

Serving the
Danish Sisterhood of America Since 1947

Danish Sisterhood News

July 2025



In This Issue:

- ♦ Christmas ads are due October 1st!
- ♦ Discounts on items at Butikken.
- ♦ There is a new Danish Sisterhood GARDEN FLAG that you can purchase! It's great as a gift!
- ♦ Lodge members tell their stories.
- ♦ Articles about lodge activities and great lodge adventures.
- ♦ Upcoming tour of Solvang: Have you considered attending?



President's Corner



Greetings to all of you:

Happy July 4th! Don and I have recently returned from the Pacific Northwest District Convention in Vancouver, BC. We had a wonderful time, and it reminded me why it is important for National Officers to attend the district conventions. The conversations I had, and ideas members shared as well as concerns they have, are so important for the National Board to hear. It is also a great way to share with the lodges what the National Board is doing and has planned. I enjoyed meeting Sisters I had not met before and renewing friendships of those I knew. I want to thank the Pacific Northwest Sisterhood and Brotherhood for being so welcoming and for a wonderful weekend.

One of the questions that comes up frequently is why the National Sisterhood doesn't do electronic payments for dues (we do for butikken). We have discussed this many times but struggle with how to make it work. Most of the lodges have local dues as well as national dues, so even if we did the national dues electronically, there are still the local dues to be paid. At the present time, it seems more practical for the local lodges (if they want to set it up) to accept the electronic payment so members can pay the entire payment with one transaction. The local lodge can then pay the national portion of the dues by check or through Zelle. We will continue to look at other options and if you have suggestions, please contact us.

Lastly, please note that we are doing "Christmas in July". You will find Christmas items on sale in DSS Butikken. Now is a great time to buy some Christmas items. You will also find an ad reminding you to think about your lodge's Christmas greeting. The Christmas greetings will be due October 1st. Look for pricing in the August newsletter. The December newsletter with the greetings is special and we want to give the Editor plenty of time to get all those greetings organized and the newsletter to you on time. Thanks for your help with getting your greetings in early!

As always, let us know how we can help you. We are here for YOU.

Nealna

Nealna Gylling, National President

Danish Sisterhood News

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

www.danishsisterhood.com
Volume 78, Number 7

Published by the Supreme Lodge of the Danish Sisterhood of America (Dansk Søster Samfund) as its Official Publication.

DANISH SISTERHOOD NEWS (USPS 148-200) is published monthly by the Supreme Lodge of the Danish Sisterhood of America. Office of publication at 1610 Birch Dr, Solvang, CA 93463. Periodicals Postage Paid at Rochester, MN.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to DANISH SISTERHOOD NEWS, 1610 Birch Dr, Solvang, CA 93463.

EDITOR: Charlene Jensen, (503) 956-4353
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Articles for publication in the Danish Sisterhood News must arrive to the Editor no later than the 1st day of each month previous to publication.

Subscription: Members \$12 (US) Non-Members \$20 (US)

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Dear Sisters and Mister Sisters:

I hope all is going well for each of the Sisters and Mister Sisters. We are now in spring and many people are anticipating great activities in summertime which will be here before we know it! I welcome any articles and/or photos with regard to your recent or upcoming lodge events. People have expressed a desire to learn Danish crafts to create. If your lodge made crafts recently, please feel free to submit photos to me as well as the directions about how to make those crafts. I am happy to print that information. Many of our members would like to learn about crafts that they can make with their lodge and then sell at fundraisers to raise money for their lodges. — **Charlene Jensen, Editor of Danish Sisterhood News**
editor@danishsisterhood.com

Velkommen



**Charlene M. Jensen,
Editor**

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Corner.....	P 2
Velkommen from the Editor.....	P 3
News from the Lodges.....	P 4
Danish Sisterhood Archives	P 5
Unity Lodge #75.....	P 6
Stories by Danes.....	P 7,8
Lodges share their activities.....	P 9
Mama Rose and Thomas Dambo.....	P 10,11
Mt. Hood Lodge #81.....	P 12
Rest in Peace, Edwin Kramer.....	P 13
Judith Frederiksen.....	P 14
Danish Sisterhood Butikken.....	P 15
Details/Solvang Application.....	on back cover

UPCOMING TOUR OF SOLVANG! SAVE THE DATE!



Welcome to Solvang: We are thrilled to let you know about an upcoming tour of Solvang. Many of you have expressed an interest in visiting this quaint little Danish community; therefore, we planned this trip for October 20 – 24, 2025.

Guests will arrive at the Santa Barbara Municipal Airport on Monday the 20th, flying out Friday the 24th. The tentative schedule includes:

- A guided walking tour of downtown Solvang, to include the Bethania Lutheran Church and Santa Ynez Mission.
- A tour of the Ingeborg's Chocolate factory and tasting.
- A guided tour of the Elverhoj Museum along with a welcome reception.
- Time for shopping and browsing our many shops and bakeries.
- A visit to Solvang's new Dambo Troll, LuLu Hyggelig, located in the California Nature Art Museum (the only one placed indoors and in CA).
- A visit and tasting at one of our many local wineries.
- Bus tour through the Santa Ynez Valley with stops planned at the Jane-way Carriage Museum and Chumash Museum.
- The trip includes 4 nights at the Solvang Inn and Cottages with continental breakfasts included at Olsen's Danish Bakery (located across the street). It also includes a couple of dinners and a lunch.

