

Serving the
Danish Sisterhood of America Since 1947

Danish Sisterhood News

February 2025



In this issue:

- * Lodge Events that took Place
- * President's Column
- * Peter Freuchen
- * Thomas Dambo
- * Wonderful Danish Items to Buy



President's Corner



Greetings to all of you:

We are already into February of a new year: 2025. Sometimes it seems like this time of year is a slow time after the busy holiday season but there are still many things to get done. This is the time of year many lodges have just installed new officers, are collecting dues, and planning programs for the year. Maybe not all that exciting, but very important, none the less.

If you are a new treasurer or secretary, or an old one, I want to let you know that the guides for secretaries and treasurers are now found on the website under the "members only" section. These guidelines contain information to help you do the secretary/treasurer job. I have been secretary and treasurer of my lodge and didn't even know these guides existed. It would have made some parts of the job so much easier.

Another item added to the "members only" section is an instruction page for filing the 990 -e-postcard with the IRS. This needs to be filed each year by each lodge to maintain your 501c8 designation. Once this is lost, it becomes expensive and difficult to get again. Thanks to the treasurer of Lodge #21 for writing these instructions for us.

A reminder that annual reports and membership dues should be sent by February 28. I know how difficult it is to get them done by that time, but as close to that date as possible is helpful for both Glenda Madrid (National Secretary) and Linda Brooks (National Treasurer). If you are like my lodge, you get them all done except for a few stragglers that are hard to reach. If you reach that point, rather than continuing to wait for those members, reach out to Linda or Glenda to see if they would like you to send in the incomplete report in a timely manner.

President's Corner Continued On Page –3–



Danish Sisterhood News

www.danishsisterhood.com
Volume 78, Number 2

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

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 1557 Oak St. Solvang, CA 93463. Periodicals Postage Paid at Rochester, MN.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to DANISH SISTERHOOD NEWS, 1557 Oak St. Solvang, CA 93463

EDITOR: Charlene Jensen, (503) 956-4353
Email: editor@danishsisterhood.com

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)

Officers of the Supreme Lodge

National President: Nealna Gylling, Lodge #186

1474 Floan Point Rd, Brainerd, MN 56401
612-390-1374 | president@danishsisterhood.com

National Vice President & Technology Chair: Anna Nielsen #20
(262) 412-4482 | vicepresident@danishsisterhood.com

National Secretary: Glenda Madrid, Lodge #177
1557 Oak St. Solvang, CA 93463
(805) 448-7631 | secretary@danishsisterhood.com
glenda_madrid@hotmail.com

National Treasurer: Linda Brooks, Lodge #21
8402 Winter Berry Dr., Castle Rock, CO 80108
303-905-9934 | treasurer@danishsisterhood.com

National Trustee: Carol Rudisill, Lodge #102
4131 E 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50313
515-971-5997 | trustee1@danishsisterhood.com

National Trustee: Susan Hoppough, Lodge #65
834 E. Baldwin Lake Dr., Greenville, MI 48838
616-302-1330 | trustee2@danishsisterhood.com

National Trustee & Butikken Chair: Karen Vig-Keathley, Lodge #4
109 South First Street, Itasca, IL 60143
708-715-0071 | trustee3@danishsisterhood.com

National Past President: Christina Sallee, Lodge #81
16116 SW Deline Ct, Beaverton, OR 97007-3425
(503) 928 4494

National Historian: Donna Christensen Thomas,
historian@danishsisterhood.com

**Copyright 1946-2024 by the Supreme Lodge of the
Danish Sisterhood of America, All Rights Reserved.**

Dear Sisters and Mister Sisters:

Hello and welcome to February 2025! The time is flying by so quickly.

This newsletter is a great place for you to share memories of events that occurred in your lodge. The readers of this newsletter love to be able to keep up with what other lodges have been doing. Our readers would love to see craft projects that were made by lodges for fundraisers, or as gifts.

I enjoyed the recent holidays, but I especially enjoyed the Scandinavian events that made Christmastime even more special. Members of various Danish groups gathered together in Portland Oregon to put on Lillejuleaften. Lillejuleaften had to be scheduled for the afternoon of 12/21/2025; it was a delightful event. The area of the service was decorated in beautiful Scandinavian themes. The wonderful Danish Christmas church service began with professional musicians playing various horn instruments along with piano. The musicians, and the Choral group that performed at the service, were wonderful; hearing the Christmas songs being sung with such reverence and joy was quite a lovely experience.

The choral group that sang at the Lillejuleaften service is called *Portland Nordic Chorus*. It was quite a delight to hear the *Portland Nordic Chorus* sing various Scandinavian songs. Another wonderful part of this service was a video that the audience watched. The video was from a minister in Denmark who performed a Christmas church service: the service was in the Danish language without subtitles. Although the video was not performed in English, it seemed as though everyone who watched the video could make sense of the foreign language and be refreshed by the Christmas story.

