

# The Little Mermaid

A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHWEST DANISH ASSOCIATION

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## The New Nordic Museum and a Nordic Infused May

By Line Larsen



Image: The "Great Hall" at the new Nordic Museum

The drumroll for the opening of the new Nordic Museum in Seattle is getting louder with each day. As the grand opening on May 5<sup>th</sup> nears, the museum is quickly taking shape, along with the program for the opening month. In March I was lucky enough to get a sneak peek inside the museum and see its remarkable progress. I have driven by it every day for the last few years and noticed changes every day it seems.

I remember when the land was purchased by the Nordic Museum, but the old Fenpro building still occupied the block on Market Street. The Fenpro building was eventually demolished giving way to the museum's ground breaking. The massive new Nordic Museum as it stands today seemed to quickly rise from the ashes of Fenpro.

Watching the construction progress from the outside was a completely different experience than stepping inside construction spanning 57,000 square feet. With the construction phase near completion, the first expansive exhibitions are being installed along with insightful details throughout. From the front entrance your attention is immediately drawn to the other side of the room, down between the 12 meter high walls that are connected with bridges. The tall white walls embody the feeling of sailing down through a Nordic fjord, a sensation the museum wished to convey. You can't help but feel small.

In contrast to the frosty walls, one of the first things you are greeted with is a fireplace, adding warmth and a keen sense of Scandinavian 'hygge'. A recent completion is a remarkably accurate 12 meter high map of the Nordic countries

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## Seattle is the 'Hyggeliest'!

By Line Larsen



Image: Sperling's Best Places. Seattle has been named the Hygge capital of the U.S.

The two cities where NWDA operates have been named the hyggeliest in the U.S. We must be on to something here at NWDA. "Hygge" is the Danish word for cosiness and comfort (loosely translated, it has no direct translation in the English language). One definition that comes close is equating hygge with a sort of "intentional intimacy" that happens in a setting with "safe, balanced and harmonious shared experiences" (Helweg-Larsen).

The Pacific Northwest has long been known for its Nordic feel and now recent research has pinpointed the region's Danish ambiance. In the study, Seattle was ranked number one on the hygge meter and Portland came in second. The research was done by Sperling's Best Places, a group that analyzes data and provides information about people and places. Sperling's research ranked the top 50 metro areas in the U.S. in terms of 'hygge'. Los Angeles straggled behind in the categories chosen and came in last in the hygge ranks.

The criteria used to score U.S. cities involved looking at pastimes, weather, venues, and homes. Danes know hygge

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Northwest Danish Association is a non-profit organization  
dedicated to preserving and sharing with others  
our Danish culture, traditions, and values

# President's Corner



Northwest Danish  
Association

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Visit our website for more information about events and programs! Via our website you can also sign up for our e-bulletin to receive updates on all these activities.

**[www.northwestdanish.org](http://www.northwestdanish.org)**

## Reminder! NWDA Scholarships: Deadline May 1st 2018

Students in any field can apply for a scholarship from NWDA. Applicants must demonstrate involvement in the Danish community in the Pacific Northwest. Students who have supported NWDA (through volunteering in social programs, events, or by other means) are preferred.

The 2018/2019 scholarship application forms are available on our website:  
**Go to [www.northwestdanish.org/scholarships/](http://www.northwestdanish.org/scholarships/)**

## Watch for Summer Programs

*By Edith Christensen, EdD*

We have just finished our first Påskefrokost. A happy group of people learned to make their own smørrebrød and then ate them. There were four courses; the first three with Danish pumpernickel. The first was the fish course which featured herring, shrimp, boiled eggs, lettuce, tomatoes and cucumbers. Second was the beef with toppings of remoulade and Danish fried onions, after which the course was leverpostej with bacon and mushrooms on top. Then the cheeses followed including Havarti, blue cheese, and brie served with French bread. Last on the menu as dessert, a delightful variety of marzipan pastries donated by Nielsen's Pastries.

A drawing was held for a basket of Danish foods and other items donated from the Scandinavian Specialties shop in Ballard. There was also a Bingo game with Danish words and a prize for the winner.

Himmelbjerget Camp registrations are coming in quickly. You can still sign up by going to the website of Himmelbjerget or through the [northwestdanish.org](http://northwestdanish.org) website. It is a great camp for our young people. Camp is from June 24 to June 30 this year and is still held at the Menucha Conference and Retreat Center in Corbett, Oregon.

Scholarships are offered through the various Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood organizations. They have also run fund raisers to keep the Camp costs low compared to other camps. Most equivalent camps are at least \$1,000 for a week of camp. You may have received a letter from us requesting donations to help lower the cost of the camp for everyone. Please consider a donation.