Plans are being made for an additional class or two as well. We have a 23-person maximum for this trip. The price, deposit and registration details are on our website. The lodges will also be notified via email. Please note this will be priced for the tour only and does not include airfare. We hope to see you in October. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

~~**Glenda Madrid, Danish Sisterhood Secretary**

Email: secretary@danishsisterhood.com

Ph#: 805-448-7631: Please leave a message if I'm unable to answer.



ON THE COVER: This is a picture of King Christian X of Denmark riding through Copenhagen on his 70th birthday, September 26, 1940. King Christian X of Denmark is known for his brave act during the Nazi occupation of Denmark. German forces invaded Denmark in April 1940. The Danish government surrendered. The Nazis imposed strict control over the country. The Nazis persecuted Jews and others deemed "undesirable." Despite the dangers, King Christian X refused to be silenced. King Christian X was a symbol of Danish resistance and a beacon of hope for his people. He rode on horseback through the streets of Copenhagen every day without protection. This was a sign of his defiance against the occupying forces. The daily rides of King Christian X became legendary and inspired the Danish people to resist the occupation. The Danish people stood by their king. The King's daily rides continued until the end of the occupation in 1945.

Exciting newsletter update! In our attempt to save money and improve timeliness in getting the newsletter to our subscribers, we are changing printers. In doing so, we have learned that if we mail them via a presort standard rate instead of a periodical rate, we can save about 30 cents per newsletter. This also means they should reach you sooner. The only change is that it will be folded to mail. It will still be stapled. We, the Board, hope this change gives you, our readers, a better experience!

NEWS FROM THE LODGES

IN MEMORIAM—July 2025

NAME	Cert #	Lodge #	Location	Birth Date	Birth Place	Initiated	Died	Benefit
Edna J. Baldwin	1163	36	Perth Amboy, NJ	4.20.27	Perth Amboy, NJ	9.21.01	4.21.25	-0-
Ruth Christensen	8043	149	Fresno, CA	8.27.28	Denmark	5.14.14	5.10.25	-0-
Jack Reynolds	913	11	Chicago, IL	7.17.26	Decatur, IL	8.20.90	2.14.23	-0-

MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION for July 2025

LODGE	NEW MEMBER	SPONSOR
126	Janet Gilmore	Sandra Madsen
300	Janice Lemburg	online
185	Ruth Zeager	Minna Mortensen
300	Helena Farnaes	online
75	Linda Carlsen	Melanie Berg
75	Nicole Rank	Carol Lingner
102	Phyllis Jessen	Sue Fisher

July Birthdays

Name	Lodge	Age
Alexandra Galarza	4	13



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. If you are interested in becoming an Angel member, please request a beneficiary change form from your Lodge Secretary or the National Secretary. **Angel Status Member: Ulla Reid, Lodge #36**



Don't be on the
Naughty List...

Christmas Ads are due
October 1.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY
SALE

25% OFF

SELECT STYLES

BUTIKKEN SALE! CHECK OUT THE
DEALS LISTED ON PAGE -15- !

DO YOU KNOW HOW EASY IT IS TO SEARCH THE DANISH SISTERHOOD ARCHIVES AT THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA?

Simply visit the Museum Website: [Home - Museum of Danish America](https://www.museumofdanishamerica.com/)

Go to the collections tab and scroll down to Danish American Digital Library. box2.nmtvault.com/DanishIM/

Click on Browse the library and begin your exploration of ledgers, scrap-books and the Sisterhood Newsletters.

Here are some lodge activities I found in the DSS News from days gone by:

- The Selma CA Lodge decorated cars for the Armistice Day Parade.
- The Cleveland Lodge #63 had card parties with homemade pot holders as prizes.
- Members of the Bridgeport Connecticut Lodge went on a picnic to visit members that had moved to New York. After a hot dog roast they returned home with killed chickens, fresh eggs and butter.
- The Austin Minnesota Lodge formed a knitting club. They made afghan blankets and lap robes which were sent to army, navy and veteran hospitals and tuberculosis wards.
- In Troy, New York, they held a lodge anniversary celebration. At midnight the Sisters conducted a traditional Fastelavn Ceremony. The prize was a real live duck dressed in a bonnet and shawl.
- In June of 1948, most lodges were using the American language to recruit younger members.

Thanks to YOU, and your financial support, this digital library is available 24/7. Go ahead, take a stroll into our rich history!
—Marcia Jante, DSS Lodge #15 and MoDA Board Member

