

The Little Mermaid

A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHWEST DANISH ASSOCIATION

Jan. Feb. Mar. 2020 Issue #2019/2020 Volume 3

A Very Danish Christmas Season in the PNW *By Emily Olsen*

Danish Christmas season at NWDA in Seattle lasts from early November until late December. We start off with a Christmas Bazaar and celebrate through Lillejuleaften on the 23rd. This year NWDA in Seattle had five events to mark the season.

The Annual Danish Christmas Bazaar was on Sunday, November 3rd. This year we had a huge jump in interest in the event on Facebook. 1,200 people said they were 'interested' or 'going' because it was being sent around Facebook by people who had never heard of our organization before. Attendance was higher than ever before (but thankfully less than 1,200 due to the size of the Seattle Danish Center). Through Facebook we were able to stir interest and reach more people who could join us in the future for an event or as a member. It was a wonderful day of Danish food, crafts, and camaraderie. Many people came to buy the treats and decorations they remember from their childhood and wish they could make themselves. Others came to discover something new about Danish Christmas and try foods they hadn't had before like



Image: Julestue 2019

leverpostej. A big thank you to our Danish Circle groups, Eastside Circle, Dannevirke, and South End Circle, who put on this event and donate all their proceeds to NWDA. Mange Tak!

Julestue, our Danish Christmas party, was a fun-filled afternoon on Sunday,

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Happy Pigs Come from Denmark *By Line Larsen*



Antibiotic-resistant infections have become a growing global concern. As the use of antibiotics has increased, germs have adapted and now cause an estimated 700,000 deaths per year across the world.

The issue largely stems from the over-use of antibiotics in agriculture, where drugs are used to prevent disease in animals kept in confined spaces on farms before slaughter. Denmark has been actively working to diminish this practice. By 2018 pork producers in the U.S. were administering antibiotics at a rate that was 7 times higher than in Denmark.

Denmark is known for their abundance of pigs. 32 million pigs are raised per year in the country (where the human population falls short of 6 million). In an interview with The New York Times, Danish farmer, Søren Søndergaard, explains how kilos of antibiotics were fed to their pigs everyday when he was a child. Now, on Søndergaard's farm of 35,000 pigs, only one course of antibiotics is administered to each pig before they are slaughtered. Over 25%

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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



Upcoming Programs and Events

By Edith E. Christensen, EdD
NWDA President



Happy New Year. The ScanFair in Portland was a great success with many æbleskiver eaten, lovingly prepared by our Himmelsbjerget volunteers. Every year this fun/fund raising event supports the Himmelsbjerget Danish Camp. Planning is underway for a great program this coming June 21-27. Be sure to reserve a place for your 10 to 18 year old for Camp at Menucha Retreat Center in Corbett, Oregon. Information will be posted on the northwestdanish.org website.

Don't forget to plan on attending the annual Danish American Cultural Retreat also held at Menucha in Oregon. The dates for this event are June 19 to 21. Some speakers are already engaged for this popular retreat. Mark your calendar and watch the Wednesday e-bulletins for further information.

In Seattle there will be The Little Viking Dane Camp for 5 to 10-year olds the first full week of August. These will be announced in the weekly e-bulletin sent

out by Northwest Danish Association. Be sure to sign up early for the camps for children and adults as they fill up fast. Watch the Wednesday e-bulletins for dates to sign up for these events.

There are various programs coming up. Fredagscafe will begin again in February the first Friday of each month, and Torsdagsklubben will be on the third Thursday of each month, January through June. The Work Party, a group of people coming to do various chores required for our building upkeep, begins again on the first Tuesday of each month through June. If you are a little bit handy or just want to help out, join this group by coming and enjoying working and fellowship with others from 8:30 am through lunch.

Put Fastelavn on your calendar for February 22 or 23 and watch for exact date and time in our e-bulletins on Wednesdays. It is a fun time for young and old. Other programs to watch for are the Nordic Ventures speakers, smørrebrød

and cooking class. Reservations are a must for all these programs so we can plan appropriately.

Our annual Auction used to support college scholarships for our young people but since we no longer do an auction, other methods of raising scholarship funds have been created. We also happily accept your donation specifically restricted to scholarships. Be sure to send your donations and specify it is for scholarships. These will be awarded this spring for students attending college in the fall. Help our young with this important step in their lives. Thanks.

Northwest Danish Association Board of Directors

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Edith E. Christensen, EdD, President
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Claus Windelev

Northwest Danish Association Contact Information

E-mail: seattle@nwdanish.org

Phone: (206) 523-3263

Find us at:

1833 N 105th Street, Seattle, WA 98133

The NWDA office is located in Suite 101.

The Seattle Danish Center is located in Suite 205.

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

NWDA News



Welcome to the team Emily Olsen!



