU CAN DO IT! Make a difference within your lodge and within the entire organization. Try something new!

We are here for you. Let us know how we can help you. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sisterly,

Nealna

Nealna Gylling, National President

Danish Sisterhood News

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**Honorary Member Her Majesty
Queen Margrethe II of Denmark**

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Dear Sisters and Mister Sisters:

Here we are approaching the month of August. The year seems to be flying by!

One wonderful thing about August in my Sisterhood lodge is that our **All Danes Picnic** takes place. My Sisterhood lodge is Danish Sisterhood of America, Mt. Hood #81 of Portland, Oregon. My Sisterhood lodge merges with the Danish Brotherhood in America, Lodge #167 of Portland, Oregon, in order to have an amazing **All Danes Picnic** every August. This year, one of the Brotherhood lodge members has graciously volunteered to have our yearly **All Danes Picnic** held at his home/ranch in La Center, Washington. This same Brotherhood member has actually hosted our yearly **All Danes Picnic** at his home/ranch for several years!

Who do we invite to our **All Danes Picnic** in August? The Danish Brotherhood and Danish Sisterhood reach out to their friends and family: All are welcome! Each August the Danish Brotherhood lodge provides Danish hotdogs, buns, soft drinks, plates, utensils and cups. Attendees are encouraged to bring a "Danish" potluck dish and a folding chair! I am looking forward to this yearly tradition, delicious food, and great conversations!

~~Charlene Jensen, Editor

Send articles/stories/photos to: editor@danishsisterhood.com

Velkommen



Charlene M. Jensen,
Editor

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IN SEARCH OF A DSN EDITOR

The Danish Sisterhood Newsletter Editor is responsible for creating and publishing a 16-page newsletter each month, totaling 12 newsletters each year. Salary for the editor is \$2,100.00 per year.

The editor should have the following qualifications:

- Ability to maintain deadlines
- Experience using a publishing software such as Publisher.
- Commitment to maintaining and updating the DSN and DSS branding.
- Ability to work with a National Board.
- Communicate with members on submissions.
- Work with a printer and mailing house to ensure each issue gets printed and mailed out.
- Create content for newsletter issues as needed.

To apply, please send your resume and a short letter of interest to the Danish Sisterhood President by August 10, 2026 at president@danishsisterhood.com.



ON THE FRONT COVER: This photo is John Kørner's skulptur af Peter Freuchen på Enehøje. The date of this photo is 22 September 2016. The author of this photo is Klaus Bek. John Kørner was born in 1967. Educated at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts 1992-1998, John Kørner is represented in numerous museums, including Statens Museum for Kunst (National Gallery of Denmark), Arken (Arken Museum of Modern Art), ARoS (Aarhus Art Museum), and Tate Gallery. In 2003 John Kørner was awarded a 3-year art scholarship by the Danish Arts Foundation, and in 2012 he was awarded the Eckersberg Medal. John Kørner's sculpture on Enehøje shows Peter Freuchen lying in the grass in front of the characteristic whale jaws which are the landmark of the island. Peter Freuchen was a Danish polar explorer, writer, and adventurer, who lived on the island from 1926 to 1940. The bronze statue of Peter Freuchen is full-scale: the left foot is missing because—in real life—it was amputated due to hypothermia after a polar expedition. **This front cover photo can be located at:**

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_K%C3%B8rners_skulptur_af_Peter_Freuchen_p%C3%A5_Eneh%C3%B8je.jpg

To learn more about the artist, John Kørner, go to: <https://xn--kunst-p-kant-zcb.dk/perspectives/john-koerner-vaerker/>

NEWS FROM THE LODGES

IN MEMORIAM—August 2026

NAME	Cert #	Lodge #	Location	Birth Date	Birth Place	Initiated	Died	Benefit
Janice Baer	24738	81	Portland, OR	11.7.37	Sisseton, SD	9.4.91	1.26.26	500.00
Kim Judge	25067	184	Sarnia, ONT	5.16.56	Yale, MI	4.25.96	6.20.26	1000.00

Youth Birthdays—August 2026

Name	Lodge	Age
Emma Rae Fisher	102	9



MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION—August 2026

LODGE	NEW MEMBER	SPONSOR
15	Eva Andersen	Marcia Jante
15	Liv Andersen-Lopez	Marcia Jante
15	Erik Andersen	Marcia Jante
21	Lauren Wallace	Pia Hansen
131	Jeff Hansen	Cindy Hansen
126	Inge Larson	Jim Larsen
126	Theresa Lohrbach	Jim Larsen

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Happy Summer to Everyone! In May I was given the opportunity to participate in the Pacific Northwest District Sisterhood and Brotherhood Convention in Eugene, Oregon. It was a **MOST FUN** Convention. A lot of work was done, but a lot of fun was had by all. They had great activities, great sales opportunities, great food (and coffee was available to go with home-made goodies by some of the BEST bakers!), great entertainment, and great chances for educational growth.