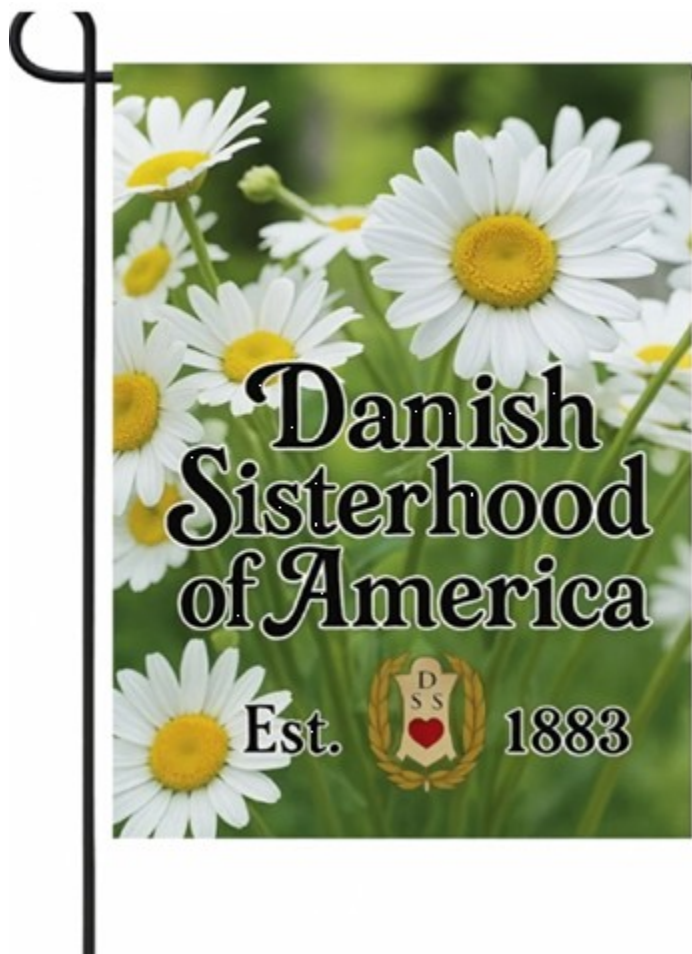


PHOTO LEFT: This lovely **DSS GARDEN FLAG** is now on sale! Turn to page –15– , Butikken, to learn how to purchase this flag. Purchase several flags if you have family members or friends who would like one of these flags!



Congratulations to the 2025 Camp Grant Recipients

Daniel Olesen – Lodge #4 attending Den Danske Sommerskole

Athena Christiansson – Lodge #165 attending Galeta School of Ballet

Mason Knudsen – Lodge #165 attending LEGO Camp

NEWS FROM UNITY LODGE #75, ENUMCLAW, WASHINGTON

Report from Unity Lodge #75 in Enumclaw, Washington: Our lodge has been actively seeking new members and would like to report that we gained the distinction of most new members for the Pacific Northwest District for 3 years in a row and we have already added 2 new members in 2025. Most of the new members have come because of our community wide events showcasing the Danish Hall which turned 125 years old this year.

We had Fastelavn on our calendar of events this year and started planning for the event when we realized that it was the Hall's 125th birthday so we switched and held a birthday party on March 29th instead, inviting the Enumclaw City Mayor and the District County councilman. Pepe Terou, our building rental coordinator, gathered historical information from the Buckley Banner newspaper archives (Buckley had a newspaper before Enumclaw) which had followed the speedy building of the Hall each week as well as covering the Grand Opening Celebration in great detail.

Pepe presented that information with pictures hung on the wall as well as in her opening speech at the party. A varied group of about 50 people enjoyed her vignettes from the past including excerpts from the Danish Brotherhood minutes. When Reagan Dunn, our county councilman spoke, he presented the Danish Hall with a \$2,500 check to help us upgrade the hall and bring it in line with today's technology. The funds came from taxes on visitors to local hotels.

Jennifer Tenney, our treasurer, has recently retired from her career in technology. She is heading up the search for the appropriate keyless entry system along with surveillance cameras so we may soon enter the modern world.

After the speeches, we toasted the hall with aquavit and Queens Punch before enjoying a Danish layer cake from Nielsen's Bakery in Seattle with our coffee while visiting and talking about the strong Danish heritage of our town. One item of special interest was a local directory from 1944 that we had gotten from the local museum and made extra copies. Along with head of household it listed employment, address, spouse, children and branch of service.

Our Spring Bazaar turned into an Æbleskive Brunch and plant/bake sale on May 3rd this year. We didn't have as good a turnout as when we have outside vendors but still had a good return on our efforts. Several faithful followers of our events came with family members and enjoyed visiting at the tables over coffee and Danish desserts from the bake sale well after they finished their æbleskiver. This is always nice to see! It's fun to share stories of times past and check on genealogy connections.

Some newer local visitors have even taken to helping us clean up and get things put away so maybe we will soon see even more new members. I can't believe our luck with weather for our events lately; again the rain and heavy winds held off until we were headed home.

It's a lot of work but members pull together and manage to solve any problems as they come up and in the end, we find we have had a good time and grown together. For a moment we had 4 generations of the Chilman family in the kitchen: Rita was baking æbleskiver, her son Tyler was browning sausages, her granddaughter Metta was mixing æbleskive batter and another granddaughter, Anne, brought the great-granddaughter in to see the family. Next year we'll have to find a job for the great-granddaughter so we can say we had 4 generations of 1 family "working". That might be pushing it a bit, since she will only be 3 years old then! Of course, for years, we've had 3 generations of the Terou family planning and working events and they also have a new generation to start training.

**Med venlighilsen,
Carol Lingner, President**

PHOTO RIGHT: Chris Lambert, a Mister Sister, with a May Day decoration made years ago by Sisterhood members that we used for decoration at our Spring Bazaar. Our 125 year old hall behind him. *Photography by Pepe Terou.*



PHOTO ABOVE: Plants and garden Gnomes made by Becky Thomas at our Spring Bazaar. *Photography by Pepe Terou.*



BO AND BIBBI IN DAYTON OHIO



PHOTO ABOVE: Bo Troll.

"My mom, Martha Roy, is a member and President of the Dorthea Lodge #65 in Greenville, Michigan. She gets your newsletter and reads it regularly. She let me know that several of Thomas Dambo's creations had been featured in your publication.

During March 2025, I took a trip to Dayton and saw several of Thomas Dambo's pieces at Aullwood Audobon."