We have a new part-time staff member at NWDA! Emily is here to support Edith, Line, and Frank out of the Seattle office. She will assist with NWDA's operations, including managing NWDA's building and tenants, the MES Executive Suites, and NWDA programs.

Emily has been a long-time member of NWDA, attending events and volunteering since she was a toddler.



Image: Emily at NWDA in 1993.

After earning her Bachelor of Arts in Education from Western Washington University in 2013, she taught elementary school for a few years. With her versatile background in teaching, she will assist NWDA further our mission of sharing our Danish culture through events and programs. When you give us a call or stop by the office, you'll likely get to talk to Emily, if you haven't already. She will help answer the phones and greet guests that come into the office.

Emily is deeply involved in many aspects of the Danish community in the U.S. She is an active member of the Danish Sisterhood, acting as Marshal of her own lodge and Secretary/Treasurer of the Pacific Northwest District Sisterhood. We look forward to having Emily be a bigger part of NWDA going forward!

NWDA 2019 Annual Meeting

NWDA's Annual Meeting took place on October 12th, 2019 at the Seattle Danish Center. NWDA program organizers shared progress and memories from the past year while members shared their feedback. The room was filled with a positive atmosphere which trickled over into the dinner portion of the evening. Thank you to everyone who made it!

Meeting recap:

- **Preben Pedersen** was elected on to the board as a new board member. Preben's financial expertise will be a huge asset to NWDA and a critical piece to secure NWDA's future.
- Unfortunately, **Ken Kromann** is

leaving the board. We extend a huge thanks to Ken! Ken has been NWDA's financial guru on the board for 9 years. With Ken's support NWDA has been financially stable and is growing in size.

- **Claus Windelev** was awarded a place on the NWDA Wall of Honor for his significant contributions to NWDA and to the Danish community at large. As a longtime member and volunteer, he has offered tremendous support to NWDA. Claus has spent countless hours volunteering on the Elder-care committee and as a board member. He has even taken on the role of Danish teacher. Tak Claus!

Current status of NWDA: NWDA is growing in scope and reaching new audiences across the PNW. Membership income **increased by 62.7%** in the 2018-19 fiscal year (membership prices stayed the same). Thank you all for your support!



Image: NWDA member of the year, Claus Windelev, with his award, next to NWDA president, Edith Christensen. Edith is holding NWDA's "Wall of Honor" with Claus' name engraved among other honored Danes.

NWDA Membership Form



Name:		Spouse/Partner:	
Current Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	Phone:
Email(s) (required):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you do NOT want to receive e-bulletins with updates on events, programs, and activities			

Annual Membership Categories (check one)

- ☐ **Adult Individual - \$50**
☐ **Couple or Family - \$75**
(up to 2 adults and minor children living in one household)
☐ **Senior Individual (65+) - \$35**
☐ **Senior Couple (both 65+) - \$60**
☐ **Student Individual - \$35** *(enclose copy of student ID)*

For organization/business memberships please see our website or contact us

Family membership: Dependent children (18 & under) if membership privileges desired

Name/ Age:	Name/ Age:
Name/ Age:	Name/ Age:

Membership Information:

Membership year is July 1 to June 30.

Dues renewal date is **JULY 1** each year.

For more information on membership and benefits,
visit: www.northwestdanish.org/membership/

Add a tax-deductible donation (Check boxes that apply)

- ☐ **Royal Dane - \$50**
☐ **Noble Dane - \$100**
☐ **Bold Dane - \$250**
☐ **Great Dane - \$500**
☐ **Grand Dane - \$1000**
☐ **Other - \$ _____**
☐ I would like to make a **recurring donation (minimum \$10)** of ____ per month.
☐ My employer will match my contribution to NWDA.
 Enclosed is my matching gift form.

Would you like to donate your time?
Check here:

☐ **Yes, I'm interested in volunteering!**

**NWDA is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization,
TAX-ID 91-0565541.**

Totals

Membership Dues	\$
Donation	\$
+\$15 The Little Mermaid (for printed copies please enclose \$15 to cover postage & handling)	\$
TOTAL	\$

Payment Information

☐ **Check enclosed payable to:**
Northwest Danish Association

☐ **I am paying by Debit/Credit Card:**
Name on card (please print): _____

Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Date Signed: _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORM WITH PAYMENT TO:

Northwest Danish Association
1833 N 105th Street, Suite 101
Seattle, WA 98133

Jul in the Pacific Northwest



Northwest Danish
Association

ElderCare



Anne Lise Pedersen received an early Christmas present from NWDA this year. She used to enjoy walking on the Burke Gilman trail, but with the increased traffic and bikes zooming by, she no longer feels as safe and sturdy on her two feet. Via the NWDA Elder-care program, she was lent a walker after Torsdagsklubben in December. Anne Lise now says she will be back on the trail to enjoy her afternoon walks.