—Charlene Jensen, Editor of *Danish Sisterhood News*

Send articles/stories/photos to: 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
Ellen Lodge #21.....	P 5
Amber Lodge #186.....	P 6
Lodge #90.....	P 7
Dorthea Lodge #65.....	P 8
Lodge #15.....	P 9
2024 Nebraska District Convention.....	P10,11
Rest in Peace Inge Kjems Darroch....	P 12
Peter Fruechen.....	P13,14
Danish Sisterhood Butikken.....	P 15
Details on back cover.....	P 16

ON THE COVER: This photo is #135, The Golden Rabbit. Artist Thomas Dambo is crouching next to The Golden Rabbit. This piece of artwork was commissioned by Project 412.

The Golden Rabbit is one of nine installations created by Thomas Dambo. It is hidden in a very secret location and cannot be found on the troll map. To locate it, you need to solve the riddle in Alexa's book.

Thomas Dambo is a Danish "recycle art activist" known for his installations of giant monumental wooden sculptures called trolls, made entirely out of recycled materials.

Want to learn about Thomas Dambo? If so, go to: [Thomas Dambo - Home](#)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER (continued from page -2-)

Another FYI for you at this time is our membership chairs, Carol Rudisill and Susan Hoppough, who will again be reaching out to lodges starting the beginning of March. If they reach out to you, and you no longer hold an office, please be kind to them and give them the name and phone number of the person they should be calling. We value the information we get from your lodges. Thank you for helping us know what we can do for you and your lodges. You are what the Danish Sisterhood is all about!

The National Board will have their Spring Board Meeting in the Milwaukee/Kenosha area on February 20-23. Please let me know if there is anything from you or your lodge that should be brought up at this meeting. Thanks.

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

Nealna Gylling, National President

NEWS FROM THE LODGES

IN MEMORIAM—February 2025

NAME	Cert #	Lodge #	Location	Birth Date	Birth Place	Initiated	Died	Benefit
Reva Snell	1254	186	Brainerd, MN	12.23.35	Brainerd, MN	4.1.04	12.15.24	0
Annette Walberg	90640	186	Brainerd, MN	8.5.41	Albert Lea, MN	7.16.16	02.15.24	0

MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION—February 2025

LODGE

NEW MEMBER

SPONSOR

There were no new members to report in February 2025.

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS—February 2025

Name	Lodge	Age
Cameron Curtis	184	6



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.

From Jan 1, 2024

MEMBER and Lodge #	MEMBER and Lodge #
Ulla Pereira 300	Jacque Wagstaffe 177
Margaret Omodt 21	Marilyn Kramme 102
Anlaug Nielsen 177	Vibeke Petersen-Jensen 24
Cheryl Brinkman 102	Kristie Hansen-Mendez 4
Karol Johnson 177	



PHOTO ABOVE: These Christmas cookies were made by Katie Nelson, a member of Katherine Lodge #20. These cookies are described by some as "...works of art," and by others as, "Yummy!" Katie has previously made these cookies to serve to her Sisters at their Danish Sisterhood Lodge meetings.

ELLEN LODGE #21 OF COLORADO LOOKS BACK ON THE YEAR 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025. Wow 25 years, a quarter century since people were stocking up on duct tape and gallon water jugs for Y2K. Where has the time gone? The years pass by so fast anymore, we hardly have time to blink. I was recently talking to a friend about the speed of time the older we get and he had a great analogy, "At this age we're always going downhill."

Because time goes by so fast, it's important to look back and see what accomplishments were made in 2024:

- Ellen Lodge has been able to donate money to Danish and local organizations, thanks to the hard work and creative talent of our members in making crafts for the Craft Fair we participate in every November.
- Ellen Lodge initiated two new members, Kristin Habicht and Marilyn Haas, and welcomed Katrina Riggs who transferred from Connecticut.
- The Lodge Apparel ordered was delivered and distributed.
- Heritage presentations were given at our monthly meetings:
Andrea Thomsen gave a presentation on her great-grandmother, Ellen Wilhelmine Nielsen, and her involvement in the Opposition during WWII,
Mindy Brown gave an interesting presentation on Georg Jensen, the famous sculptor, silversmith and craftsman,
Brigitte Jappe Ross told us about Pauline Matilde Theodora Bajer, a 19th century Danish women's activist;
Joanna Dubisher shared the heirlooms she inherited from her farfar and farmor, including her Danish Bible,
Birgitte gave an informational report on the history and traditions of the Danish Sisterhood, reminding us all of the importance of the Sisterhood vision and mission and the history that brought us to 2024.
Thank you for all you do for the Sisterhood!
- It took three tries, but we were able to surprise Rich and Mindy with a surprise brunch for their 25th anniversary.
- With the help of the By-law Committee (Chris Jensen Hix, Joanna Christensen, Malinda Ringo, Brigitte Jappe Ross), a revision of the By-laws was completed in November.
- For the first time ever, Ellen Lodge #21 participated in the Scandinavian Festival held in Golden, Colorado.
- On September 20th, the Sisters celebrated the 122nd birthday of Ellen Lodge #21 at Helga's German restaurant, hosted by Lucille Fredericksen and Christine Krueger, a mother/daughter duo.