One such educational growth activity is a “Healthy Lodge” checklist. WOW! Karin Plagens, District President, had the lodges get together to discuss how to determine if their lodges are “healthy”. This is such valuable information that we are going to use the four different parts as our membership column for the next few months. Karin Plagens had gotten this “Healthy Lodge” information from a leadership training with the Sons of Norway.

Starting next month, all of us will be able to self-evaluate the health of our own lodge. Perhaps you can find some ideas to help strengthen your lodge, or at least get the conversation started within your lodge of ways to become “healthier”. The first area of discussion will be Promotion and Recruitment. The second will be Member Experience. Third is the area of Administration. The final area is about Charitable Giving. I hope you will all find this helpful.

By Carol Rudisill, Danish Sisterhood of America National Trustee



PHOTO ABOVE: 2026 Pacific Northwest (PNW) District Board, L — R, Patti Olsen, Past President; Karin Plagens, President; Laurie Eaton, Vice President; Emily Olsen, Secretary/Treasurer/Historian; Kathy Steadman, Trustee; Melanie Berg, Trustee; Christina Sallee, Marshall.
Photography by Carol Rudisill.

LEARN ABOUT A FAMOUS LANDMARK IN DENMARK



PHOTO ABOVE: This photo is described as a lookout tower, observatory, bell loft, rundetaarn.dk. This picture was taken on September 24, 2017 by Jay Galvin from Pleasanton, CA, USA. This photo is found at: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rundetårn_\(Copenhagen\)_01.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rundetårn_(Copenhagen)_01.jpg)

DANISH SPELLING LESSON

Are “Rundetårn” and “Rundetaarn” the same?

Yes — “**Rundetårn**” and “**Rundetaarn**” refer to the same building. The difference is simply in spelling style:

- **Rundetårn** uses the Danish letter **æ** (a combining letter), which is the standard in modern Danish orthography.
- **Rundetaarn** uses the separate letters **e** and **a**, which is the older, pre-1940s spelling used in English-language texts and some historical references, Academic Dictionaries and Encyclopedias.

Both spellings describe the **Round Tower** in Copenhagen, Denmark, a 17th-century astronomical observatory and landmark built in 1637–1642 by King Christian IV and architect Hans van Steenwinckel the Younger.



PHOTO ABOVE: Rundetårn - interior, Copenhagen. This is what Rundetårn looks like on the inside! This photo was taken by Jakub Halun on June 17, 2022. This photo is found at [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:002_Copenhagen_landmark_-_The_Round_Tower_\(Rundetårn\)_spiral_ramp.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:002_Copenhagen_landmark_-_The_Round_Tower_(Rundetårn)_spiral_ramp.jpg)

LEARN ABOUT THE ROUND TOWER IN DENMARK

Denmark’s Famous Spiral Staircase Building is known as the **Round Tower**, or referenced as **Rundetaarn**, or **Rundetårn**. This building in Copenhagen is one of the country’s most iconic landmarks.

This building was built in 1642 by King Christian IV as an astronomical observatory for the University of Copenhagen. The Rundetaarn is Europe’s oldest functioning observatory. It is part of the Trinitatis Complex, which also includes a chapel and an academic library.

The Spiral Staircase—The tower’s most famous feature is its Spiral Ramp (also called *Sneglegangen* or “Snail Passage”), a 7½-turn helical corridor that winds around the tower’s hollow core. *This is the only way to reach the top, there is no elevator.* The ramp starts at the entrance on Købmagergade and ends at the stairs leading to the viewing platform. The spiral design was originally engineered to allow heavy astronomical instruments to be carried up without stairs. Visitors can enjoy niches along the way, some of which are popular hiding spots for children.