Another great event coming soon is the Danish American Culture Conference also held at the Menucha Retreat Center. Sonja Kromann does a great job of getting a wonderful group of speakers on various topics. Some of the topics in-



*Image: Påskefrokost at the Seattle Danish Center*

clude Viking Navigation, the impact of the war of 1864 on H.C. Andersen's fairy tales, a book talk by Inge Wiehl, and more. We also have brought back the Danish classes some of you have requested. Aase Beaulieu has offered to teach Danish during some of the breaks. There are also field trips to nearby beautiful places along the Columbia River. Don't forget to bring your bathing suit to take a swim in the pool.

The Little Vikings Dane Camp is held in Seattle for 5 to 10 year olds the first full week of August. The topic this year is Copenhagen, the same as the Himmelbjerget Camp theme. Registrations will be accepted if you go to the website to register. Pia Beetham is teaching the class again this year.

Watch for an event celebrating our 95<sup>th</sup> year since the Danish Old People's Home was founded in South Park in Seattle.

Also, don't forget to attend the special May 5<sup>th</sup> ribbon cutting ceremony of the opening of the Nordic Heritage Museum new building. Please wear a small Danish flag on your clothes to show the Danes presence.

## *New Program Announcements:* **The 40th Annual Danish American Cultural Retreat**



For the **40th year** the Danish American Cultural Retreat (DACR) will be held at the beautiful Menucha Retreat in Corbett, Oregon (less than a 4 hour drive from Seattle).

**June 22nd to June 24th, 2018**

**Join us for a weekend getaway with everything included!**

The retreat includes a **cultural conference** with speakers specializing in fascinating topics from Denmark. Other highlights include:

*Accommodation and meals provided*

*Breathtaking views and nature*

*Beer and wine in the 'Kro'*

*Evening entertainment*



### **2018 Program Announcements**

**The 2018 program is now set... this won't be a year to miss!** We are currently announcing speakers in our e-bulletin.

*Speaker announcements so far:*

**Inga Wiehl**, Danish Author,

**Eric Nelson**, CEO New Nordic Museum

Many more TBA!



**Evening Entertainment: Danish sensation, Jessica Lynne!** Jessica Lynne is a rising Danish-American country star (pictured left).

**Danish Classes:** Optional classes by Aase Beaulieu have been added to the program for those who would like to learn some Danish at the retreat this year!

**Register now and save:**

**For more details and to register visit [www.northwestdanish.org/dacr/](http://www.northwestdanish.org/dacr/)**

**Early Bird Registration ends May 10th 2018**

*Keep watching the e-bulletin for more exciting updates!*

*DACR is proudly organized by Northwest Danish Association*

*Thank you event supporters!*

*UW Scandinavian Studies Department*

*UW Center for West European Studies*



**CENTER FOR WEST EUROPEAN STUDIES**

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# 2018 so far...



Northwest Danish  
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## NWDA Celebrated The Dane's Jubilæum the Danish way

By Line Larsen

Close to 30 people came to Fredagscafe to 'skål' and celebrate The Dane's first anniversary or 'Jubilæum' on March 2nd. The Dane is a bar/café where NWSA hosts its monthly Fredagscafe event. A testament to the positive partnership between NWDA and The Dane over the last year, Fredagscafe was the designated kick off to The Dane's Jubilæum weekend.

The Dane fittingly made it a 'truly Danish evening' with NWDA there, along with live music from Danish musician, Flemming Behrend. Danish flags hung over the bar as the tasteful birthday décor. The evening became a celebration of the success The Dane has had its first year in business, as well as the successful collaboration between The Dane and NWDA.

The Fredagscafe group flocked in early in the evening, with more attendees trickling in as the night went on. The festivities began with a welcome note from Kelly Geubtner, co-owner of The Dane. Kelly expressed her deep gratitude to the community for welcoming them and supporting them their first year as a business. The Dane has incor-



Image: Flemming Behrend playing at Fredagscafe

porated the community into their business model from day one.

Kelly went on to introduce NWDA and shared a few words about The Dane's community partnership with our organization. Following this, the talented Flemming Behrend was presented as the entertainment for the evening. The Fredagscafe group, frequented by a mix of Danes, Danish-Americans, and Danish enthusiasts, was beckoned to sing the Danish fødselsdagssang (happy birthday song in Danish) to The Dane.

Flemming Behrend then began the evening's entertainment, delighting the crowd with his traditional Danish folk music. It was an evening of high spirits with a warm atmosphere. Pieces of birthday cake were passed out to everyone in the room, adding to the social ambiance and hygge.

To see more pictures, visit [www.northwestdanish.org/fredagscafe/](http://www.northwestdanish.org/fredagscafe/)



Image: Kelly Geubtner welcoming everyone to The Dane's 1 year anniversary



Image: Josefine, Camilla, and Matilda at Fredagscafe

## Danish Fastelavn a Hit in Seattle!

By Line Larsen



Image: Tristan trying to beat the cat out of the barrel

This year Fastelavn brought more than 75 people to the Seattle Danish Center. The majority of attendees were families with children excited for an afternoon of festivities centered on Danish tradition.