— **Angela Violet**



PHOTO ABOVE: Bibbi Troll.

MY SISTERHOOD JOURNEY

My Sisterhood Journey | By Else Lassiter

I joined the Solvang Flora Danica Lodge #177 in 1972, after much encouragement from my husband, Bob, who was already in the Danish Brotherhood (even if he was from Oklahoma!). At that time I was 31 years old. I had only been in the USA for 8 years. Well, after I joined, I wasn't sure it was for me! To attend a meeting you had to whisper the password to the Marshall (half of them couldn't remember what it was!). Before you got initiated you had to wait in the "ante" room while they reviewed your application. It was scary to me and I thought it was something from 100 years ago! However, it didn't take long before I became friends with several of the ladies whose husbands were in the Brotherhood. Our two organizations put on many functions and fundraisers; just take a look at our beautiful scrapbooks.

In 1978, I became our local President. I still remember my first meeting, I was so nervous I could hardly talk! Prior to that, Bob and I had attended several District Conventions. At the very first one I was voted in as Guard! You had to be a local president before you could be president of the District. In 1979, Bob and I became District Presidents. They tried to elect couples so that it was easier to travel to the lodges' installations. It was our job to install the lodges' officers. Back then, it was a formal affair, with drill teams as escorts and long dresses! It was a lot of fun. There were always several couples from here and the guys made sure we had our own cocktail party in someone's room before going to the formal installation and banquet. Bob and I together went to District Conventions for 30 years in a row! It was our vacation when the girls were younger.

In 1976, I attended my first National Convention in Hartford, Connecticut. Dagmar Åsted was the National President. She was the one installing our lodge in 1965. Not knowing what or when at a National Convention, our work was cut out for us! We were split up into groups and were appointed a number of pages in the Constitution to submit changes; our committee went to someone's room. We went over page by page and voted on the changes we were in favor of. Our chairperson had to get up at the meeting and present it, then all members had to vote and it could go on and on!

Conventions back then lasted four days! After my first convention, my head was already spinning with ideas! The Sisterhood consists of seven Districts: California-Heartland, Pacific-Northwest, Eastern General-Michigan, Ohio, Ontario, Nebraska, Colorado-Midwest. Bear in mind, we have had 188 lodges but not at one time! Now we also have the 300 National Virtual Lodge.

Article continued on page - 8 -.



PHOTO ABOVE: Else Lassiter helped the Solvang Sisterhood (Flora Danica Lodge #177) by making æbleskiver for Appreciation Day at Nielsen's Building Materials in Solvang, April 1, 2023. Photography by Lisa Pedersen.

MY SISTERHOOD JOURNEY (continued)

My Sisterhood Journey (continued) | By Else Lassiter

Seven years after Hartford, the next National Convention was held in Philadelphia. This was the first joint convention with the Brotherhood, and the Sisterhood; the Sisterhood celebrated their 100th year anniversary. It was a huge affair with 380 people attending. Dagmar was the toastmistress. She asked Judy Andersen from LA (Bien Newspaper) and me to present the flags in our Danish costumes. That was such an honor. From then on, the National Convention was held every four years.

In the fall of 1987, the National Convention was held in Des Moines, Iowa, again a joint affair. Here we finally voted to open membership to women interested in the Danish heritage and traditions. I became an alternate on the board; thinking that was pretty safe and I would never be needed! Well, unfortunately one board member died; in 1989 I was installed as third trustee to the National Board at the District Convention in Santa Barbara. From then on I attended board meetings in Chicago twice a year. I went a total of 13 or 14 times, but, never had a chance to see Chicago until later on when I was there for a District Convention.

In Portland, Oregon, 1991, it was again a joint Convention. The Sisterhood delegates did something unheard of and voted in an almost whole new board except for the President, Lorraine, and me as Vice President! Later, due to serious illness, Lorraine was not able to continue. I was installed as National President at our own installation here in Solvang in January 1994. I was the third National President from California in the 111 years of the Danish Sisterhood. I also took over being editor for the Danish Sisterhood News due to cost of printing and the current editor was replaced; a job I held for ten years, only because my husband was good enough to help me.

Our Board was super supportive and helpful. My good friend, Marcia Jante, from Milwaukee and I both enjoyed food and talked about doing a cookbook. In the Sisterhood News we announced a contest for the best Danish recipe in all the categories listed. Some of the members in Lodge #15 would make sure they were real Danish recipes: That became "Danish Sisterhood Treasures Cookbook". It became a huge success. It was reprinted several times.

The 21st National Convention in 1995 was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This time there was no Brotherhood, although many from the local lodge helped out. We completely revised the Constitution. Password, handclaps and the position of guard was eliminated. This way we could have open meetings. I talked the Board into breaking the ice on the Thursday night gathering! We all dressed up in black tights and special white t-shirts we had made with the Danish flag and the 'Danish Supremes' printed above the flag. We all had a different wig on and we came in pretending to sing "Stop, in the Name of Love"! I think that was the biggest hit ever for that time! It was a great convention; lodge #15 did a fantastic job.

Then, my last hurrah was our own National Convention here in Solvang in 1999. Our lodge did a fantastic job and our Brothers were super helpful. Everyone commented how nice everything was and the fact they could walk around all over town. They all thought they should come here every four years! For the first time, Sisterhood established a website on the Internet! In Vancouver, Canada in 2003, as Past President, my job was to install the incoming officers. I installed Sindy Mikkelsen as the new National President; she has always been a very special friend.