For centuries the tower was the center of Danish astronomy, with telescopes and instruments used to study the stars and planets. The tower has inspired Danish writers, like Hans Christian Andersen, who visited it for inspiration. In winter, the observatory is manned for public stargazing; in summer, special solar viewing is offered

SUMMARY OF LODGE #102 SPRING EVENTS

By Donna Archer, member of Lodge #102

On April 16-18, 2026, the Midwest Heartland Convention was held in Elk Horn, Iowa. Sisterhood Lodges from Des Moines, Davenport and Brainerd, Minnesota had a joint meeting to discuss Sisterhood local and national news and events. As Danes began to arrive early on Thursday, attendees experienced a MoDA Brown Bag Lunch offering, a trip to Manning, Iowa to see the German barn, and during an evening social hour Carol Rudisill gave a presentation on Aquavit at the Hygge Inn. There was no shortage of locations, activities, and historic information to explore in the area surrounding the event on Friday.

Saturday morning brought breakfast from the Kringle Man and meetings. Nealna Gylling and Carol Rudisill presented a National Board Spring Update. The membership overall of the Danish Sisterhood is increasing! They emphasized the good their scholarships are doing. The Board is doing many wonderful things such as scholarships, trips, activities. Lillian Holcomb, granddaughter of Claudia Holcomb, was granted a National Sisterhood scholarship at the meeting. Davenport Sisterhood reported 17 members with 5 members active. It is the oldest and smallest lodge in Iowa.

Saturday evening brought us all back together for a dinner of stuffed pork loin, chicken piccata, roasted potatoes, cheesy potatoes, roasted vegetables, lettuce salad, and layer cake. The group sang some of our favorite songs accompanied by the magnificent Glenn Henriksen on piano, and enjoyed a visit from Ole and Lena (Ole and Lena are fictional characters of Scandinavian-American Folk Humor), played by Tom Lindell and Anita Larsen from Ringsted, IA.

Sunday May 3, 2026 the Danish Sisterhood held their annual May Brunch at the Northwest Senior Center. As usual, we had a wonderful variety of egg dishes, pastries, and fruit. We had a good turn-out, and we had a good time after our meal with a Danish Lottery. We bought numbers and, as our numbers were called, we chose from donated gifts.

Our June meeting was a summer picnic. Claudia Holcomb's son is Chris: Chris' home in Dallas Center, Iowa was used for this picnic. About 30 members, friends and family attended the picnic. We had a pot luck meal and later the celebration of Sankt Hans Aften. It is a Danish celebration of the summer solstice by starting a bonfire and burning a witch in effigy to ward off evil spirits for the coming year. The country setting, weather and great food made for a wonderful evening! **NOTATION:** The Museum of Danish America offers Viking Day Camps. Over the year we have bake sales to raise grant money for kids to take part in summer activities.



PHOTO ABOVE: Lego Viking boat challenge at the museum exhibit. *Photography from Donna Archer.*

GRANT RECIPIENT REACHES OUT WITH THANKS

Dear Sisterhood Members,

I want to thank you for the grant money of \$40.00. It paid for my Viking Camp at the Museum of Danish America. My cousin and I spent the whole day learning about, and doing several activities, related to Vikings. We did art activities, Legos, scavenger hunts, Viking games, and spent time learning their crafts and battle skills. Thank you again for the learning experience.

—**Everett Archer** (Everett is the grandson of Donna Archer of Lodge #102)

PHOTO RIGHT: Everett Archer—in the red shirt—with friends as they learn about Vikings at the museum exhibit. *Photography from Donna Archer.*



FLORA DANICA LODGE #177: REMEMBERING GREAT TIMES IN 2025 AND 2026

Events of Flora Danica Lodge #177, Solvang, California from 2024 into 2026: At the fall of 2024, we started a new project and organized a group of Sisters to prepare, fill, and deliver "Birthday Boxes" to the residents of Atterdag Village every month. These boxes are decorated by our Sisters and are filled with various small gifts such as socks, mini flashlights, treats, magnifying glasses, notepads and pens. The residents continue to enjoy these boxes and our Lodge looks forward to continuing with this project. It was quite an active and fulfilling 2025, and the first half of 2026 is proving to be equally rewarding for our Lodge.

