

Serving the
Danish Sisterhood of America Since 1947

Danish Sisterhood News

December 2025



In This Issue:

- ♦ Merry Christmas to you from many Sisterhood Lodges! Christmas Greetings inside!
- ♦ Deadline fast approaching for the T-Shirt Design Competition. Have you submitted your T-Shirt design yet?
- ♦ Several Sisterhood Lodges share their news!
- ♦ Meet Sune Frederiksen who will lead the 2026 tour to Denmark!
- ♦ Beautiful items to purchase for Christmas presents:
See Danish Sisterhood Butikken.



President's Corner



Glædlig Jul!

Christmas is my favorite time of year!! I love the traditions, food, gatherings and cold snowy weather. The hustle and bustle that tires me out also inspires me to keep up a quicker pace. Getting together with family and friends always seems extra special at Christmas time. Food has a more elegant presentation and just seems to taste better. I love the tradition of "dancing" around the Christmas tree and singing Christmas carols in Danish and English. Sometimes I wonder if we did these things all year long, if it would all be less special and enjoyable. I expect so.

I hope you and your Sisters/Mr. Sisters do something special for Christmas. It is a great time to just enjoy being together. Please share your special events with the editor so we can all hear about them. Reading your news is always enjoyable.

The Solvang trip is complete and the reports I have heard are all great! A great big THANK YOU to Secretary Glenda and the Solvang Lodge for all they did. You are awesome! You will find an article and pictures of the trip in the January newsletter. Pictures and a summary of the trip are on the website (www.danishsisterhood.org) now. We hope that there will be more America trips in future years to explore other interesting and Danish areas. Let us know if you have ideas of where we might go.

I truly hope you have a very Merry Christmas and enjoy all the things that make it special to you.

Glædlig Jul,

Nealna

Nealna Gylling, National President



Danish Sisterhood News

www.danishsisterhood.com
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**Honorary Member Her Majesty
Queen Margrethe II of Denmark**

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Dear Sisters and Mister Sisters:

Velkommen



Charlene M. Jensen,
Editor

Have you thought of telling your cultural story or the cultural/historical story of someone in your family? Everyone has a story; however, there is something very important in the story of family history or cultural memories. One area of sadness in my heart is that my Grandparents—both from Denmark—did not write down any of their stories about their arrival in America or their lives in Denmark. They rarely talked about “The Old Country” because they focused so much on being Americans. I certainly understand why they may have felt this was the correct thing to do. However, having some of their stories written down would have been wonderful for their grandchildren and future generations. You are welcome to share any of your cultural/historical stories with *Danish Sisterhood News*, if you like. Even short stories or memories are important to share!

— **Charlene Jensen, Editor of *Danish Sisterhood News***

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Membership Corner

Gladelig jul! By the time this is delivered to you in the *Danish Sisterhood News* it will already be December! Holy smokes! This year has flown by! As usual, I am constantly thinking of Danish Sisterhood membership. Maybe this year should be the year you sign up your child, grandchild, or other interested family member for their own membership. It costs nothing for a child's membership until age 14. By signing up your child/grandchild you are telling them that their heritage is important and it's something you can share with them. And it doesn't have to just be the girls; men/boys are welcome as well.

Another membership you might consider for a special person in your life would be a lodge membership. Many people might be interested in joining Danish Sisterhood if any cost concerns could be alleviated. A gift membership would be a great gift for those people.

And for all those special people who don't live near you or near a lodge, you can consider a membership in the Virtual Lodge #300, Tivoli Lodge. They meet monthly and it is ALL online. They have wonderful programs that everyone raves about. Karin Wasler, the President of Tivoli also does a wonderful job of getting the online lodge members to know each other and include them. Tivoli Lodge has the same membership fees structure as all the local lodges. What a great gift that would be if you have friends or family that love their Danish heritage, but don't have a local lodge to join!

All membership information has been put online, but if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me, Carol Rudisill. Or, you can contact Marilyn Dore, our new membership person on the National Board.

Have a great Christmas Season!

—Carol Rudisill, National Trustee



ON THE COVER: Christmas at Tivoli Gardens! Twinkling lights, festive markets, and enchanting attractions create a winter wonderland that begins on November 14, 2025 and runs through January 4, 2026.