I did attend three more conventions as a guest: Chicago in 2007; San Francisco 2011; and finally, Denver Colorado in 2015, altogether 39 years. I visited 13 states at least once for their District Convention while on the Board.

After Portland, the Board decided it was time to get away from Chicago and have board meetings in the districts to meet the members. Each Board member got to visit a district for their convention in the four years on the Board. Some of my dearest friends I met in the Sisterhood. We had so much fun together with the Brothers in our Lodge. We had huge crowds at our functions at the Memorial Hall. We did a 4th of July fundraiser, Hawaiian Luau, Danish Days dinner dance and hosted several District Conventions. It was a lot of work but we had fun doing it, and to know how much people enjoyed coming made it so worth it.

One of my dearest friends, Jean Pedersen, and I proposed to the lodge that we set up a booth for Danish Days with handmade stuff, as a fundraiser (and it is a lot less work than a dinner dance). Here we are still going strong.

I am so blessed and thankful for everything I have been able to see and do in the Sisterhood, but most of all for all the wonderful friends. I would never expect anyone to be as devoted as I have been but maybe being born and raised in Denmark made me feel our Danish customs and traditions are something special and important enough to honor and keep over here.

NEWS FROM PRINCESS MARIE, LODGE #86, PHILADELPHIA

The Princess Marie Lodge #86 held a lodge meeting on Saturday, March 15, 2025. Our meeting took place at the home of our President, Annette Olesen, with 18 sisters present. President Annette called the meeting to order and the usual reports were accepted as given. Old and New Business was discussed; we then held the Initiation Ceremony for our New Members.

INITIATION

Great News! On Saturday, March 15, we initiated Amanda Olesen Wickline, Lydia Jane Martin, Mary Ann Johnson, Linda Platt and Hillary Olesen Wickline into our lodge!

Past National President and Lodge #86 member, Celeste Cattie, conducted the Initiation ceremony with the assistance of Ann Margret Hinrichsen, acting Marshall.

Marshal Ann Margret escorted each candidate to the Past National President Celeste Cattie with all of us clapping, cheering and singing the initiation song. Each candidate recited the promises and recited the Sisterhood Pledge with right hand over the heart and raising the left hand and touching the constitution.

After the initiation, we enjoyed getting to know our new members. Lunch was filled with laughter and conversation intertwined with food and drink, all of which seemed a grand way to celebrate our new Sisterhood members. We are thrilled to have them join our lodge!

Article and photo submitted by Bente Cloud Secretary Lodge #86 Philadelphia



PHOTO ABOVE: This is a picture of New Member Initiation for Lodge #86, Philadelphia. From left to right: Amanda Olesen Wickline, Lydia Jane Martin, Mary Ann Johnson, Linda Platt and Hillary Olesen Wickline. Welcome, New Members, to Lodge #86!

NEWS FROM THE BLUEWATER MERMAIDS, LODGE #184, ONTARIO/MICHIGAN

Our Sisters meet on the third Saturday of the month, during the winter on Zoom but now we are back to in-person get togethers where we share any news and enjoy fellowship, coffee and "goodies". On May 17th, 8 of us met and we elected our new Board Members.

PHOTO RIGHT: From left to right: President Yvonne Meyer, Past-President Ruth Tandberg, Vice-President Hanne Forbing, Secretary Rigmor Glen, Treasurer Johnna Johansen. *Photography by Gitte Monteith.*

Of Interest: Bluewater Mermaids are made up of Sisters from Michigan and Ontario, the only dual Lodge, US and Canadian.

Submitted by Gitte Monteith

The Bluewater Mermaids, Lodge #184



MAMA ROSA AND THOMAS DAMBO COME TO WISCONSIN

By Annette Lind, Dronning Margrethe Lodge #15, Milwaukee Wisconsin

When Lodge #15 members went on their summer field trip to the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois to see Thomas Dambo's "The Troll Hunt" sculptures, we never realized that six years later Wisconsin would have their own Dambo troll and that our lodge would have a chance to be a part of the story. May was "Troll Month" for Lodge #15 in Milwaukee. It was in May that Thomas Dambo came to town. The speaker at our May 21st meeting was Beth Gleesing, the Tourism Specialist for the City of Wauwatosa, a suburb of Milwaukee. She told us the story of the new Fire Fly Grove Park and how it came to be the home to Dambo's newest project. Using money from a Wisconsin program whereby tourism tax dollars are returned to the cities in which they are collected and money from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, Wauwatosa was able to build the new park with a Dambo troll as the centerpiece at no cost to the local taxpayers. Fire Fly Grove is an appropriate name since the City of Wauwatosa is named for the Potawatomi Chief Wauwataesie and that is the Potawatomi word for fire fly. If you have ever spent a warm, humid evening outside in Wauwatosa in June or July after dark, you understand how appropriate the name "Fire Fly" is.

Beth explained that Wauwatosa has worked hard to become a destination for art tourism. The eastern portion of Tosa (as the locals call it) has many murals on the sides and fronts of buildings and each year the nation's largest live painting event, ART 64, is held for two days in the Village of Wauwatosa, as 64 artists compete for a \$20K Grand Prize. Therefore, when the new park was being planned, it was natural the city would begin looking for a piece of public art. They began a search, but most of what they found had a more contemporary/modern feel which did not seem right for the natural landscape of the park. Then they found Thomas Dambo. His concentration on recycling, and the used wood to build a forest troll, made it almost seem preordained that Dambo would build what was to be the central attraction in the new park.