We lost one member this year: Arlene Morrow. She will be missed, but she will be remembered as a kind, giving person who loved her family, community and the Danish Sisterhood of America.

We finished the year with Julehygge at the December luncheon held at Nissebo, hosted by Joanna Christensen and Birthe Waszak. Glogg was served and the buffet table was full of hors d'oeuvres and desserts provided by the 21 members in attendance. An æbleskive station was also set up along with currant jelly supplied by Pia Hansen. Thank you, Gwendolyn Bell, for manning the table.

The last act of business was installing the new 2025 Board. Congratulations to: Joanna Christensen – President, Brigitte Jappe Ross – Vice President, Christine Jensen Hix – Secretary, Mindy Brown – Treasurer, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Trustee: Katrina Riggs, Kristin Habicht and Joanna Dubisher.

"Give every day the chance to become the most beautiful day of your life." – Mark Twain

Submitted by,
Christine Jensen Hix
Ellen Lodge #21, Colorado



Celebrating Rich and Mindy's 25th anniversary

*****There are more photos of Ellen Lodge #21 on page –7– .**

MEMBERSHIP CORNER BY SUSAN HOPPOUGH

This is the time of year when many of our Sisters and Mister Sisters are wintering in warmer climates. For those who are still in colder locations, winter weather makes it challenging to meet. As an example, my Lodge, Dorthea Lodge #65, will not meet again until April. But that does not mean we cannot plan for 2025 meetings. When we conducted the survey in 2024, we learned that many lodges placed an emphasis on offering a program rather than the formal meeting itself. But, the challenge becomes finding resources to use for programs.

The Board has taken on that challenge and will be improving the resource offerings on the Website through 2025. As an example, I highly recommend viewing the documentary "The Journey to America: The Danish Emigrants" (<https://www.rejsentilamerika.dk/en/tv-serien>). This three-part series documents the story of the 350,000 (10% of the population of America) Danes who migrated to the USA between 1850 and 1920; driven from Denmark due to poverty. Each of the documentaries in this series is about 30 minutes in length. You may want to show as three separate programs in your meetings or together as a larger program to offer to the community. The Danish Cultural Center (DCC) is where Dorthea Lodge #65 meets. When the DCC first learned about this documentary, they had a "movie night" inviting people to share refreshments and stories. We will do this again in 2025 because it is such a fabulous documentary.

Many of you told us about games and crafts that you use in your lodges and how those have helped retain and get new members. As we move ahead in 2025, with efforts to grow membership in the DSS, we want to hear from you! Please consider sending the Board ideas for resources that you have used in your programs, and we will highlight those in the Membership Corner.

Mange Tak,

Susan Hoppough, DSS National Board Trustee
Membership Co-Chair

AMBER LODGE #186, BRAINERD, MN

Serving Supper



Pictured: Dottie Bisted, LeAnn Plinske, Nealna Gylling

Photo credit: Barb Wenschlag

Memorial



Pictured: Carol Rudisill

Photo credit: LeAnn Plinske

Amber Lodge #186 hosted the Heartland District Convention, October 4-5, 2024, in Brainerd, MN. The convention, themed "Hygge in the Heartland", was enjoyed by 45 Sisters and Brothers from Iowa and from Minnesota.

Friday evening began with a social hour that included plenty of schnapps, followed by dinner prepared by the Amber Lodge. The lodge served æbleskiver with Medisterpølse, fruit salad and æblekage. After dinner we were entertained by the wonderful hardanger fiddler, Bud Larsen, and his wife, Marlys.

Saturday began with a memorial to honor and acknowledge the Sisters and Brothers that we had lost. Individual meetings for the Sisterhood and Brotherhood were also conducted on Saturday morning. In the afternoon, everyone had free time to enjoy the great fall weather and Brainerd Lakes Area. Saturday evening was highlighted with a dinner cruise on Gull Lake, including a delicious meal and beautiful sunset over the lake.

Submitted by Jane Matthies-Holtan
Amber Lodge #186

Fiddler



Pictured: Bud Larsen

Photo credit: LeAnn Plinske

Gull Lake Cruise



PHOTO ABOVE: Carol Rudisill, Phylis Jessen, John Rudisill, Heidi Plasek, Dale Plasek.

Go to page -12- for more information about Amber Lodge #186

LODGE #90 OF LINCOLN, NEBRASKA CELEBRATES THEIR 119th BIRTHDAY!