Magical Christmas experiences for all ages await you at Christmas in Tivoli. The Gardens sparkle, the scent of pine trees fills the air, and thousands of twinkling lights are sure to get you into the holiday spirit. Christmas in Tivoli is featured on CNN's list of the world's best Christmas markets, so get ready to enjoy a cozy stroll, rosy cheeks from the rides, temptations from the snow-covered stalls, and much more! Tivoli Gardens is the perfect place to celebrate treasured Christmas traditions with your loved ones.



NEWS FROM THE LODGES

IN MEMORIAM—For December 2025

NAME	Cert #	Lodge #	Location	Birth Date	Birth Place	Initiated	Died	Benefit
Linda Andersen	23587	131	Ferndale, CA	9.25.43	Eureka, CA	10.25.77	8.27.25	125.00

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS—December 2025

Name	Lodge	Age
Brynlee Anderson	102	8



RESOLUTION—Lillie Iversen Miller, 1st National Sisterhood Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

Lillie (Lil) Iversen Miller passed away peacefully on October 24, 2025 at the age of 98. To say her heritage and the Danish Sisterhood was her passion would be an understatement. Lil was so dedicated to the Danish Sisterhood, serving in nearly every capacity both locally in Petaluma and with the California District. Lil was also honored with the very first National Sisterhood Lifetime Achievement Award, an honor she always treasured.

Born into a family with deep ties to the community and to its Danish heritage, Lillie and her younger sister, Nancy, were the daughters of Iven and Asta Iversen, who moved to Skillman Lane in 1926 where they rented George Christie's egg ranch before purchasing the 8.5 acre property in 1929.

Operating an egg ranch that produced thousands of eggs every day was no easy job, but with two hard working and appreciative daughters who inherited their father's determined work ethic, the endless list of tasks was vigorously accomplished. Feeding the chickens, cleaning eggs before and after school, and sweeping out the hen houses became routine work. And when it was completed, the girls went to the Saturday movies at the California Theater.

Lil would say they worked hard, just like the boys, it was necessary. Lil was a confident student, whose work ethic never diminished, Lil took math classes at Petaluma High School, where she graduated mid-term in 1946 and started a new job two days later earning \$1.27 an hour in the payroll department of the Poultry Producers.

Walt Miller and Lil were married in 1949 and lived on the Iversen property while he worked as a carpenter for Hugh Coddington and later at Lace House Linen. Lillie worked at the Poultry Producers until the birth of her daughter, Jan, in 1952 and a second daughter, Joyce, was born in 1966. Lil returned to work in 1970, as a bookkeeper for a local orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Jerome Beatie. When Dr. Beatie retired, she continued working half-a-day for Dr. Lance Barlas, before retiring at the age of 89, only because he retired too.

Lil was very active in both the Elim Lutheran Church, which she joined in 1933, and with the Danish Sisterhood. Enjoying the financial side of things, she counted the Sunday collection plates at the church for many years and offered her time at events like the "Make it, Bake it, Grow it, Sew it" auction, and the annual æbleskive breakfast. Lil's grandparents, Christian and Karen Iversen, were charter members of Danish Brotherhood Lodge #143, established in 1901, and Danish Sisterhood Lodge #126, established in 1911. A lifetime lodge member, Lillie served as treasurer of the Petaluma Sisterhood for 50+ years.

When not planning or working on Sisterhood events, Lil loved family time most, gardening, puzzles and word search games. Lil was the matriarch of the Petaluma Danish Sisterhood #126 and will be deeply missed by family, friends and those that feel like family (she had a way of making you feel special).



45TH ANNUAL SCANDINAVIAN DAY FESTIVAL

At Vasa Park on Sunday, September 7th, the Scandinavian community gathered for the 45th Annual Festival presented by Scandinavian Park, Inc., NFP in South Elgin, IL (www.vasaparkil.com). The festival is dedicated to the preservation and celebration of the five Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

My spouse and I worked in the Danish Sisterhood of America Dagmar Lodge #4 booth in the morning—making, selling and eating æbleskiver with strawberry jam, rhubarb pudding with cream, and \$1 coffees. After our busy shift changed over, we were ready to eat again so we headed to Sweden's Viljan Lodge #349 booth to lunch on Swedish meatballs before watching the ceremonies begin around noon. All five countries had their Consuls in attendance and they were introduced as each country's National Anthems were sung and played. Such a treat!