The children got especially creative with their costumes this year. Astronauts, cats, princesses, lions, hotdogs, witches, bunnies, mermaids, fairies, elephants, and other creatures came streaming in the door of the Seattle Danish Center. The program planned for the afternoon began with crafts. Just like in Denmark, guests decorated fastelavnssris with cut outs, streamers, and other colorful decor. Pages with fastelavn-themed pictures were spread out on a few tables for coloring. There was also a station to decorate cans to collect coins on fastelavn, known as raslebøsser in Denmark.

After the crafts, it was story time. All the kids were invited to sit in a half circle around the fastelavnstønde (a big barrel filled with candy that kids later take turns hitting with a bat, much like a piñata). Annelise Kromann did a beautiful job telling the kids about fastelavn and the Danish traditions surrounding this special day of celebration. The event this year attracted some adults and children who were completely new to Danish culture and tradition all together. They especially appreciated a recap of the

Continued on page 7

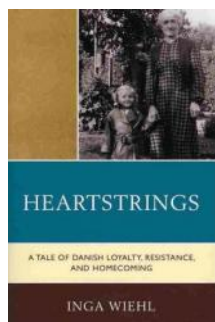
# Events Coming Up!



## NORDIC VENTURES

We have two talks left in our 2018 Nordic Ventures series!

Join us on the **4th Thursday** in April and May for an evening lecture by a speaker on a topic related to Denmark.



**April 26:**

Henry Geijsbeek on  
Danish Aviation Pioneer, Jacob Ellehammer

**May 24:**

Book Talk by Author Inga Wiehl on  
*Heartstrings: A Tale of Danish Loyalty, Resistance, and Homecoming*

**7:00 pm Seattle Danish Center**

[www.northwestdanish.org/nordicventures/](http://www.northwestdanish.org/nordicventures/)

## Put a little Danish in your summer!

**2018 registrations now open...!**



**Danish American Cultural Retreat**  
Cultural conference & retreat in Corbett, Oregon  
[June 22nd to June 24th 2018]

**Himmelbjerget Danish Camp**  
Overnight camp for kids and teens ages 10-18  
[June 24th to June 30th 2018]

**Dane Camp for Little Vikings**  
Day camp in Seattle for little Vikings ages 5-10  
[August 6th to August 10th 2018]



To register or for more information:  
Visit [www.northwestdanish.org](http://www.northwestdanish.org)  
Call (206) 523-3263 or e-mail [seattle@nwdanish.org](mailto:seattle@nwdanish.org)



*Birthday reception for Queen Margrethe, April 2016*

**MAY 1:**

**Birthday Reception in Honor of Queen Margrethe II**

An evening reception in honor of Her Majesty Queen Margrethe's birthday will take place on Tuesday, May 1st, at the Seattle Danish Center.

Two members of the Danish Royal Drum Corps, Emil Lars Andersen (flute and trumpet) and Daniel Nielsen (drums), will be joining the reception!

*More details to come. Stay tuned!*

## Seattle is the 'Hyggeliest'!

*Continued from page 1....*

as a relaxed state with feelings of contentment, and more generally, a state of well-being. As Bert Sperling from Sperling's Best Places describes, it is a feeling of gratefulness, relaxation, and feeling satisfied in a simple way. Slowing down and enjoying a cup of coffee by a fireplace or reading a book in a coffee shop are all considered 'hyggelige' activities in Denmark. They also happen to be activities that Seattleites specialize in. According to Sperling, Seattle's high 'hygge score' is in part due to the prevalence of coffee shops in the city and Seattleite's love of books.

The similarities between Scandinavia and the Pacific Northwest have been noted by many (a simple Google search reveals a handful of articles on the topic). The cozy feelings of hygge in pockets of Seattle have likely always been around, but perhaps only the Danes had a fitting word for it. Now with the media attention that has zeroed in on the Danish concept of 'hygge' in recent years, Seattleites finally have the perfect word to describe the feeling of their city.

*Helweg-Larsen, Marie. "Why Denmark Dominates the World Happiness Report Rankings Year After Year." The Conversation. www.theconversation.com March 20, 2018*

*Sperling, Bert. "America's Top 'Hygge' Cities." Sperling's Best Places. www.bestplaces.net*

## More Summer Events Set: Save the Date!

**August 12:**

Danish Community Picnic,  
Vasa Park

**August 18:**

NWDA Turns 95!

**MAY 5:**

**HIMMELBJERGET FUNDRAISER**

Join in at 2:00 pm on May 5th at Bethany Lutheran Church, 4330 NE 37th Ave, Portland.