Lodge # 90 Lincoln, NE met at Ticos on 09/29/2024 to celebrate the 119th birthday of the Lodge! We dined on Mexican food and conversed for a couple of hours, so much fun!

—By Fran Freeman

PHOTO LEFT: Those sitting on the right side of the booth are Vicky, Donna, Kathy and her husband.

PHOTO RIGHT: Fran, Jane and her husband, Molly, and Mary. Picture taken by Ticos Employee.



PHOTOGRAPHS BELOW: These photos are from Ellen Lodge #21. To read the article from Ellen Lodge #21, turn to page -5-.



Marilyn Haas Initiation



Fair



Gwendolyn, Master Chef

DORTHEA LODGE #65 UPDATE

Fourteen Sisters/Mister Sisters of Dorteia Lodge # 65 met at the Winter Inn at Greenville, MI on December 7, 2024 to celebrate the holidays together. President Martha Roy presented a 60-year Sisterhood membership pin to Vivian Minard and a 10-year pin to Susan Hoppough. The members approved over \$3,000 in donations to local food banks, reading programs, North Sidney Church and the Amble Memorial Sanctuary. The Sisterhood voted to support renovation efforts at the Danish Cultural Center where they have been meeting since the Lodge organized in 1903. Members enjoyed the buffet luncheon of pastas, salad, garlic bread, beverages, treats and a cake made by a local baker. Ruth Reed gave each member a Christmas treat, six Sisters won poinsettias, and all went away with joy in their hearts and a look forward to when we meet again in April 2025.



Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hoppough
Lodge Secretary



Vidste Du or Did you Know?

Did You Know is the title of this monthly column authored by YOU, lodges and members of our Sisterhood. The purpose is for YOU to dig into our archives housed at the Museum of Danish America and share interesting stories you have found. It is a treasure trove of our history!

<https://box2.nmtvault.com/DanishIM/jsp/>

[RcWebBrowseCollec-](#)

[tions.jsp;sessionId=F8BEDE62CF281FA33F9023598838D154](#)



Did You Know that the first Danish Sisterhood News was published 78 years ago on February 15, 1947? It was in accordance with a by-law passed at the National Convention in Denver, Colorado in October 1946 that the official publication was developed. According to the bylaw, the newsletter was to be sent to all lodge members and contain the official notice of the assessment which was due, list the new members and the members who have died. All lodges were invited to submit articles of general interest to Jennie Miller, our first editor from Chicago, IL. The subscription price was 25 cents per year.

Did You Know that the above logo was created by Sisterhood Member, Linsy Jante, from Lodge 15 in Milwaukee?

Did You Know that you can contact me with the month you would like to submit an article? Marcia Jante at: Mjante@wi.rr.com.

By Marcia Jante

LODGE #15 CELEBRATED THE HOLIDAYS DANISH STYLE

By Annette Lind

Dronning Margrethe Lodge #15 began their Christmas celebrations on November 1st when lodge members gathered at the Landmark Inn 1850, one of Milwaukee's oldest bars, for the official tapping of our Lodge 15 Christmas beer. Our member, Marcia Jante, and Brewer, Joe Halser IV of the 111 Dachshund Brewery, worked together to create a J-Dag Spruce Tip IPA for our lodge. Hopefully, it will become an annual tradition. The beer was delicious.

The next event took place on November 16, 2024 when the lodge meeting program was a demonstration on the making of Smørrebrød (open-faced sandwiches). The program was presented by our President, Kirsten Weiss, and member Annemarie Sawkins who serves as the Honorary Counsel for Denmark in Wisconsin. When it comes to making these sandwiches, these ladies really know their stuff. They taught us how to construct the delicious sandwiches, and we all got to taste the samples. The demonstration was in preparation for our December 14th Christmas party where multiple members made 20 sandwiches each to serve for Smørrebrød. Around 40+ members and guests attended the Christmas party. It was a fantastic spread of open-faced sandwiches, complete with pickled beets, Danish style cucumbers and herring.

There were multiple delicious desserts including rødgrød med fløde made by our member Dennis Severin. Some members worked to help the rest of us learn to pronounce the name of this wonderful Danish dessert. It was just like what Mom used to make. Attendees also enjoyed several shots of akvavit, both homemade and purchased, and some of the Sisterhood Christmas beer. There was a lot of "skol" ("skol" or "skål" as it's written in Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish and "skál" in Faroese and Icelandic) and lots of singing. The lodge also held a bag raffle and silent auctions which were a big success and earned money which we will use in 2025 for donations to organizations with a Danish connection. A big thank you to the committee composed of Cathy Jones, Cleo Glasenapp, Janet Dahlman, Susan Jensen and Marcia Jante for their work to plan this amazing event and to all the members who volunteered to help set up, tear down, and do the work needed the day of the party. We got to meet several new members and renew friendships with members we hadn't seen in person for a while. It was a great time with lots of hygge. A lovely gift of a wooden Danish Christmas heart was given to members who through the last year contributed their talents and time to make our lodge such a wonderful organization and the year 2024 such a success.