During our next volunteer shift, this time at the Danish Sisterhood booth, I enjoyed chatting with many people under the Danish tent we shared with the DAAC (Danish American Athletic Club), The Danish Pioneer newspaper, Rebild National Park Society, Dania Society of Chicago, and the Danish Home in Chicago. Several ladies I talked with expressed interest in joining the Sisterhood. My husband, Paul, enjoyed talking with the Danish men, some being Mr. Sisters in our Dagmar Lodge.

Shopping at the various booths while enjoying the different dance groups (Nordic Folk Dancers of Chicago, Leikarringen Heimhug Dancers) and musical artists (Danish songwriter Anita Lerche, Libido Funk Circus) closed out our time enjoying the festival. Before leaving, we had a snack: The Nimbus Club's Danish hotdogs. My only regret was missing the church service in the morning and the closing bonfire in the evening. I'm hoping next year to enjoy the whole festival with family and friends who can enjoy the face painting, pony rides and time together.

Here are links to the various organizations mentioned above:

Danish American Athletic Club: <https://daac.info/>
 The Danish Pioneer newspaper: <https://thedanishpioneer.com/>
 Danish Home in Chicago: <https://danishhomeofchicago.org/>
 Dagmar Lodge #4, Chicago: <https://www.facebook.com/DanishSisterhoodDagmarLodgeChicago/>
 Dania Society of Chicago: <https://daniachicago.org/>

Respectfully submitted by TLC Nielsen, Dagmar Lodge #4

Please see additional photos of the event on the next page.



PHOTO ABOVE: Dagmar Lodge æbleskive booth manned by Dagmar Lodge #4 at the Scandinavian Day Festival. *Photography by TLC Nielsen.*



PHOTOS ABOVE: Danish Tent, Scandinavian Day Festival at Vasa Park in South Elgin, IL. *Photography by TLC Nielsen.*

DSS Angel Status Members

This status belongs to those members that wish to gift their funeral benefit back to the Sisterhood. We believe this is a generous and significant gift and wish to honor them.

Name	Lodge
Carol Rudisill	102

45TH ANNUAL SCANDINAVIAN DAY FESTIVAL (cont.)



PHOTO ABOVE: Jan Glintborg at the Danish American Athletic Club table (DAAC), also in the Danish Tent. *Photography by TLC Nielsen.*



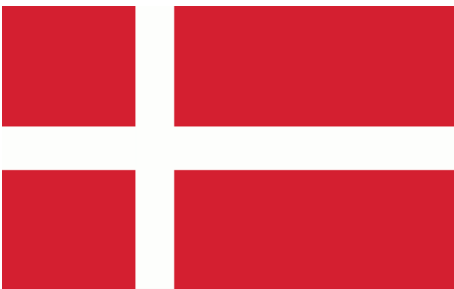
PHOTO ABOVE: Dagmar Lodge #4 and the Danish Sisterhood table in the Danish Tent, Dr. Paul Nielsen pictured. *Photography by TLC Nielsen.*



PHOTO ABOVE: Scandinavian Day Festival layout from the 45th Annual program. *Photography by TLC Nielsen.*



PHOTO ABOVE: Dania Society table under the Scandinavian Day Festival's Danish Tent. *Photography by TLC Nielsen.*



LEARN ABOUT WESTERN STAR LODGE #113, GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

Western Star Lodge #113 includes several members from Dannebrog, Nebraska. Dannebrog, which means "Danish flag", is in central Nebraska and is the Danish Capital. Tim Hannibal's great-great-great-grandfather founded Dannebrog in 1871. Hannibal is a member of our lodge.

Dannebrog has some interesting shops in the downtown area. Hannibal is the owner of a unique ice cream cafe. Dannebrog Delights is a wonderlicious ice cream cafe with board games, arts and crafts, and puzzles. It has a cozy atmosphere for customers to enjoy their treats. Edie Grim, another member of our lodge, has a quaint shop named "Bedstemor's". She has many antiques and other miscellaneous items and has a collection of Bing & Grondahl and Royal Copenhagen Blue plates dating back to the 1960s. She also sells Danish licorice which is from the Licorice International store in Lincoln, Nebraska. Another shop in this Danish town is the Danish Bakery. The bakery is dedicated to crafting exceptional, high-quality bread and baked goods that celebrate the art of traditional baking. The Treasure Trove, which is a shop located where the old Pawnee Indian Court was years ago and is owned by Roger Welsch, sells artisan items. They have over forty vendors with homemade items such as rugs, knives, pottery and paintings.