After visiting Wauwatosa, Dambo agreed and a contract was drawn up for the troll. The park opened on May 28, 2025 and on hand to greet the park visitors was Mama Rosa and her bouquet of recycled Tosa street lights. Made mostly from wood salvaged from trees grown in Wauwatosa, including elm, oak and ash trees, that the city had needed to cut down for various reasons, it is the perfect sculpture for a city with an urban forest of some 25,000 trees along the city streets and in the city parks. May 27, 2025, the night prior to the opening of the park, Thomas Dambo spoke to an audience of 400 people, the number only limited by the capacity of the venue. Lodge #15 played a part in that evening with our members Marcia Jante and Susan Jensen serving Copenhagen cookies provided by our Lodge and made by the Wisconsin O&H Bakery from Racine Wisconsin.

Dambo began his presentation with a rap, entertaining both adults and children in the audience and appropriate since he began his career as a rapper in Denmark. With photos beginning with Dambo as a little boy peaking out of a trash can, he took the audience on his journey from his early days at recycle centers with his dad surreptitiously gathering discarded items, through his days as a graffiti artist, as the "bird house man" placing brightly colored and decorated birdhouses made of recycled material throughout Denmark, as the provider of recycled art entertainment at Denmark's music festivals, as the sailor of a boat made from recycled cardboard on a canal in Copenhagen and finally as the world famous designer/builder of trolls from recycled material. Along the way Dambo became a strong advocate of recycling. In his talk he made many comments on the need to recycle. "Mankind is replacing nature with waste." "One man's trash is another man's treasure." "Don't throw away what could be another person's treasure." "Don't be afraid of dirty things. Just clean them." "Trash is opportunity." "Something made from something old is just as good as something made from something new." "We are running out of resources while drowning in trash." Then, to further make his point, he passed around bowls to collect pocket lint which he said he will take back to Denmark, and eventually he will have enough to knit a sweater.

This article is continued on page -11-



PHOTO ABOVE: Monument plaque on the trail to the Dambo troll includes Dambo's poem. *Photography by Annette Lind.*

MAMA ROSA AND THOMAS DAMBO COME TO WISCONSIN (continued)

By Annette Lind, Dronning Margrethe Lodge #15, Milwaukee Wisconsin

The new troll is appropriately named Mama Rosa, rhyming with Wauwatosa. Dambo said the name comes from the rapper (poet) in him. He also composed a rap/poem for the new sculpture. Two lodge members, Cathy Jones and Eva Christianson, were among the many volunteers who helped to construct the troll. Cathy said of the experience, "It was terrific meeting Thomas Dambo and his team and watching them organically create Mama Rosa right in front of our eyes!" Eva commented, "The troll was an awesome experience."

Dambo and his team and some 25,000 volunteers have constructed 156 trolls in 20 countries. Nineteen states are, or have been, the home of his trolls (some trolls are eventually retired). The Wauwatosa troll has a 10-year contract with the option of extension. World-wide 50,000,000 people have made the journey to see his trolls. With Denmark often leading the way in recycling and in efforts to keep our planet healthy, it is appropriate that among Denmark's most famous artists is Thomas Dambo, the "recycle art activist." Available at the speaking event was a book entitled Thomas Dambo, featuring

his first 100 trolls and stories surrounding them. It is available online. He also made himself available to autograph the book that evening.

Thanks to Marcia Jante who worked hard to create opportunities for our Lodge to participate in the amazing events surrounding the new Wisconsin Troll, Mama Rosa, the first electrified troll. What great fun!

PHOTO LEFT: Mama Rose under construction. *Photography by Cathy Jones.*

PHOTO RIGHT: Marcia Jante presents Thomas Dambo with a Lodge #15 beer at the construction site. *Photography by Cathy Jones.*



PHOTO ABOVE: Mama Rosa smells the "flowers". *Photography by Annette Lind.*



HOW DO THE NORDIC COUNTRIES MARK THE START OF LENT? (continued)

By Karen Snowberg — This story is a continuation and final portion of Karen Snowberg's article printed in the June 2025 issue of *Danish Sisterhood News*.

In Norway, students having seen celebrations in Paris introduced Carnival processions, masked balls and Carnival balls to Christiania (later named Oslo) in the 1840s and 1850s. The student organization Tårnseilerne still produces annual masquerade balls in Oslo in the historical renovated freemasons lodge in the Carnival tradition, with masks, costumes and processions after attending an opera performance. The Carnival season also includes Fastelavnssøndag (with cream buns) and fastelavensris with decorated branches. Fettisdagen (The Fat Tuesday) is the Swedish name for the Tuesday between Shrove Monday and Ash Wednesday. Because it is the last day before the Lenten fast, a tradition has developed of eating buns, called "fastlagsbullar", "fettisdagsbullar" (Fat Tuesday Buns) or "semla". The day is also called "White Tuesday" because the buns are made out of white flour. In Iceland, the day is known as Sprengidagur (Bursting Day) and is marked by eating salted meat and peas. In Finland, the day is called laskiainen and is generally celebrated by eating green pea soup and a pastry called laskiaispulla (sweet bread filled with whipped cream and jam or almond paste, same as the Swedish semla). The celebration in Finland often includes downhill sledding.