In January of 2026 we celebrated the 100th birthday of Birgit Nelson, one of our Charter Members (photo on page - 9 -). In January 2026 the Solvang and Santa Barbara Brotherhood/Sisterhood Lodges joined together for our Installation of Officers followed by a fantastic Danish Smørrebrød dinner, complete with Akvavit for toasting the new Officers and the Solvang Sisterhood members who prepared and served the wonderful meal. Some of the Akvavit was prepared by our own Sister, Lori McConnell, and it was yummy!

Our February 2026 meeting was hosted by Kate Broe Desser. Updates on the preparations for the "Mini" District Convention to be held in Solvang in June 2026 were discussed. We also presented a 25-year anniversary pin to Raelynn Pedersen.

March 2026 was Flora Danica Lodge's 61st Anniversary. We gathered at the *Bit of Denmark* Restaurant for a delicious dinner. A 25-year anniversary pin was presented to Janice Zigler, and a 60-year certificate was presented to Thora Mae Andersen. Dinner was followed by a rousing and competitive game of Danish Jeopardy. Several new categories were added this year with many "questions" coming from our Newsletter. Re-match challenges were made for 2027!

In April 2026, some of our Sisters gathered once again to bake æbleskiver for the Customer Appreciation Day at Nielsen Building Materials, Inc. Not only is this fun for our Sisters, it helps support one of our greatest local businesses, and is a fantastic way to remind the community of our local Lodge and our mission. Also happened in April: Our High School Scholarship Committee met to select three recipients to receive scholarships from our Lodge. All three were well-deserving individuals. Flora Danica Lodge is also putting together a new Flora Danica Lodge cookbook and Else Lassiter gave an update on its status. We are all looking forward to this new cookbook which will include not only recipes but some history and photos as well.

Continued on the next page



PHOTO LEFT: Æbleskiver galore! The crew went through a lot of batter during the Nielsen Building Materials, Inc., Customer Appreciation Day event.

PHOTO RIGHT: It was a good thing we had a sign letting people know that the æbleskiver were available "while supply lasts". The crowd loved them!



FLORA DANICA LODGE #177 REMEMBERING GREAT TIMES IN 2025 AND 2026 (continued)

Continued from page -7-



PHOTO ABOVE: Flora Danica Lodge æbleskive crew, L to R: Donna Andersen Ineman, Janet Townsend, Melissa Bates, Rikka Rasmussen, Else Lassiter.



PHOTO ABOVE: Master Chef (and Solvang Brotherhood member) Rick Ineman preparing for the Grundlovssdag BBQ.



PHOTO ABOVE: Grundlovssdag BBQ table decorations.

In May, some of our Sisters delivered May Day Baskets filled with treats to the residents of Atterdag Village. The residents all look forward to returning to their residences after lunch to find the baskets hanging on their door. In June, the District Lodges all came together in Solvang for a "Grundlovssdag Komsammen" gathering, which allowed us to come together and enjoy catching up on the activities of the various Lodges that were present. The weekend included dinners at local restaurants, meetings, a tour of Ingeborg's Danish Chocolates, a Summer Concert by the Santa Ynez Valley Wind Ensemble held in the beautiful backyard of the Elverhøj Museum, and on Sunday, a delicious Grundlovssdag BBQ at Hans Christian Andersen Park prepared by Rick and Donna Ineman, with help from Sisters and Brothers. It was a wonderful weekend of Danish fellowship.

A formal Convention is planned for 2027 in Petaluma. We are all looking forward to starting up our monthly meetings again in August and preparing for Solvang's annual Danish Days to be held September 18-20, 2026. The arts and crafts prepared by our Sisters to sell in our booth during Danish Days help to fund our annual high school scholarships and community giving donations later in the year.

—Lisa Larsen Pedersen, Secretary

Continued on the next page



FLORA DANICA LODGE #177 REMEMBERING GREAT TIMES IN 2025 AND 2026 (continued)

Continued from page - 8 -



PHOTO ABOVE: Charter Member, Birgit Nelson (center, in pink cowboy hat), celebrating her 100th birthday with some of her Flora Danica Lodge Sisters.



PHOTO ABOVE: Flaeskesteg dinner with all the trimmings served for the 2025 Sisterhood/Brotherhood Christmas dinner.



PHOTO LEFT: One of several varieties of Danish open-faced sandwiches served during the 2026 Installation dinner.