Event includes "Det Store Kolde Bord" with lovely Danish dishes.

**Price:** \$35 per person, children \$20.

**Theme:** Celebrating Befrielsesdagen

**RSVP** to Jodi Gronborg, call 312-217-0098 or e-mail [GronborgJ@gmail.com](mailto:GronborgJ@gmail.com)

**Payment:** Send checks to Danish Sisterhood, 6750 Huntington Circle SE, Salem, OR 97306. Or give credit card information to Jodi.



# Seattle Nordic Events



## The New Nordic Museum and a Nordic Infused May



*Continued from page 1...*

soaring above you on the wall to the right before the opening to the 'fjord'.

What I found the most impressive were the numerous metaphors woven throughout the museum with perceptive attention to detail. The design details create metaphors that convey a comprehensive story that goes beyond only using exhibitions, artefacts, and words to tell the story. The story is a multifaceted one; it is one of Nordic migration, a new Nordic America, but also a reminder of uncertain times and a tough era in Scandinavia. Feelings of hope and also a felt fear of the unknown are communicated. A stroll through the museum uncovers the multiple layers of calculated features that symbolize these various aspects of Nordic migration to the U.S.

The new museum also brings Nordic innovation, Nordic values, and Nordic culture into the conversation, going beyond a historical discourse and merging it with a contemporary one.

When I was visiting the museum, Pacific Studio was in full swing with the various pieces of the core exhibition, called *Nordic Journeys*. The exhibition is designed by Ralph Appelbaum Associates. The museum will feature both artefacts from the 77,000 pieces of the Nordic Mu-

seum's collection as well as new objects that are being added. Significant updates in the technology of the museum, including rooms with special climate control and also specialized boxes for display, will allow the museum to display fragile objects they were not able to display before. Museums across Europe are also lending objects to the new Nordic Museum in connection with the grand opening.

Aside from the impressive plans for the exhibitions, the museum is now equipped with modern classrooms, a genealogy center, recording room, a craft room, and a breathtaking 'Great Hall' for events. The hall is equipped with the technology and assets that can accommodate various events and groups. For example, aside from being aesthetically pleasing, the floors are made of a kind of wood that absorbs impact, an ideal feature for the Scandinavian dance community in Seattle. Vertical strips of wood cover the walls of the hall and create strikingly high quality acoustics immediately apparent upon entering the hall. The museum as a whole encompasses a strong (modern) Nordic feel in every aspect of its design.

The top floor of the museum is dedicated to work space for museum employees. The museum staff moved into the new building in early February of this year. The work space employs an open space concept akin to many workplaces I have seen in Nordic countries, encouraging teamwork and collaboration between the different employees and departments.

The excitement leading up to the opening of the museum will continue into the month of May after the grand opening. The museum will carry this momentum through the month of May 2018, to be dubbed "Nordic Seattle". Nordic Seattle promises a full schedule of Nordic events. The program offers something for everyone, from book talks to events for children to film screenings in conjunction with the Seattle International Film Festival and eve-

## Schedule of Danish Events for Nordic Seattle

**May 2:** Book talk by leading Danish author, Sara Blædel

**May 5:** Grand Opening. Danish Crown princess Mary will participate in the ribbon cutting. Danish band, *Baby in Vain*, will perform at the Saturday night Grand Opening Concert

**May 10:** Nordic Nights featuring Danish band *Ice Age*

**May 12:** Children's program focused on LEGOs

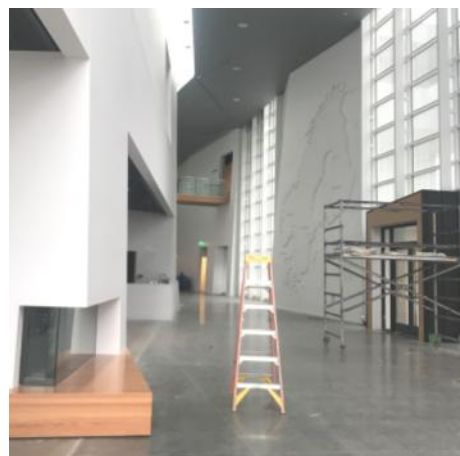
**May 23:** KEXP Live Session with Danish band *Lowly*

**May 24:** Nordic Nights featuring Danish band, *Lowly*

ning concerts named "Nordic Nights".