PHOTO ABOVE: Lodge #15 J-Dag beer

The day ended with the election of officers for 2025. Our new board is listed below:

Past President.....Kirsten Weiss

President.....Cathy Jones

Secretary.....Susan Jensen

Treasurer.....Claire Dahlman

Trustees.....Janet Dahlman, and Cleo Glasenapp

Marshal.....Ruth Ann Higgins

Historian.....Misty Christensen

There are many wonderful programs planned for 2025. We will begin in January with a program via Zoom entitled "Danish Ceramics: Beyond Blue and White" and presented by Adam Bierstedt, the Albert Ravenholt curator from the Museum of Danish America. On February 1st we will have a special Zoom meeting with a program by Jamie Lago on the history of Royal Copenhagen presented live from Copenhagen. For our regular February meeting, our program will be on Danish innovations in the treatment of breast cancer presented by our member Eva Christensen.

We look forward to another great year of meetings, lodge events and wonderful programs with Dronning Margrethe Lodge #15. We are Red. We are White. We really are Danish Dynamite!



PHOTO ABOVE: Wooden Danish heart basket ornament by The Knotty Dane given to Lodge 15 members as a thank you.

2024 NEBRASKA DISTRICT CONVENTION OF THE DANISH SISTERHOOD AND DANISH BROTHERHOOD

The 2024 Nebraska District Convention hosted by Omaha's Lodge #6 was held at Omaha's Danish Vennelyst Park on Saturday, September 14, 2024. Note that Danes have been meeting at this location for about 140 years. Present were 14 members from the Sisterhood and seven members from the Brotherhood. We were welcomed by Nancy Jacobson, President of Lodge #6, and began the day by enjoying Danish kringle, fruit, coffee, and juice. A great selection of items was on display for the silent auction in addition to three baskets for the live auction. A special thank you to the Museum of Danish America and the Danish Windmill in Elk Horn for the items they donated to our auction. Members also brought some personal items for the sale.

Acting President, Donna Hansen, presided over the business meeting due to the fact that current President Vicki Bousquet was not able to attend. The memorial service for Vonnie Larson, Lodge #113, was conducted by Lodge #6; she was a fun-loving Dane and will be missed by her family, friends, and Sisters of the Western Star Lodge. Lodge #6 of Omaha, Lodge #90 of Lincoln, and Lodge #113 of Grand Island each read their yearly reports. The group voted to give donations to the Danish American Archives & Library located in Blair, NE and the Museum of Danish America. Our slate of officers for 2024-2025 is: President Vickie Bousquet, Lodge #90; Vice President Molly Boyd, Lodge #90; Secretary Chris Rindone, Lodge #113; Treasurer Donna Hansen; Trustee Edie Grim, Lodge #113; and Marshall Carol Kattar, Lodge #6. Correspondent and Historian will be appointed by the President. It was decided to have an informal meeting in Lincoln in 2025 and a regular district meeting in Dannebrog in 2026.

Our lunch consisted of sandwiches, chips, salad, and great desserts. We had the pleasure of Cheyenne Jansdatter from Outreach share with us a Red Lamb film from the Museum of Danish America called "Dwight in Denmark." We continued our fun afternoon by playing Danes Bingo, enjoying snacks of popcorn and Chex mix, and having the silent and live auctions.

Prior to dinner, the Danish prayer was recited to us by Cheyenne in Danish; we followed by saying the prayer in English. We were extremely lucky to have our Danish dinner prepared by Chef Gene Bamesberger. First, we had pickled herring, pickled beets, sweet pickles, olives, Havarti cheese, and homemade rye bread. Then we feasted on: caramelized potatoes; red cabbage with prunes, apples, and bacon; salad with pickled cucumbers, radishes, and blue cheese; green beans garlic aioli; Grandma Hansen's buns; and Forgotten Cake for dessert. The evening ended with Sheryl Cuba of Lodge #6, fiddle player, and The Flatwater Drifters entertaining us with the Danish National Anthem and many toe-tapping Danish tunes.

Article by,
Jane Nyffeler, Lodge #90, Lincoln, NE
Nebraska District Correspondent



PHOTO LEFT: Danish dinner. **PHOTO MIDDLE:** Auction baskets.
PHOTO RIGHT: Business meeting.

2024 NEBRASKA CONVENTION OF THE DANISH SISTERHOOD AND DANISH BROTHERHOOD (continued)



PHOTO ABOVE: The Flatwater Drifters play their music for an excited audience at the 2024 Nebraska Convention.



PHOTO ABOVE: Forgotten Cake was the special dessert served at the 2024 Nebraska Convention.