PHOTO RIGHT: Flora Danica Lodge members celebrating their 61st Anniversary at the Bit of Denmark Restaurant in Solvang. Front and center is Thora Mae Andersen who received her 60th Anniversary Certificate the same evening!



PHOTO LEFT: This is a delicious cake from Olsen's Bakery to cap off the anniversary meal.

PHOTO RIGHT: It is another rousing game of Danish Jeopardy led by Janice Zigler and Betty Petersen. This has become an annual Sisterhood favorite activity.



SINGING WITH MY SPOUSE AT SANGERFEST 2026

By Tracey Nielsen, Dagmar Lodge 4

My husband and I decided to do something fun together this year: We joined the Normennenes Singing Society. As a result, we were able to sing together at the Norwegian Singers Association of America's 65th Sangerfest 2026 held in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in June. The last time it had been held in La Crosse was in 1906, with Chicago having four choirs in attendance, according to the program from back then (see photo).

Normennenes (nor-MEN-en-us) performed as the only mixed ensemble—ladies and men—in this all-male choir festival. I enjoyed singing our two songs, The Journey (Simple Gifts/Going Home) and the flag-waving Det går et festtog gjennom landet (a Norwegian Patriotic Party song). Learning how to sing in Norwegian, as well as in English, has been challenging but good for us.

In the past, the Danish community in Illinois has long enjoyed the tradition of listening to Scandinavian male singing groups, most recently Bjornson (be-ORN-sun) Male Chorus (1924–2020) and the Chicago Norsemen (2021–2025). In order to keep the Scandinavian music tradition going, members of those two groups have merged with the Normennenes Singing Society, a Chicago Norwegian choir established back in 1870.

The Chicago Grieg Ladies Singing Society members also joined Normennenes over the last few years, expanding the musical repertoire to include more than just Tenor-Bass selections. Director and accompanist Mike Benshish also includes music students from Conant High School as interns in this unique choir.

Our mixed choir sang at the Minnekirken, the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church, and walked in the Norwegian Constitution Day parade along with our Danish Sisterhood Dagmar Lodge, shared musical selections at different Norwegian group luncheons, and holds an annual song festival in the spring. Last year, members had the opportunity to sing at the Danish Christmas Service held at Edison Park Lutheran Church in December and will hopefully do so every year.

I found it to be a wonderful experience being one of the two Normennenes women singers performing at the 65th Biennial Sangerfest this year. My husband and I would highly recommend finding a Scandinavian choir, in either the Norwegian Singers Association of America (www.nsaaonline.org), the Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers Association (<https://pcnsa.org/>), or the American Union of Swedish Singers (<https://www.auss.org>) which has the most mixed and women's ensembles of the three. These organizations promote Scandinavian music. We need to continue with, and promote, this Nordic tradition of singing together.

Our group, Normennenes, meets Thursday nights at the Estonian House in Lincolnshire, Illinois, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at least twice a month during the school year. For more information, you can check out the choir on Facebook, Normennenes Singing Society or contact coordinators Frank and Karen Potempa at Frank's email: fcpotempa@sbcglobal.net.

Continued on the next page

CORRECTIONS SPECIFIC TO JULY 2026 *DANISH SISTERHOOD NEWS*, PAGE -11-, LODGE SECRETARIES

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SINGING WITH MY SPOUSE AT SANGERFEST 2026 (continued)

Continued from page -10 -



PHOTO LEFT: Six members of the Normennenes choir performed at the 65th Norwegian Singers Association Sangerfest this year. Danish folks Paul & Tracey Nielsen and Richard Klein (L) and Norwegians Frank Potempa, Shirley Trettenbach, and Dan Boyle (R).

Photos on this page were taken by Martin Trettenbach/TLC Nielsen.



PHOTO LEFT: Normennenes choir attendees Stephanie, Tracey, and Shirley attended the delicious Ladies Luncheon with music provided by Dr. Adrianna Tam, soprano, and piano accompanist Chris Hadley.

PHOTO RIGHT: The last time La Crosse, Wisconsin, held a Sangerfest was in 1906—about 120 years ago.



PHOTO LEFT: The 8th Biennial Sangerfest 2:30 p.m. concert program, held in La Crosse, had four groups from Chicago singing. At this festival the new song, *Vort Land*, written by Chicagoan Alfred Paulsen, debuted.