Columbia Hall, which sits in the hub of town, was built in 1908 by the Danish Brotherhood. A complete renovation of the hall was started in 1991. It now serves as a community hall and museum. The Danish Sisterhood was established in 1909 and used the hall until they disbanded in the late 1940s.

Within the last few years, several Amish families have moved into the area and have contributed to the community.

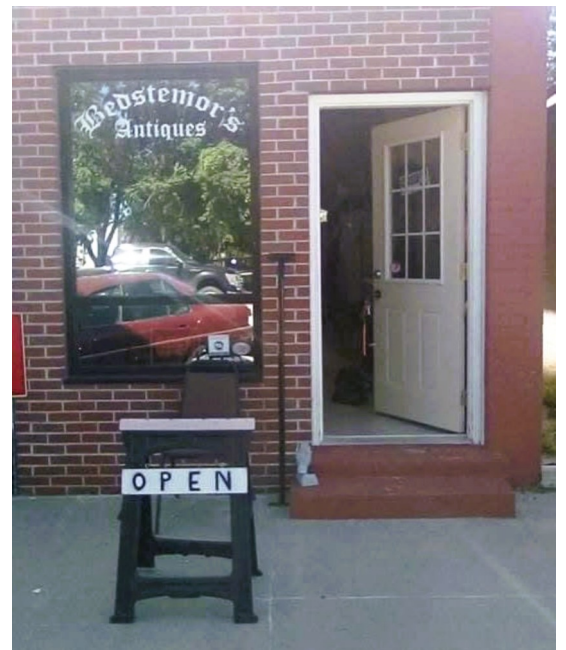
Members of Western star Lodge #113 include Diana Honore, Sylvia McTavish, Edie Grim, Tim Hannibal, Leila Johnson, Jackie Gawrych, Carolyn Andersen, Christine Rindone, Vicki Vig and Lois Baasch. The husband of Diana Honore, the member who has belonged in our lodge the longest and is our President, was born in Denmark. They have made nine trips to Denmark to see family. Lois Baasch's husband was also born in Denmark. Sylvia McTavish, our Vice President, celebrated her 94th birthday in the hospital after breaking her hip. She says she's doing fine, is 100% Danish and is one tough Dane.

We are a small group but we enjoy meeting together nine months of the year. We have learned to speak Danish phrases such as "jeg elsker dig", which means I love you. We are also learning our numbers from 1-10 in Danish. We all treasure our Danish heritage.

Submitted by Edie Grim



The photos on this page, and on the following page, are from downtown shops in Dannebrog. Photography by Western Star Lodge #113.



LEARN ABOUT WESTERN STAR LODGE #113, GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA (cont.)



Photography was done
by Western Star Lodge
#113.



These are more photos from downtown shops
in Dannebrog.



IT'S A T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST!

Calling all creative members!

Help design the next official
DSS T-Shirt!



The T-shirt can either be long sleeve or short sleeve.
Maximum three colors.

The deadline to enter is January 1st, 2026.

You will be featured wearing your designed T-shirt in our *Danish Sisterhood News*.

Please e-mail your design and where the placement of the design is on the shirt to:
Karen Vig-Keathley, DSS Board Trustee
Trustee3@danishsisterhood.com

Good luck and thanks for participating!



THANK YOU FOR THE BETTY HANSEN CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT



Thank you very much to the Danish Sisterhood for selecting me to be a recipient of the Betty Hansen Continuing Education grant. I was able to attend a quilting/crafting retreat this past spring, where I completed most of the top of a large quilt. I attended with my daughter which was extra special. You are able to learn so much from the leaders and other quilters who attend; that makes it extra special.

My quilt is now complete and is decorating my bed. The gnomes are cut in various pieces while the tools and flowers I appliqued in place.

Thank you for including our Sisters in this opportunity.

~~Marjorie Wheeler, Lodge #78 Troy, NY

PHOTO LEFT: Picture from the retreat showing Marge Wheeler on left with project completion during that time. The lady on the right is Reggie Kirkwood, another quilter. *Photography by Beth Hart.*



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE VARIOUS DANISH SISTERHOOD LODGES



Merry Christmas and best wishes to all in 2026 from Lodge #3 Davenport, Iowa.

Glaedelig Jul
og Godt Nytår!