Recipe link for buns: [Fastelavnsboller \(Fastelavn Buns\) Recipe](#)



NEWS FROM DANISH SISTERHOOD, MT. HOOD LODGE #81



PHOTO LEFT AND PHOTO BELOW: "These photos were taken on June 8, 2024. After seeing our local troll and pictures of other trolls, I am in awe of the artist's creativity," said Sisterhood member, Marian Case. This troll is named Ole Bolle the Troll. The troll is open to viewing by the public. The troll is on the campus of the non-profit Nordic Northwest located near Washington Square in the Tigard Beaverton area. The Troll is constructed using recycled materials and volunteer workers. *Photography by Marian Case.*

By Marian Case of Danish Sisterhood, Mt. Hood Lodge #81

PHOTO BELOW: This photo is of my grandmother. Her name was Ane Petrine Christensen Nielsen. She was born on March 28, 1880 in Tarup, Odense, Denmark. She married my grandfather, Hans Rasmus Nielsen, on February 6, 1902. I learned family history that I had never known before using Ancestry.com! I had never seen this photo of my grandmother prior to this year. This picture was found on Ancestry.com by my daughter who subsequently shared it with me. Ane Petrine Christensen Nielsen was my mother's mother. My grandmother died on March 6, 1961, in Odense, Fyn, Denmark, when she was 80 years old. I never met my grandmother because she lived in Denmark and I lived in Portland, Oregon.

**By Ann Jensen,
Trustee of
Danish Sister-
hood, Mt. Hood
Lodge #81**



PHOTO RIGHT: This is a picture of my grandfather on my mother's side. My grandfather was named Hans Rasmus Nielsen and he was married to my grandmother, Ane Petrine Christensen Nielsen. He was born on December 3, 1876. I wish I could have met him. However, he and his wife—my grandmother—never traveled to the USA. I never traveled to Denmark. I did get to hear wonderful stories about Grandpa Nielsen from my mother. Apparently he loved to take in and care for stray cats. **By Ann Jensen, Trustee of Danish Sisterhood, Mt. Hood Lodge #81**



REST IN PEACE, EDWIN KRAMER

A Tribute to Edwin Kramer, 6/26/1946 — 2/21/2025

Our Christmas Service Chorus Director, Ed Kramer, passed away unexpectedly. I was fortunate to be able to attend his memorial service at his church in Ingleside, Illinois. It was the loveliest I'd ever attended. The choir was impeccable as if angels had descended from heaven: Ed would have loved that. After the service, many friends and family members gave eulogies with magical memories being shared that lasted for over an hour. A wonderful eulogy was given by our own Dagmar Lodge sister, Pastor Karen Knutson.



PHOTO ABOVE: Bjornson Male Chorus of Chicago at Summerfest 2012 at the Danish Home in Chicago.

simple smørrebrød, rosinboller, cookies, cakes, kringle, klejner, coffee and more. Ed was known for his love of—and lifelong involvement in—music, as well as being an accomplished pianist and music conductor/director.

From 1997 to 2020, Ed conducted the Bjornson Male Chorus of Chicago, which led to his founding and conducting of the Chicago Norsemen from 2020; those members performed for us each Christmas. Ed worked tirelessly behind the scenes, pouring his heart and soul into all of his musical endeavors.



Our Lodge sister, Tracey Nielsen, is married to her husband, Paul. Paul is a Music Director who worked with Ed often. I have high hopes that we can make Ed proud this year. If you are in or near the Chicagoland area, please join us for the 31st Annual Danish Christmas Service at 2 pm on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at Edison Park Lutheran Church, 6626 N. Oliphant Ave, Chicago, Illinois 60631. Refreshments following the service. It's an event that's not to be missed.

Submitted by Christine Lundsberg Geiger
Vice President, Midwest District Dagmar #4
Tivoli #300 Lodge Member

PHOTO LEFT: Bjornson Male Chorus at Sangerfest 2012.



PHOTO ABOVE: Edwin Kramer at Sangerfest 2012 Grand Concert.

For 30 years Ed served as the Chorus Director for our Danish Christmas Service in Chicago with Dr. Rev. Karen Knutson leading the worship with the sermon spoken only in Danish.

Always following the Christmas Service, there is a social gathering with refreshments provided by Dagmar Lodge #4. Ed and his chorus looked forward to all the Danish goodies;

A NEW DANISH SISTER TELLS HER STORY, MEMBER OF LODGE #181

I am a new Danish Sister as of this past year...the granddaughter of a Swedish grandmother and a Danish grandfather. They left their respective countries to marry and travel to America. I always knew quite a bit about my Swedish history but nothing about my Grandfather. One day at church, I happened to meet a Dane named Janet Proper (née Jensen). With her encouragement, I got to know more about my Danish roots.

Now in the Sunshine Lodge, I have enjoyed getting to know the members. I have become immersed in finding my Danish background and in learning our culture. I truly like being around people who not only can pronounce my name, but know how to spell it! Although I always knew my Grandfather was Danish, I'm told he never spoke of his past history, even to his sons. He was a proud American, having come here in 1912. He and my grandmother (the Swede) raised their 8 sons in upstate New York. He passed away only one year before I was born.

When I was in my twenties, my grandmother passed away. Although she had 22 other grandchildren, I was the only one who was ever interested in our history. So, I got her jewelry and family history. Included was a small pin (in its original box) that looked to me like the Danish flag (see photo below). Since the date on it was 1940, I was sure that was the time that my Grandparents received it. Although I asked Danes through the years and researched it, no one ever knew what it was. As I was preparing to attend the Conference in Edison as a delegate, I kept thinking about it.