PHOTO ABOVE: Kirsten Weiss and Annemarie Sawkins demonstrate smørrebrød to Lodge #15.

Refer to page –9– for additional information concerning holiday celebrations by Lodge #15.

PHOTO RIGHT:
Hans Christian Andersen.

PHOTO BELOW:
Tomb of the poet
Hans Christian
Andersen
(2.4.1805 -
4.8.1875) at
Assistens
Kirkegård in
Copenhagen.



REST IN PEACE INGE KJEMS DARROCH

Resolution of a Life Remembered: Inge Kjems Darroch

The Sisters of Freja Lodge #36 are saddened by the loss of our Sister, Inge Darroch, who passed away on December 20, 2024 in Edison, New Jersey following a sudden illness. Inge was born on August 18, 1942 in Odense, Denmark to Ejlf and Anna Kjems. Inge moved with her family to the USA. She grew up in Fords, NJ. She was a graduate of the Woodbridge High School, class of 1961.

Inge worked for Americhol in Edison, New Jersey in the Accounts Payable Department. Inge also worked for Johnson and Johnson in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Inge met and married the love of her life, Archibald W. Darroch, who passed away in 2013. Inge and Archie had two daughters, Brigitte Darroch Smythe, and Ingrid Darroch Bauer.



PHOTO ABOVE: Inge Kjems Darroch.

Inge joined Freja Lodge #36 of the Danish Sisterhood and was initiated on June 16, 1972. She was a member for 52 years and received her 50-year pin. Inge was President of Freja Lodge for many years, and also became President of the District. She was very proud of her Danish heritage. She spoke Danish and helped the Lodge with the Danish culture and celebrations. Inge was a member of St. Stephens Danish Evangelical Church in Edison, New Jersey. Inge volunteered in the Church gift shop for many years. She was an active member of Freja Lodge, working at the Jule Sale and at other activities in the Lodge. Inge enjoyed crocheting, needlepoint, and knitting. She donated many beautiful needlepoint items for the Jule Sale. Inge loved her family and spending time with them, often playing cards with her Grandchildren. She was affectionately known as Mormor, and sometimes called "The Great Dane." She was a second Mother or Grandmother to many of her family and friends.

Inge was predeceased by her husband, Archibald W. Darroch, who passed away in 2013, and her brothers Arne, Elmer and Ejvind Kjems. Inge will be greatly missed by her family, her grandchildren Emily and Craig Cicardo of Forked River, New Jersey, Thomas Bauer and his fiancée Samantha Collura, Nicholas, Vincent, and Owen Smythe. She will be missed by her two great-granddaughters, Cora and Josie Cicardo. Inge leaves behind her Sister, Ulla Reid of Easton, PA, and her Sister-in-law, Patricia Gerpheide, of Los Angeles, California. She leaves behind many nieces and nephews and will be missed by many friends.

The Sisters of Freja Lodge #36 will greatly miss Sister Inge Darroch. We will drape our charter in her memory at our next meeting and conduct a memorial service.

By Carole E. Pierorazio, President DSS Freja Lodge #36

AMBER LODGE #186, BRAINERD, MN

Cookie Day 2024



The Amber Lodge met on November 9, 2024, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Brainerd, MN for our annual Christmas cookie make and take. Again, this year we made a number of cookie varieties for each of us to take home and to share. After the baking was complete, we shared a potluck lunch and finished up a quick business meeting.

PHOTOS LEFT: The photos show some of the fun and results. Pictured are: Kathy Stanwood, Barb Wenschlag, Susanne Hohlen, Hanne Porter, Rollin Buck, Judith Andersen, Nealna Gylling, Isabelle Plasek, Heidi Plasek, Photo credit: LeAnn Plinske

Submitted by Jane Matthies-Holtan, Amber Lodge #186

PETER FREUCHEN: THE REAL MOST INTERESTING MAN IN THE WORLD

By Katie Serena | Edited By John Kuroski—Published November 15, 2017/Updated June 4, 2021



Whether exploring the Arctic or fighting the Nazis, Peter Freuchen did it all.

Freuchen was born in Denmark in 1886. His father was a businessman and wanted nothing more than a stable life for his son. At his father's behest, Freuchen enrolled at the University of Copenhagen and began to study medicine. However, before long Freuchen realized that a life indoors was not for him. Where his father craved order and stability, Freuchen craved

exploration and danger. So naturally, he dropped out of the University of Copenhagen and began a life of exploration.

In 1906, he made his first expedition to Greenland. He and his friend, Knud Rasmussen, sailed from Denmark as far north as possible before leaving their ship and continuing by dogsled for over 600 miles. On their travels they met and traded with the Inuit people while learning the language and accompanying them on hunting expeditions.