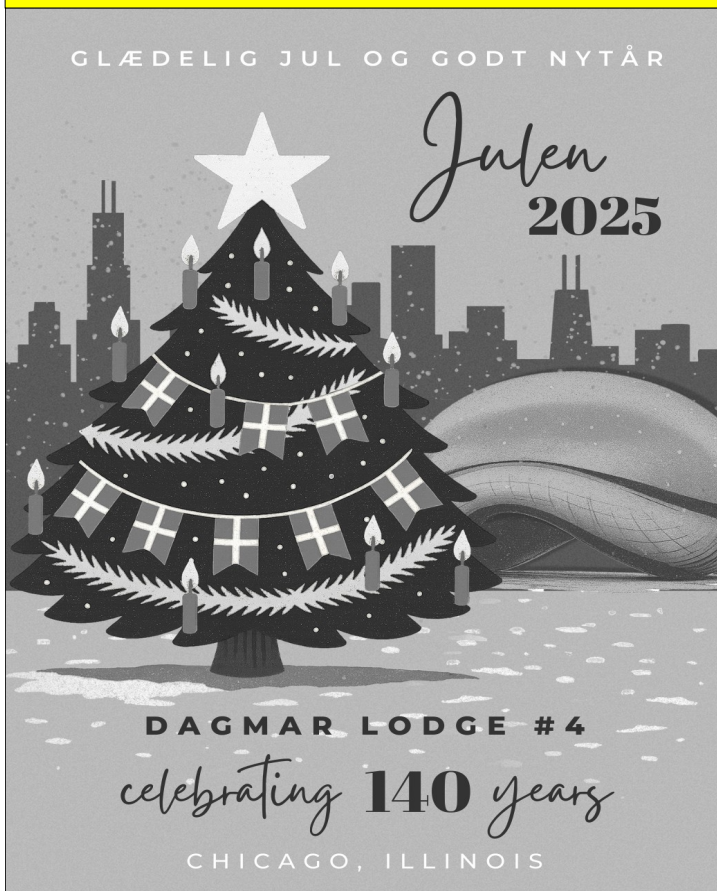
From Flora Danica Lodge #177
Solvang, California



Ønsker dig
og dine kære
en velsignet
jul

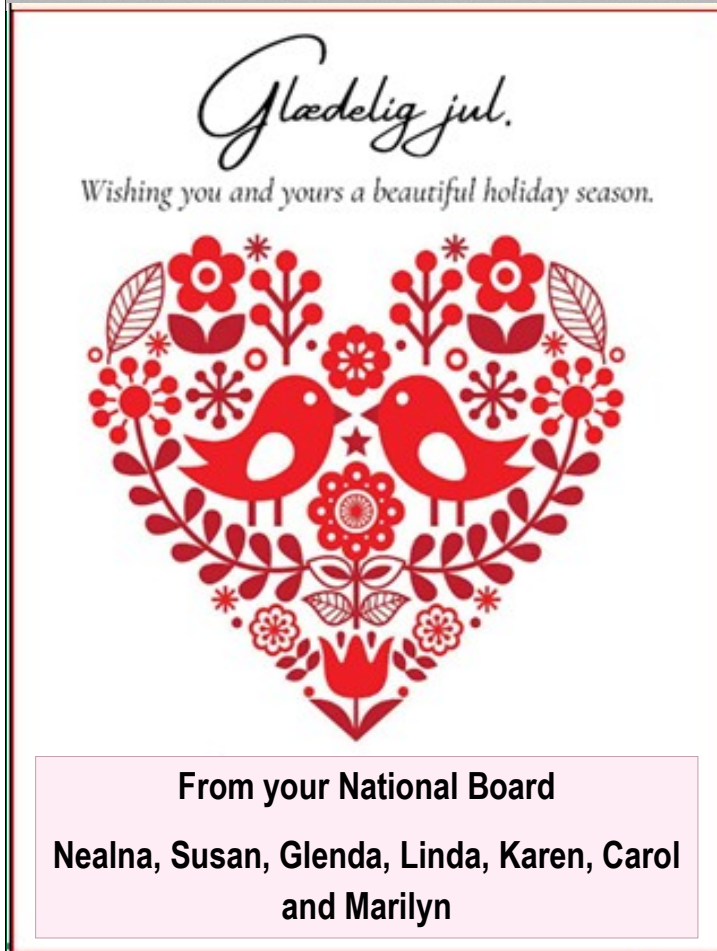
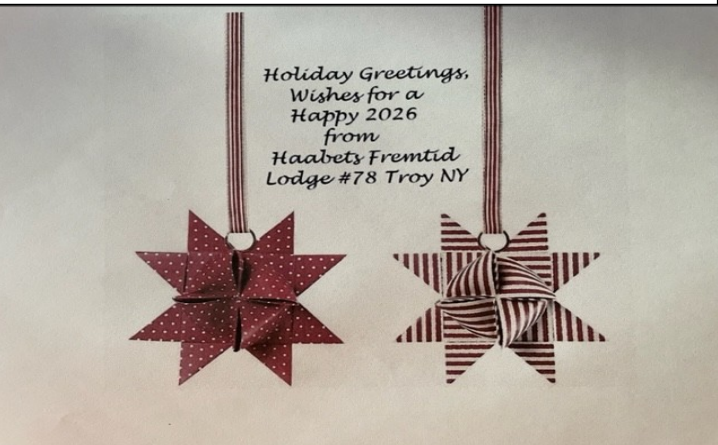
From your
sisters at
Hygge Lodge
#188