NWDA will be cosponsoring a handful of events in connection with the opening of the museum. Denmark will be well-represented in the program for the events in May following the opening as well as during the grand opening. The museum is working together with the Nordic community in Seattle including the many organizations around the city to make this opening an all-inclusive celebration of Nordic culture in the Pacific Northwest. For more about the grand opening and 'Nordic Seattle' in May, visit:

[www.nordicmuseum.org/nordic-seattle](http://www.nordicmuseum.org/nordic-seattle)



# Denmark and More



## Sculptures Reacting to Light

By Jan Bruun-Petersen



*Photo: Jan Bruun-Petersen standing on the grounds of the Tegner Museum with Birgitte Cramer Johnsen*

In the field of art in Denmark, with its conscious use of creativity and fantasy, there was a man named Rudolph Tegner. He comes from a family of Tegnors mostly connected to the city of Elsinore. The family has had many interesting jobs in their lifetimes. In the Danish language, "tegner" means someone who produces a drawing. However, Rudolph was a sculptor. Looking back at his family through the years starting with Joran Tegner in 1650, there was a smith, a tailor, a merchant, a ship builder, a naval officer, a treasurer, a beer tapper, a lithographer, a head of DSB, a head of Københavns Handelsbank, a lawyer, a manufacturer, a wholesaler, a court violinist, an art historian, and there was even an illustrator ("tegner").

But Rudolph Tegner was known for his sculptures. As a young man, he spent time in Italy, Greece, and France. He particularly liked Michelangelo's sculptures. Tegner was also influenced by the writings of critic Georg Brandes, especially Brandes' thoughts about the ideas of Frederich Nietzsche. Struggling figures are common in Tegner's works based on Nietzschean ideas. Brandes defended Tegner's most controversial sculpture. It is called Mod Lyset (Towards the Light).

Mod Lyset is a monument installed outside Rigshospitalet (Denmark's

largest hospital). Every day, I go by the sculpture on the way to my internship at Spraino that produces a medical device to prevent sprains. The sculpture was created to commemorate Niels Finsen. He was the first Faroese Nobel Prize winner. He won in 1903 for Medicine and Physiology because of his research into using concentrated light to treat diseases such as lupus vulgaris. The sculpture Mod Lyset depicts patients receiving the healing light. Finsen's parents came from one Danish colony, Iceland, while Finsen was born on another Danish colony, the Faroe Islands. Later Niels and his brother, Oluf, studied at the boarding school, Herlufsholm, in my town of Næstved. However, Niels Finsen had difficulties learning in the Danish language. So he was then enrolled in his father's old

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## Danish Fastelavn a Hit in Seattle!



*Photo by Patti Olsen: Children gather around to hear the story of Fastelavn from*

*Continued from page 4...*

interesting tales associated with the holiday. One father from Gambia brought his son to this Danish event in an effort to teach him about other cultures.

As the educational story time came to a close, children and parents were asked to line up for the parade to show off their wonderful costumes. "Fastelavn er mit

navn..." is the traditional 'sound track' to the event, kids sang and shook their cans loudly to entice parents to give them more coins. Singing and dancing was next on the program, which brought everyone in a circle around the fastelavnstønde. Bob Jensen, a new member of NWDA, who also happens to be a talented pianist, added music to accompany the singing. (Bob recently found out about NWDA from a Seattle Times article about our organization).

The fastelavnstønde filled with candy that was hanging in the middle of the room had then taunted the kids long enough, and the time finally came to try to beat the candy (and cat) out of it. In Danish this is called to "slå katten af tønden". NWDA member, Otto Brask, is kind enough to build a well-constructed and authentic barrel each year for this event. As in Denmark, the tønde (barrel) is wooden and nailed together, which always takes longer to break. The kids worked hard and were patient taking turns hitting the barrel as hard as they could. With anticipation wound up, the excitement burst when the barrel finally broke. Candy spilled out for everyone to enjoy.

In the past, it was said that the cat had to be beaten out of the barrel to chase away the winter spirit. As Danish tradition has it, whoever finally breaks the barrel is named the Cat Queen or King. This year the Cat Queen was 6-year old Vera, who was fittingly dressed as a cat! Vera was paraded around the room and took home a crown and the stuffed animal cat she beat out of the barrel.

Boller, kakao, other goodies were then served to refuel everyone after all the activities and their hard work chasing away the winter spirit.

*The annual fastelavnstfest in Seattle is a combined effort by the Northwest Danish Association and Seattle's Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood. The event relies on the work of volunteers who donate their time to bake boller, work in the kitchen, help with the crafts, songs, and stories during the event, and much more.*



# The Dawn of the Viking Age



## THE GODS OF ASGARD

### Viking Series: Part 13

Summarized based on Hudson Publications Event Bookazines 2013, "Vikings: Their Myths and Legends."

For Part 12 of this article, see Issue #2017/2018 Volume 3 of *The Little Mermaid*

Asgard is the home of the gods that lies far from Earth, far beyond the field of vision of any mortal soul. Odin, the father of all gods and men, built Asgar. In Viking mythology, Thor has many wives. Sif, the fertility goddess is one of his wives. She is also the mother of his son, Ull.

Ull is the god of winter, skiing, archery, hunting, and death. In certain versions of Viking mythology, Ull is forced to spend six months in 'Hel', the underworld in Nordic mythology, which allowed Odin to govern the summer weather.