The Inuit people hunted walruses, whales, seals, and even polar bears, but Freuchen found himself right at home. After all, his 6'7" stature made him uniquely qualified to handle taking down a polar bear, and before long he had made himself a coat out of a polar bear he had killed himself.

In 1910, Peter Freuchen and Rasmussen established a trading post in Cape York, Greenland, naming it Thule. The name came from the term "Ultima Thule," which to a medieval cartographer meant a place "...beyond the borders of the known world." The post would serve as a base for seven expeditions, known as the Thule Expeditions, that would take place between 1912 and 1933.

Between 1910 and 1924, Freuchen lectured visitors to Thule on Inuit culture, and traveled around Greenland, exploring the previously unexplored Arctic. One of his first expeditions, part of the Thule Expeditions, was embarked upon to test a theory that claimed a channel divided Greenland and Peary Land. The expedition involved a 620-mile trek across the icy Greenland wasteland that culminated in Freuchen's famous ice cave escape.

During the trip which Freuchen claimed in his autobiography *Vagrant Viking* was the first successful trip across Greenland, the crew got caught in a blizzard. Freuchen attempted to take cover under a dogsled, but ultimately found himself completely buried in snow that quickly turned to ice. At the time, he hadn't been carrying his usual assortment of daggers and spears, so he was forced to improvise — he fashioned himself a dagger out of his own feces and dug himself out of the cave.

His improvisation continued when he returned to camp and found that his toes had become gangrenous and his leg had been taken over by frostbite. Doing what any hardened explorer would do, he amputated the gangrenous toes himself (sans anesthesia) and had his leg replaced with a peg.

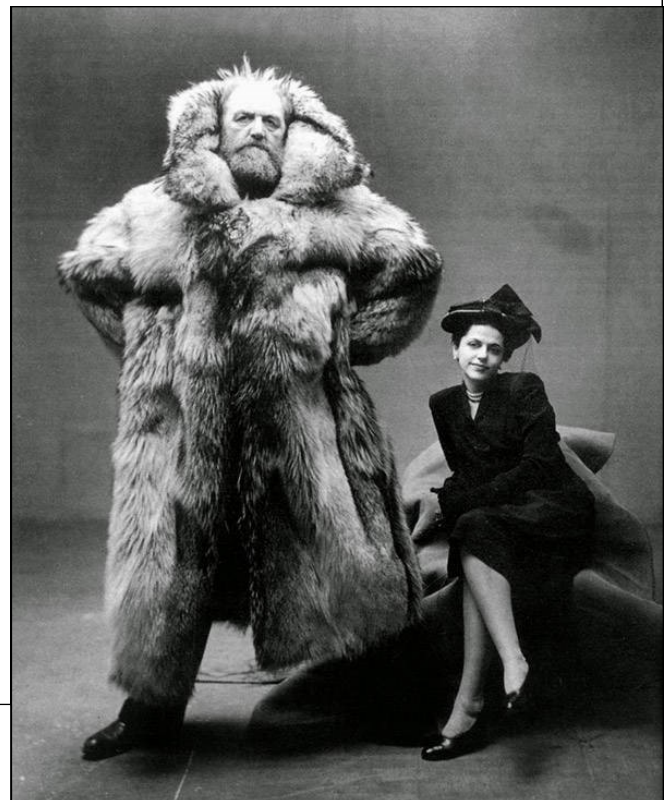


PHOTO RIGHT: Peter Freuchen, standing next to his third wife, wearing a coat made out of a polar bear he killed.

PETER FREUCHEN: THE REAL MOST INTERESTING MAN IN THE WORLD (continued)

By Katie Serena | Edited By John Kuroski—Published November 15, 2017/Updated June 4, 2021

From time to time, Freuchen would return home to his native Denmark. In the late 1920s, he joined the Social Democrats movement and became a regular contributor to *Politiken*, a political newspaper. He also became the editor-in-chief of *Ude of Hjemme*, a magazine owned by the family of his second wife. He even became involved in the film industry, contributing to the Oscar-winning film *Eskimo/Mala the Magnificent*, which was based on a book written by him.

During World War II, Peter Freuchen found himself in the center of political drama. Freuchen never tolerated discrimination of any kind, and any time he heard someone express anti-Semitic views, he would approach them and, in all his 6'7" glory, claim to be Jewish. He was also actively involved with the Danish resistance and fought Nazi occupation in Denmark. In fact, he was so boldly anti-Nazi that Hitler himself saw him as a threat, and ordered him arrested and sentenced to death. Freuchen was arrested in France, but ultimately escaped the Nazis and fled to Sweden.



PHOTO ABOVE: Peter Freuchen with his first wife.

During his busy and exciting lifetime, Peter Freuchen managed to settle down three times. He met his first wife while living in Greenland with the Inuit people. In 1911, Freuchen married an Inuit woman named Mequpaluk and had two children with her, a son named Mequsaq Avataq Igimaqssusuktoranguapaluk and a daughter named Pipaluk Jette Tukuminguaq Kasaluk Palika Hager.