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE VARIOUS DANISH SISTERHOOD LODGES



Glædelig Jul og Godt Nytår.

*Katherine Lodge #20
Kenosha, WI*

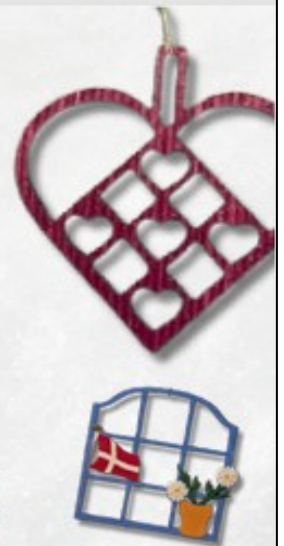


**Become
a
MoDA
Member**

& receive a special gift!

Celebrate the season with the Museum of Danish America! When you join as an Explorer Member, you'll receive a beautiful gift—either a papirklip ornament or a traditional julehjerte. This heartfelt thank-you for supporting the museum is available only while supplies last!

DanishMuseum.org/membership/



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE VARIOUS DANISH SISTERHOOD LODGES



*Holiday Greetings
from Evergreen
Lodge #40*

*Seattle,
Washington*



*From Amber Lodge 186
Brainerd, MN*



**GLÆDELIG JUL OG
GODT NYTÅR**

fra Dronning
Margrethe Lodge
#15 Milwaukee



Dorthea Lodge #65

Glædelig Jul

Glædelig Jul og Godt Nytår

From the Sisters of Lodge #153

Hartford, CT



Merry Christmas
Glædelig Jul
and
Happy New Year

Princess Marie Lodge 68,
Los Angeles

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE VARIOUS DANISH SISTERHOOD LODGES