Thor, another son of Odin, has a son called Magni, meaning 'strong'. Thor's second son is named Modi, which means 'angry'. Their combined strength along with Thor's hammer, allow them to survive the end of the world of the gods and men in Norse mythology. This 'Doom of the Gods' is also called Ragnarok in Old Norse.

Another goddess, Thrud, was the daughter of Thor. She was proposed to by a dwarf named Alvis. Thor did not approve of the marriage, and he kept the dwarf up asking him questions until the sun rose. The dwarf then turned to stone.

The god of music, Bragi, was another son of Odin. He was also the god of poetry and eloquence. Idun, the goddess of spring married Bragi. She is not only the goddess of spring, but also the goddess of apples and eternal youth.

According to the saga, Loke, another god in Norse Mythology, was tricked by



*Image: Loke and Idun illustrated by John Bauer in 1911 for "Our Fathers' Godsaga": "On his return to Asgard, Loki (Loke) told Iduna (Idun) that, in a forest at a short distance from the celestial residence, he had found apples growing which he thought were of a much better quality than her own, and that at all events it was worth while making a comparison between them. Iduna (Idun), deceived by his words, took her apples, and went with him into the forest."*

Thiassi, a frost giant, into helping Thiassi kidnap Idun. To do this, Loke told Idun he had found new, unusual apples, and asked her to come by and see them. He asked her to bring her apples of youth to compare. This tricked Idun to leave Asgard, and Thiassi flew down shaped as an eagle to carry her away. The other gods began to age without Idun's apples, so they threatened to torture Loke if he didn't go back and rescue Idun from Thiassi. The goddess, Freyja, lent Loke a magical coat that could be used to change him into a falcon. Loke flew to Thiassi's hall in the realm of Jotunheim, to transform Idun into a nut so that he could carry her in his beak and fly back to Asgaard quickly.

*Find out more about the Vikings in the next edition of The Little Mermaid.*

## Sculptures Reacting to Light

*Continued from Page 7...*

school back in Iceland. When he decided to apply to study medicine at the University of Copenhagen, he had an advantage having graduated in Iceland. The relationship between Denmark and its colonies was such that the admission process favored individuals from the colonies to encourage better integration of students from the colonies with the students in Copenhagen.

The memorial to Finsen depicts a group of nude figures on top of a large piece of granite. With a man standing reaching up towards the light with three seated women twisted around him who are also reaching and reacting to the light. For 1909, the statue had many negative critics such as: "One does not act like that, when one sunbathes", "The man is horrible, but the worst of the figures is the meddlesome women rubbing up against the man", and "Mod Lyset has nothing more to do with light than love does with pigs' toes".

In the summer of 1916, Tegner was taking long bicycle trips with his wife, Elna, in Northern Zealand. Then Tegner recalled, "In the middle of the smiling, summery Denmark, it looked like a rough Siberia. It was a place, where King Oedipus belongs. Loneliness called out to me, the hill stood and made a mystical pact with my soul." Many places in Denmark are called Russia or Siberia to describe isolated, remote natural areas.

So Tegner bought his Russia near Dronningmølle for 1000 crowns. It was a lot of money for unusable land. But later Tegner's statue of King Oedipus stood there, followed by 13 other outside sculptures, a museum (containing 250 sculptures), then later when he died, a mausoleum. The seven acres was later given to Denmark.



# Calendar



## April 2018

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
1	2	3 Work Party (S)	4 DBIA/DSS (S)	5	6 Fredagscafe (S)	7
8	9	10	11 Sangaften (P)	12	13	14
15	16 Hyggefrokost (P)	17	18 Onsdagsklubben (S)	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Nordic Ventures (S)	27	28
29	30					

## Maj 2018

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
		1 Work Party (S) Queen's Birthday Celebration (S) Scholarships Deadline	2 DBIA/DSS (S)  Book Talk Sara Blædel with NHM (S)	3	4 Fredagscafe (S)	5 Nordic Museum Grand Opening (S)  Himmelbjerget Fundraiser (P)
6	7	8	9	10 Nordic Nights with NHM: Ice Age (S)	11	12
13	14	15	16 Onsdagsklubben (S)	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Nordic Ventures (S)	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## Juni 2018

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
					1 Fredagscafe (S)	2
3	4	5 Work Party (S)	6 DBIA/DSS (S)	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Onsdagsklubben (S)	21	22 DACR	23 DACR
24 DACR Himmelbjerget	25 Himmelbjerget	26 Himmelbjerget	27 Himmelbjerget	28 Himmelbjerget	29 Himmelbjerget	30 Himmelbjerget

(P)= Portland, (S) = Seattle

For more information on these events, programs, and activities, please visit our website: [www.northwestdanish.org](http://www.northwestdanish.org)  
Events are subject to change. Join our e-bulletin via our website for notification of any changes.