After Mequpaluk succumbed to the Spanish Flu in 1921, Freuchen married a Danish woman named Magdalene Vang Lauridsen in 1924. Her father was the director of Denmark's national bank and her family owned the *Ude of Hjemme* magazine that Freuchen would ultimately run. Freuchen and Lauridsen's marriage would last 20 years before the pair split.

In 1945, after fleeing the Third Reich, Freuchen met Danish-Jewish fashion illustrator Dagmar Cohn. The pair moved to New York City—to escape Nazi persecution—where Cohn had a job working for *Vogue*. After he moved to New York, Peter Freuchen joined the New York Explorer's Club, where a painting of him still hangs on the wall amongst the taxidermied heads of exotic wildlife.

Peter Freuchen lived out the rest of his days in relative quiet (for him) and eventually passed away at the age of 71 in 1957, three days after completing his final book *Book of the Seven Seas*. His ashes were scattered over Thule, Greenland, where his life as an adventurer began.

PHOTO BELOW: A portrait of Peter Freuchen.

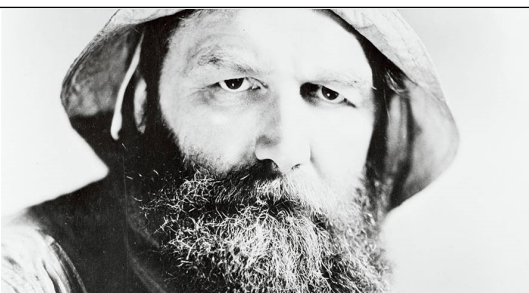


PHOTO ABOVE: Peter Freuchen with an Inuit man on one of the Thule expeditions.

DANISH SISTERHOOD BUTIKKEN

DanishSisterhood.com



Onesies 6mo 12 mo 18 mo.	\$15.00
God Jul Earrings	\$12.00
Daisy Necklace	\$7.00
Daisy Post Earrings	\$12.00
Danish Flag Heart Post Earrings	\$12.00
Danish Flag Round Post Earrings	\$12.00
DSS Iron On Patch, 3"x 2.25"	\$5.00
Vests	\$50.00
DSS Gold Emblem Necklace with chain	\$45.00
DSS Gold Emblem pendant only	\$25.00
Apron	\$20.00
Red Scarf	\$10.00
DSS Swedish Dishcloths, each	\$7.00
Aebleskiver Ornament	\$20.00
Glass nail file	\$3.00
Coral heart pendant	\$45.00
Prayer Tea Towel	\$15.00
Danish Flag Heart Pin	
w/standard butterfly clutch back	\$8.00
Gildan Soft style 60% cotton 40% polyester	
Sizes medium to 2 XL	\$24.00
Danish Basket Weave Heart 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.



Danish Sisterhood News

Periodical Postage
Paid

Published by the Supreme Lodge of the
Danish Sisterhood of America

**POSTMASTER, PLEASE RUSH
TIME DATED MATERIAL!**

References

Cite This Article. Serena, Katie. "Peter Freuchen: The Real Most Interesting Man In The World." AllThatsInteresting.com, November 15, 2017, <https://allthatsinteresting.com/peter-freuchen>. Accessed January 19, 2025.
Peter Freuchen: The Real Most Interesting Man In The World

2023-04-19 Tomb of Hans Christian Andersen 02.jpg
Tomb of the poet Hans Christian Andersen (2.4.1805-4.8.1875) at Assistens Kirkegård in Copenhagen.
Bärbel Miemietz. Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0.

Hans Christian Andersen 2.jpg
Hans Christian Andersen. Dänischer Schriftsteller und Dichter.
Franz Hanfstaengl. Public domain.
Hans Christian Andersen 2.jpg Copy

Published by:
**Supreme Lodge of the
Danish Sisterhood of American
National Secretary: Glenda Madrid**
1557 Oak St., Solvang, CA 93463

The Danish Pioneer Newspaper

Since 1872

English and Danish Articles, Nationwide Circulation
26 Quality Issues Per Year
Packed With News and Photos

**Special Offer for
New U.S. Subscribers:
\$35.00 for the first year (save \$5.00)
when you mention this Danish Sisterhood Ad**

Call: 847-882-2552, Fax: 847-882-7082
or Email: dpioneer@aol.com

Visit our Colorful Website:
www.thedanishpioneer.com

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

The Danish Sisterhood News including, but not limited to, design, text, & graphics, are Copyright 2022 by the Supreme Lodge of the Danish Sisterhood of America. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. Any use of materials in this publication, including reproduction, modification, distribution, or republication without the prior written consent of DSS, is strictly prohibited by law. Copyright infringement will be punished to the maximum extent the law allows.