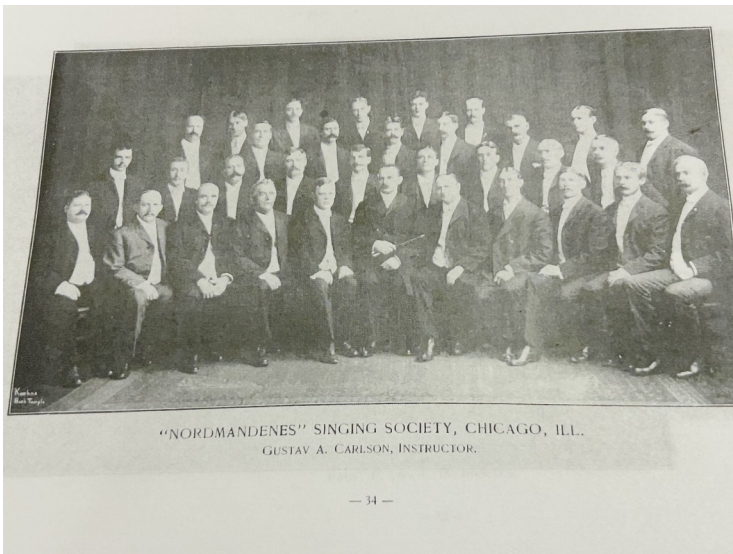
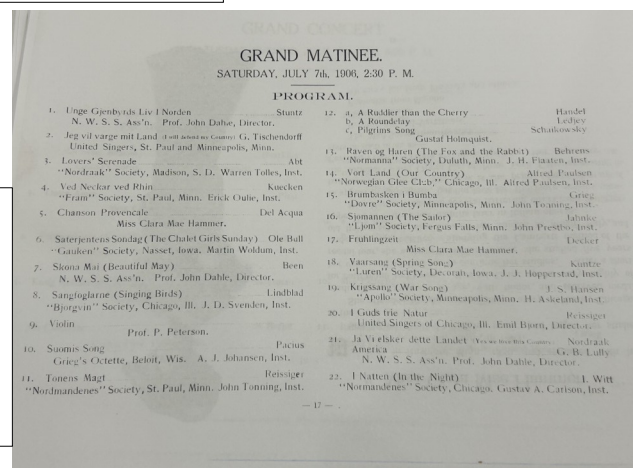


PHOTO RIGHT: Back then, Normennenes was called "Normandenes" Singing Society with Gustav A. Carlson listed as instructor (the guy with the baton), from the July 7, 1906 Eighth Biennial festival. Thank you to the Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA) of Northfield, Minnesota, for sharing the Sangerfest 1906 program (<https://norwegianamericanhistory.org/>).



CHICAGO DAGMAR LODGE 4 SUMMER FUN AND MUSIC

By TLC Nielsen, Photography by TLC Nielsen

One of the biggest activities of the summer for our Dagmar lodge included helping out at the Danish Home Summerfest, held June 27th this year in Chicago. Sisters and their spouses signed up to help make and sell smørrebrød (SMUR-brud), bring baked goods to the Dagmar Lodge Bakery Booth, and help out in the Treasure Chest Boutique. As part of the set-up crew for the Treasure Chest, I enjoyed figuring out how to display the used treasures by theme (Christmas, kitchen . . .) but then was recruited to help make the open-faced sandwiches called smørrebrød. I had no idea there were so many rules to making this Danish sandwich. The butter must be spread to the edges and no bread can be showing! The Westerlees, a swing group, provided the music while face painting, balloon animals, and games entertained the younger ones.

Chicago Midwest Rebuild Society, which many Dagmar lodge members belong to as well, invited Sisterhood members to their Beer & Cheese Making Fundraising event on Sunday, July 26th from 12:30–4:00 p.m. at Perfect Brewing in Libertyville. Participants will be making Christmas beer to come back and taste in November, when it's ready. We found out the next Danish-American Rebuild convention will be in Des Moines, Iowa from April 8–11, 2027.

Please mark your calendars.

A few lodge members have joined the Normennenes Singing Society since the Chicago Norsemen merged with them last year after leader Ed Kramer passed away. They truly enjoyed singing at the bi-annual Sangerfest, held in beautiful La Crosse, Wisconsin, and appreciated the Memorial Service where Ed Kramer was remembered.