You can also find us on **Facebook**, **LinkedIn**, **Twitter**, and **Instagram**!

# Donations: Thank you!



## Donations

**July 2017 to March 2018**

**Grand Dane (\$1000 and up)**  
Benevity Community Impact  
YourCause Trustee

**Great Dane (\$500-\$999)**  
Verner Andersen & Anja Bakland  
Erik Muller & Susan Trapnell  
Anne Lise Pedersen

**Bold Dane (\$250-\$499)**  
Danish Brotherhood #29  
Frances & John Mickelsen  
Nadine Paulsen  
Britt Pfaff-Dunton & Chris Dunton  
Inger Seiffert  
Barbara Smith  
Clark Thompson and Don Zwink

**Noble Dane (\$100-\$249)**  
Sally & Sune Beck  
Aase Besson  
Anna Christensen  
Danes Soccer Club  
Danish Brotherhood #33  
East Side Circle  
Hellan Goodhope  
Neil & Deborah Kilgren  
Sonja Kromann  
Birthe Martin  
Christine & John Masterson  
Marvin & Sandra Nelson  
Kim Nielsen  
Marilyn & Phillip Northrup  
Lynn Pattison  
Gloria Steberl  
South End Circle  
Rasmus & Jennifer Thøgersen

**Royal Dane (\$50-\$99)**  
Joan Cavin  
Diane Chapman  
David & Jean Christensen

Anna Lou Falck  
Birte Geijsbeek  
Kai Hansen  
Marilyn Holstad  
Ellen Juhl  
Robert & Judith Kiteley  
Audrey Haugaard-Larson  
Lene Leslie  
Richard & Dee Mullins  
George Nelson  
Michael Nielsen  
Hans Henrik & Dorte Olsen  
Dean Pedersen  
Bo Schultz-Andersen

**Danes (up to \$49)**  
Stephanie & Jason Appleberry  
Karla Craig  
Evan Crawford  
Terry Crawford  
Paul Ellington  
Elsebeth Kolmos  
Inge Lamberg  
Jorn & Bodil Muller  
Alden Rose

**In Memory of Larry West**  
Edith & Frank Christensen  
Nils & Kathleen Jensen  
Steve & Karen Hollingsworth  
Charles Sprague & Helen  
Lambertson

**In Memory of Lola Pitzner**  
East Side Circle  
Audrey Haugaard-Larson

**In Memory of Herluf Andersen**  
Kenneth Olsen  
Juliana & John Peters

**Dedicated to Kirkland Municipal Court**  
Nathan Kalet

## Restricted Contributions:

**Dane Camp**  
East Side Circle

**Himmelbjerget**  
Danish Brotherhood #33  
Danish Brotherhood #167  
Danish Brotherhood #348  
East Side Circle  
Ernst and Linda Jensen  
ScanFair

**In Memory of Larry West**  
Ruth Dally  
Danish Brotherhood #167  
Joe Matsen  
Bill & Betty McKinney  
Jan Nielsen  
Kristine Roley  
Lois & Svend Toftemark  
Dale Vaughn  
Kaja Voldbaek

**ElderCare**  
Benevity Community Impact  
Catherine Askilsrud  
Dannevirke  
Ernst & Linda Jensen

**Scholarship Fund**  
Sonja Kromann  
Line Larsen  
Dannevirke  
East Side Circle  
Georg & Nina Pedersen

**In Memory of George Edward Short**  
Frank & Edith Christensen

**Danish Teacher Grant**  
Danish American Language Foundation

**Our 2017-2018  
Community Members:**

*The Swedish Club*  
*Danish Brotherhood Lodge #29*  
*Danish Sisterhood Lodge #40*



## Other



### In Loving Memory of NWDA Member, Laina Molbak



Laina Margrete Molbak, a devoted and passionate supporter of social causes, nurse, hard-working co-founder of Molbak's Garden + Home, and beloved family matriarch, died peacefully at home on March 30, 2018 at the age of 92.

Laina was born September 11, 1925 in Stovring, Denmark and completed her nurse's training at Aarhus Community Hospital, in Aarhus, Denmark prior to emigrating to the USA in 1950 along with her husband, Egon. She settled in Seattle where she established herself as a Registered Nurse, a profession she truly loved. Laina grew up in a family of educators who took their civic duties and love of country seriously so it was no surprise that in 1958, she was selected from 3000 of her fellow newly-naturalized citizens to speak in a ceremony at Volunteer Park, Seattle, about why she became an American and what American citizenship means to the individual.