Well, one morning a few weeks before the Conference, I looked at it again and the markings were giving me a clue. I looked up the King of Denmark in 1870 and it told me about the Danish royal history...And there it was! Christian the Tenth (C X) was born in 1870. The encyclopedia told me of his becoming King and his strong reaction to the Germans invading in 1940. During the occupation, he bravely rode his horse every day through Copenhagen without a guard. He did it to show the people that he was not afraid of the German government and that it was still their country no matter the circumstances. And then...there were the words, "A popular way for Danes to display Patriotism and silent resistance to the German occupation was wearing a small square button with the Danish flag and the Crowned insignia of the King. This symbol was called Kongemaerket, i.e., King's Emblem pin." It undoubtedly was sent to my grandfather from his sister in 1940; I am still trying to track down this side of the family. So, thanks to my friend, Janet, and our connection, I finally have the answer to my precious pin that is the only thing I have of my Grandfather's.

I had Kongemaerket cleaned by a jeweler and I proudly wore it in Edison. What a strong heritage we have as Danes! Another big step to knowledge of my Danish family. **By Judith Frederiksen**



PHOTO ABOVE: The pin and box are pictured here. Beside it are the pins that were given to my Grandparents in 1943, to honor the fact that they had 6 sons in the Military during WWII. Their other twin boys were not old enough to serve yet. But they followed 2 years later.



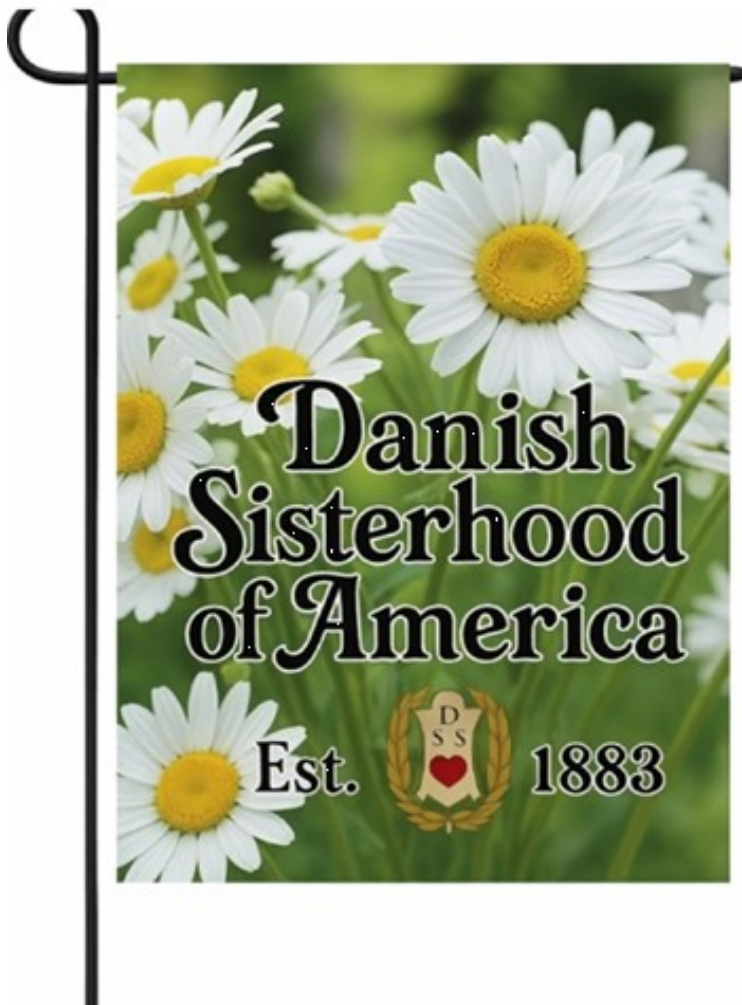
PHOTO LEFT: This is a photo of my grandparents, Julius Frederiksen and Annie Olsson Frederiksen.

DANISH SISTERHOOD BUTIKKEN

Visit the DSS Website Marketplace Butikken to see all Butikken items available



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 Plastic æbleskive Pan Ornament — cost \$20.00, **sale \$15.00**
 God Jul earrings — cost \$12.00, **sale \$9.00**
 Basket Weave Earrings — cost \$12.00, **sale \$9.00**
 Danish Prayer tea towel — cost \$15.00, **sale \$11.25**
 DSS Garden Flag — cost \$20.00, **sale \$15.00**
 Sequin Baseball Cap — cost \$20.00, **sale \$15.00**



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Danish Sisterhood News

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

Danish Sisterhood of America—SOLVANG Tour October 20—24, 2025

Please complete this form and return to Glenda Madrid with your deposit.

Please make your check payable to Danish Sisterhood of America. Deposit deadline is July 15, 2025.

Traveler's name: _____ vegetarian meal _____
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Trip cost: \$ 1350 single occupancy \$ 1000 double occupancy
 \$ 1500 – non-member \$1150 - non-member

Maximum of 23 participants, price does not include airfare.

Deposit of \$500 is due at the time of the booking. Deadline for booking is July 15th.

All final payments and additional fees (for non-members and single room) are due by September 1st, 2025.

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Published by:
Supreme Lodge of
the
Danish Sisterhood
of America
National Secretary:
Glenda Madrid
1610 Birch Dr,
Solvang,
CA 93463

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