Update:

The 2027 DSS National Convention planning committee in Chicago has been meeting monthly and the logo for the theme is now truly official: Weaving our Danish Story (see logo below.) Our lodge is hoping to have different ideas for presentations and workshops from our Danish Sisters across the continent. Put on your thinking caps and share your ideas since it's 14 months until we convene together! Save the date range of September 30–October 2, 2027. Find us on Facebook: Danish Sisterhood Dagmar Lodge #4 Chicago (<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=dagmar%20lodge%204>).

Weaving our Danish Story



DSS National Convention - Chicago 2027

PHOTO ABOVE: Convention Theme Chicago 2027 logo. Weaving our Danish Story is the theme for the DSS National Convention in Chicago, September 30–October 2, 2027. We can't wait to get together with you!

PHOTO RIGHT: The beautiful grounds of the Danish Home of Chicago set the stage for the games, face painting, music, and great food for all who attend Summerfest.



PHOTO ABOVE: Dagmar Lodge 4 and Danish Home families helped butter (in Danish—smør) the bread (brød) to make the smørrebrød. There's a rule about the order in eating these deliciously famous open-faced sandwiches: helpful hint—fish first, cheese last.

PHOTO RIGHT:

The newly renovated Danish Home of Chicago features a Little Mermaid statue, new patio grounds, and easy wheelchair accessibility both inside and outside. Set up for Summerfest on these grounds went smoothly.



PHOTO ABOVE: Stacy Nelson, a Dagmar Lodge 4 volunteer, pictured in the tent said, "It's very exciting seeing some of the 'treasures' that are a part of our Danish history."

WHERE DID HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN GROWN UP?



PHOTO LEFT: Fairytale author, Hans Christian Andersen's childhood home in Odense on Fyn in Denmark. Photo found at [Denmark-odense-hans christian andersen-childhood home.jpg - Wikimedia Commons](#). This photo was taken by Kåre Thor Olsen on September 16, 2007.

Hans Christian Andersen lived in a small yellow half-timbered house in Odense from age two to fourteen, now preserved as a museum showcasing his early life and imagination. Hans Christian Andersen's childhood home is located at Munkemøllestræde 3-5, Odense, Denmark, near the Odense Cathedral and the Fairytale Garden. Andersen moved into the modest cottage in 1807. He lived there until 1819; at that time he left for Copenhagen to pursue a career at the Royal Theatre. The home he grew up in is small. It consists of three rooms that reflect the poverty and simplicity of his early life. However, here in this home is where Andersen's imagination and his storytelling abilities began to take root and grow.

PHOTO RIGHT: Hans Christian Andersen at the window in his living room in 1874. Author is Clemens Weller.

Photo (public domain) can be found at:
[File:Hans Christian Andersen in Nyhavn 18 1874 by Clemens Weller colorized.jpg - Wikimedia Commons](#)



PHOTO LEFT: Photograph (public domain) of Hans Christian Andersen, 1854. Photo found at: [Hans Christian Andersen, 1854.jpg - Wikimedia Commons](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Weaving our Danish Story - 2027 National Convention in Chicago - Thursday, Sept. 30, 2027 through Saturday, Oct 2, 2027 - Save the Date

Hotel: Rosemont Embassy Suites - 5500 N. River Rd, Rosemont, Illinois 60018 - just minutes from O'Hare Airport.

Room Rates: \$155 plus taxes for a King-size Bed Suite and \$175 plus taxes for Queen-size 2 Bed Suite. Each suite has a pull out sofa bed in a separate room with a microwave, refrigerator and coffee maker. Free breakfast is included as well as a Happy Hour from 5:30—7pm with 2 complimentary drinks per day along with complimentary snacks.

****Rooms can be reserved for 3 days before our convention and 3 days after for that low price.**

Extras: Free shuttle from O'Hare Airport if flying

Parking is reduced to \$18 per day for those driving

Free shuttle has a stop at the restaurants and outlet stores; a 7-minute walk or 2-minute shuttle ride

Free shuttle can take you to River's Casino

Restaurant in the Hotel - SLYCE Coal Fired Pizza Company

Pre and post tours are being arranged, more information to come soon.

Please come early and stay late to enjoy the Chicagoland area.