"...What do we expect from the coming generation? ... that they will live and be educated in a country of which they will be proud; that they will receive the security, spiritual strength and respect which only an independent and broad-minded nation can give. We, their parents, carry a great deal of that responsibility. What is done today builds tomorrow. Let them live in a society that will inspire each person to be a flowering individual, to defend what they believe in, free from dull uniformity...."

Her words from that time guided all of her

actions: as a nurse, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, neighbor, volunteer, fundraiser, employer and business leader throughout her life and through her last days.

With her husband Egon, she built the small greenhouse and nursery business they purchased in 1956 in Woodinville, Washington into the largest retail garden center in the Northwest receiving over one million visitors a year. Laina was known as "the marketing mind" who conceived of the retail operation and some of its most beloved community events including the Poinsettia Festival and October Floral Fairyland. Her decisions were always made based on respect for customers and for employees.

Laina proudly served the nursing profession at Swedish and Harborview hospitals in the 1950's and later as a volunteer at Seattle Children's Hospital.

Laina passionately devoted herself to the greater Seattle community. She was an inspiring fundraiser for the Eastside YWCA and was instrumental in the drive to create the Y's Family Village for homeless women and children in Redmond. She was a member of innumerable social service organizations including F.I.S.H. and Planned Parenthood. She served over thirty years as an advisory board member at the Department of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington. Laina was also a member of the Women's University Club and the Northwest Danish Association.

Laina loved the arts and to challenge her mind. Nothing rivaled her books! Devoted to her book club for decades, a conversation with Laina would almost always include the question: What are you reading these days? For her it was usually a book a week. Recently she finished reading Hamilton and then went on to a book about the creation of Shakespeare's Globe Theater. Laina read the entire newspaper every day.

She was an active member of the Epis-

copal Church: St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Medina; St. Augustine in the Woods, Freeland (Whidbey Island) and a former member of The Church of the Redeemer, Kenmore. Above all else, Laina's greatest joy came from her family and nature. Her grandchildren could always count on an offer to play Hearts with an accompanying bowl of her famous Andes mint chocolates when they visited.

Laina is survived by her husband Egon Molbak; brother Per Milbak (Denmark); children Ellen Molbak Welsch (husband John), Kirsten Molbak Paterson (husband Rob), Jens Molbak, and Heidi Molbak (husband Rob Verchick); grandchildren Shon Olson, Ryan Olson (wife Robyn Stern), Jason Olson (wife Amber), Rebecca Blaede (husband Mark), Laina Paterson Summers (husband Donald), Andreas Molbak, Kel Molbak, Margrete Molbak, Reed Molbak, Ty Molbak and Luke Molbak; and great-grandchildren Justin, Harrison, William, Jacob, Oscar, Thomas and Izzy.

Donations in memory of Laina may be sent to: YWCA Seattle--King--Snohomish ([www.ywcaworks.org/donate](http://www.ywcaworks.org/donate)); the Nordic Heritage Museum ([www.nordicmuseum.org](http://www.nordicmuseum.org)); and the Northwest Danish Association ([www.northwestdanish.org](http://www.northwestdanish.org)).

Sign Laina's online Guestbook at [www.Legacy.com](http://www.Legacy.com).

*See The Seattle Times for the full version of Laina's obituary.*

#### **Write for The Little Mermaid!**

Write about your experience at Danish events in the PNW or other topics related to Denmark or Danish culture.

Contact us at [seattle@nwdanish.org](mailto:seattle@nwdanish.org) or (206) 523-3263 if you are interested in writing for our publication.

# Northwest Danish Association



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## Portland Meeting Space in Bethany Lutheran Church

4330 NE 37th Ave  
Portland, OR 97211

Portland Contact: Bodil Muller  
p) 503.547.0161

## Monthly Events

- Work Party — First Tuesday, Seattle
- DBIA & DSS — First Wednesday, Seattle
- Fredagscafe — First Friday, Seattle
- Onsdagsklubben — Third Wednesday, Seattle

**Watch our e-bulletins each week for specific times and dates of programs.** Note: Monthly events are subject to change. Some programs do not run in the summer.

## Save the Date

### WASHINGTON

April 3: Work Party  
April 6: Fredagscafe  
April 18: Onsdagsklubben  
April 26: Nordic Ventures  
May 1: Work Party  
May 1: Queen's Birthday Reception  
May 2: Book Talk Sara Blædel (NHM)  
May 4: Fredagscafe  
May 5: Nordic Museum Grand Opening  
May 10: Nordic Nights with *Ice Age*  
May 16: Onsdagsklubben  
May 24: Nordic Ventures  
June 1: Fredagscafe  
June 5: Work Party  
June 20: Onsdagsklubben

### OREGON

April 11: Sangaften  
April 16: Hyggefro kost  
May 5: Himmelbjerget Fundraiser  
June 22 to 24: DACR  
June 24 to 30: Himmelbjerget

*Check website or e-bulletin for changes.*

# The Little Mermaid



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