Glædelig
Jul og Godt
Nytår fra
Crown
Princess
Ingrid #165

Jul, 2025

Santa Barbara,
California



*Glædelig Jul
og Godt Nytår!*

*Best wishes and
Happy Holidays*

Lodge #102 Des Moines, Iowa

Glaedelig Jul

From

Freden Lodge #12

New Haven, CT



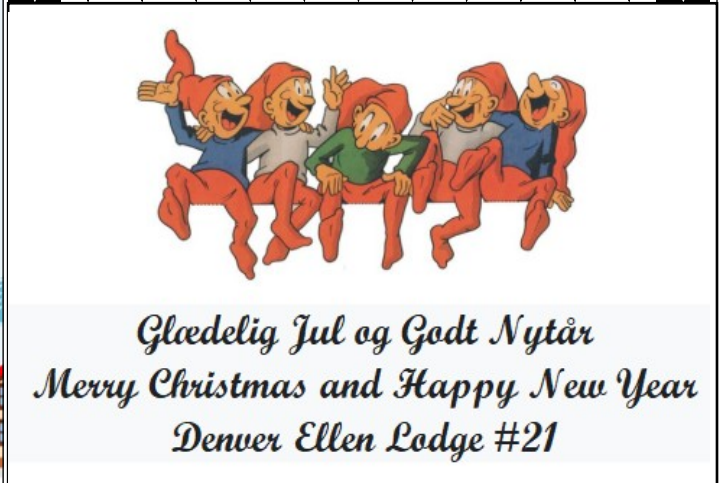
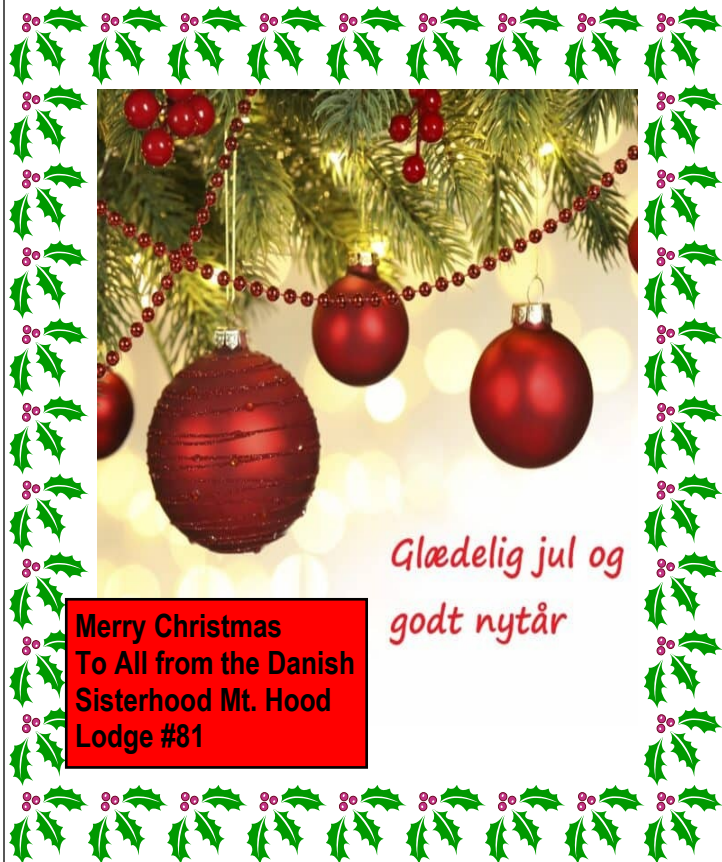
Warm Holiday Wishes From
Florida Sunshine Lodge #181



Glaedelig Jul og Godt Nytår fra
Danmark's Dotre Lodge #90
Lincoln, Nebraska



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE VARIOUS DANISH SISTERHOOD LODGES



MEET YOUR 2026 DENMARK TOUR DIRECTOR

Even though I have known about the Danish Sisterhood of America for decades, I have never really had an opportunity or reason to get too acquainted with this worthy organization that is represented across the continent. I have now, especially after I was asked to become the tour director for DSS's bi-annual trip to Denmark: This occurred after Benedikte Ehlers (previous Tour Director) and I had some valuable conversations. I was glad I accepted the task which expanded my network both in the USA and in Denmark, but also gave me an opportunity to connect with 32 great Danes and Danish-Americans, who had signed up for the tour to East Jutland and Copenhagen.

In 2026, the tour will go to The Wild and Wonderful North Jutland and a post tour to Roskilde and Copenhagen. You can read about this elsewhere. As an educator by trade and a semi-pro team handball coach, especially in Frederikshavn, I have over the years arranged numerous trips abroad and chaperoned just as many. Handball brought me to Norway and Germany, language tour programs arranged by Tjøereborg Studio gave me great trips to England, The Channel Islands and the US (Allentown/Bethlehem and Quincy/Boston). Often, from 2000 to 2020, I was the tour organizer for the National Danish Performance Team in Canada and the Eastern and Southern US. In addition, I have facilitated many trips across the Atlantic, both ways, for dancers, musicians, gymnasts, students and educators via The Danish Gymnastics and Sports Association, Berea College and The Folk Circle Association of Berea, Aalborg Business College and others.

After high school, I spent a year at Aarhus Sports Academy (idrætshøjskole) and spent another year traveling in the Middle East, Europe, Latin and North America, which probably created some additional survivor skills and critical thinking. I graduated from Hjørring with a teaching degree, from Aalborg University with a “korrespondent” degree and did graduate work there as well with a focus on International relations. While teaching at a business college (16 to 20-year olds), I earned two degrees from The Educational Institute of Denmark for Vocational Studies in Copenhagen (Danmarks Erhvervspædagogiske Læreruddannelse). I created a tourism program, which later on was used for women, who needed a second or third chance to return to the labor market.

In 1997, I gave up my tenured position at Aalborg Business College and moved to Berea, Kentucky, because I had married a Kentuckian, Barbara (educator of French, Spanish and English). The next many years, I found myself teaching for some time, worked as a realtor (Berkshire Hathaway), bought a café with twenty-eight employees and ran it for almost ten years. In 2002, I created Dantucky Properties LLC, which I still have some fun with.