Chicago has many attractions:

Wrigley Field - an American icon

Baha'i Temple - unique to the US with 9 beautiful gardens

Botanic Gardens

The Morton Arboretum

Lamb's Farm - one of a kind NFP helping adults with developmental disabilities

Volo Museum: Iconic automobiles you've seen in movies, Titanic Exhibit, Jurassic Gardens, Rental of electric scooters available

And so much more...!



RESOLUTION IN LOVING MEMORY, HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF AMANDA "MANDI" BISTED

Amber Lodge #186 was saddened by the passing of Amanda (Mandi) Bisted on April 1, 2026. Mandi was born September 9, 1943. She married Gerald Bisted in 1965. Jerry was a Dane and thus began Mandi's connection to Danish traditions. She and her daughter, Dottie, joined the Amber Lodge #186 in February 2011. Mandi always said being married to a Dane for 50 years made her one, too. She was very excited years later to discover in a DNA test that she had some actual "Danish blood" in her!

Mandi was an active member of our lodge. She attended nearly every meeting. She would help present programs and could always be counted on to bring a great salad or dessert for each potluck. Mandi consistently sent cards and messages to members in need of a friendly, positive word. Mandi always was one of the first people to greet community members at our fundraising events as she was always the cashier/ticket taker.

Although travel was difficult for Mandi in 2023, she was determined to attend the National Convention and enjoyed it very much. She spent many hours visiting with people as she sold raffle tickets for the quilt and helped "man" the merchandise tables. She talked about the many Sisters she met and how much fun they were. Amber Lodge will greatly miss her ready smile and positive attitude. Her willingness to help will always be a model to the rest of us. She may not have known she was Danish in the beginning, but she always embraced Danish traditions. Amber Lodge will greatly miss her.



PHOTO ABOVE: Rest in Peace Amanda "Mandi" Bisted.

DANISH SISTERHOOD BUTIKKEN

Visit the DSS Website Marketplace—Butikken to see all items available for purchase.



Majesty Queen Margrethe daisy 20-inch chain necklace/
pin—\$7.00



Daisy dangle earrings—\$12.00



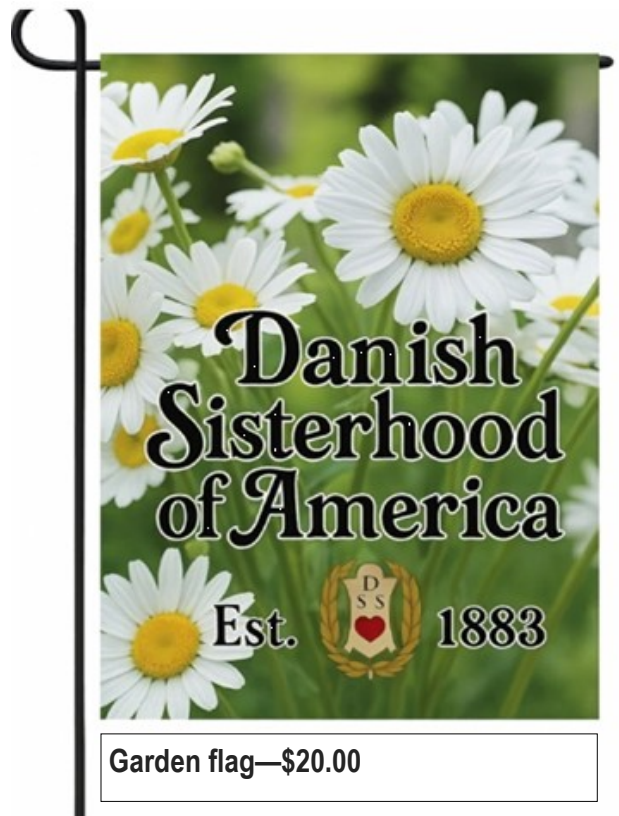
Danish flag post earrings—\$12.00



Daisy post earrings—\$12.00

To order, contact: Karen Vig-Keathley
Email: trustee3@danishsisterhood.com
Phone: 708.715.0071
109 South First St., Itasca, IL 60143

Note: Prices do not include shipping and handling.
All prices subject to change.



Garden flag—\$20.00



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Greetings from Linda, Elsa & Elizabeth Steffensen
Proud Members of the Danish Sisterhood
Dagmar Lodge #4, Chicago, IL

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