My engagement in the local community has always been important and extensive, and I can look back at many activities and creations that made a difference in many people's lives. In addition, my involvement with Rebild National Park Society, Danish American Heritage Society and Madison County International Committee has been extensive. I also serve on my church's endowment committee.

~~Sune Frederiksen, Berea, Kentucky (See Sune's photo below)



Denmark in 2026

Wild & Wonderful North Jutland

Tour guide: Sune Frederiksen

See the October Newsletter or the Sisterhood Website at www.danishsisterhood.org for more information and registration form.



DID YOU KNOW?

Our Danish Sisterhood Archives Project is coming to a close. We had a successful fund raising campaign, thanks to YOU!! We exceeded our goal and raised \$43,000 to rent a high quality scanner and hired an intern to scan all of our sisterhood secretary and treasurer ledgers, scrapbooks, the Danish Sisterhood Treasures Cookbook and photographs. The money also allowed us to download all of the Sisterhood Files onto the museum website. Everything is now on line and available for your research and viewing pleasure. It is housed on the Danish America Digital Library site at the Museum of Danish America. <https://box2.nmtvault.com/DanishIM/>

Take a stroll through our rich history and appreciate the gifts given to us by all of the members that came before us.

Thanks to our Danish Sisterhood and Museum of Danish America Partnership Committee who worked tirelessly to make this project happen. Our appreciation goes to committee members:

Tova Brandt, Museum of Danish America (MoDA)

Mindy Brown, MoDA Former Board Member and Sisterhood Denver Lodge # 21

Karen Vig Keathley, Danish Sisterhood National Board and Sisterhood Lodge #4

Cheyenne Nordquist, Museum of Danish America and Sisterhood Lodge #102

John Rasmussen, MoDA Board Member and Danish Sisterhood Lodge #300

Carol Rudisill, Danish Sisterhood National Board and Sisterhood lodge #102

Elizabeth Steffensen, MoDA Board Member and Danish Sisterhood Lodge #4

It was a pleasure to work with **YOU** our donors, **YOU** our Sisterhood Members and **YOU** our Partnership Committee! Your support is appreciated!

Marcia Jante, Danish Sisterhood Partnership Committee and Sisterhood Lodge #15



How to use the QR code above: Open phone to camera mode, hover phone above the QR code, a link will pop up. Click on the link and it will take you to Museum of Danish America site to sign up for membership.

DANISH SISTERHOOD BUTIKKEN

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



PHOTO LEFT:
Hanne Michelsen, Treasurer from Dagmar Lodge #4, is wearing our Unisex Gilden V-neck Softstyle 100% cotton royal blue T-Shirt. Cost is \$24.00. Sizes are Medium to 2XL.



PHOTO ABOVE:
Kimberly Hansen Vice President from Dagmar Lodge #4 is wearing our Unisex Gilden long sleeve 100% cotton royal blue t-shirt. Cost is \$28.00. Sizes are Medium to 2XL.

ITEMS BELOW:

God Jul Earrings — \$12.00

Basket Weave Earrings — \$12.00

Plastic Æbleskiver Pan ornament — \$20.00



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.



Danish Sisterhood News

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**POSTMASTER, PLEASE RUSH
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References:

Christmas Spirit at Tivoli, Author: Suzanne Nilsson

Photo taken 12/5/2015

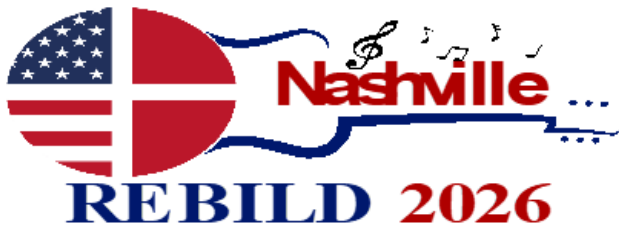
[File:Christmas spirit at Tivoli \(23722914991\).jpg - Wikimedia Commons](#)

See Page 3 about Tivoli, more information at:

[Experience the magic of Christmas in Tivoli](#)

Annual Rebuild Convention

April 7-14, 2026



Holiday Inn Stadium Downtown

www.rebildfesten.dk

Convention chair: Sune Frederiksen,

1-859-248-0690, sune.ky@icloud.com.

Corporate secretary: Linda Steffensen, usrebildoffice@gmail.com

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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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