From the ElderCare Committee: An important cornerstone of NWDA's mission is the tradition established by the early Danish immigrants of providing assistance to the elderly and people with special needs. The aim is to provide opportunity for an active, engaged and inclusive life for seniors with Danish connections by helping with services ranging from transportation to important Danish-oriented

events to assistance in the home. As an example, some elderly have been supplied with 'lifelines'. These devices, which can be worn day and night, enable the elder/disabled to call for help in case of emergency without having to reach a telephone. For some, it has meant life-saving help. For all it gives a greater sense of security.

Further information regarding various services available in the metropolitan Seattle area is available at NWDA. Those who may be in need of any of the services offered or know of someone who needs assistance are encouraged to call 206-523 DANE (3263). An "Application for Assistance" form is kept on file.

Also, volunteers are needed to make telephone calls, visit those in need, provide rides to events, and/or other assistance. Please call the office for further details.

A Very Danish Christmas Season in the PNW

By Emily Olsen

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December 8th of crafts, storytelling, dancing, and Danish treats. Many families come to this event with two, three, or even four generations represented. People of all ages try their hands at making woven heart baskets, Christmas stars, or oranges with cloves. After all the crafting is done, they watch our wonderful Christmas play of the McCrunchie family and their mischievous nisser acted out by children attending the event. Afterwards everyone circles the tree to dance and sing Christmas songs, both in Danish and English, before Santa Claus comes to talk with every child and give them a small gift. To end our afternoon everyone has hotdogs and kringle and the adults can have a cup

or two of gløgg.

December's Torsdagsklubben luncheon is always one of the best attended of the year because everyone knows they will get a lovely, traditional Danish Christmas meal. Those who came had a delicious meal of ham, glazed potatoes, pickled beets, and creamed kale. There was even dessert of risalamande and everyone tried to find the almond to win a prize. Vern and Karl Olsen entertained attendees with a Christmas sing-a-long, which was lots of fun.

The Danish Christmas Fest was on December 14th this year. Instead of being focused on Danish winter-time beers as past years, it was expanded to include more Danish treats like æbleskiver and a Nordic Vintage Sale. The æbleskiver were a hit and many Nordic items we had accumulated over the years went to new, happy homes. There were many new faces at this event who saw flyers in the community or saw it online and decided they needed a little Danish in their Christmastime celebrations.

Lillejuleaften was Monday, December 23rd at St. John United Lutheran Church. Pastor Susanne Rasmussen of Vancouver, B.C. kindly lead the service again. The service and sermon are conducted in Danish and the choir sings hymns and songs in Danish as well. After the service, all are invited to stay and enjoy cookies while they visit with other attendees. This year over 130 people attended the event.

The Christmas season in the Seattle Danish community is always a busy and happy one. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make these events possible and to those who attended and helped make them festive and special. Glædelig Jul og Godt Nytår!

Oregon



Northwest Danish
Association

The Danish Mountain Goats

By Bodil Muller



Image: The Danish Mountain Goats on a hike

About 30 years ago two Danish women started hiking together in the Portland area. It is a perfect area for walking because the largest forest within city limits in the USA is in Portland. Danes usually like the outdoors; (actually they often hurry outside as soon as the sun starts to shine), so it was not long before other Danish women joined the group. They started exploring more of the countryside, such as the Mt. Hood area, the Columbia Gorge, and the Oregon coast. Soon women of a different nationality wanted to join, three Norwegians, and even a few who had no connection to Scandinavia. But for all these years, we have been called the Danish Mountain Goats, and the core of the group has been women born and raised in Denmark.

Immigrants are notoriously adventurous, and so is this group; we have

had several wonderful trips together, often including the "Billy Goats". We spent a fantastic time in Norway, in a mountain cabin close to the relatives of one of our members, and every day we were invited to the home of a family member! Four Mountain Goats enjoyed a beautiful cruise to the formerly Danish islands, the Virgin Islands, where we found lots of memories of the Danish inhabitants. One group member wanted to visit Hawaii, so four of us went with her and had a great time in a rented condo on the beach of Kauai. In the Cinque Terre, Italy, we enjoyed some of the best hikes along the coast from one little picturesque town to the other, returning to our hotel each night via train or boat. Of course we also had to take a trip back home to Denmark, and we chose a cozy hotel on the island of Bornholm, where there are

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Gløgg Party at Danebo

By Bodil Muller



Saturday, November 2, 2019

It has become a tradition for the Portland/SW Washington Northwest Danish Association to celebrate the fall season with a gløgg party fundraiser. This year we were fortunate enough to be able to have the party at our new meeting place, "Danebo". As usual, Kaja Voldbæk and Hanne Wagner had prepared a wonderful treat for us. Kaja's "saltemad", delicious traditional Danish dishes for smørrebrød, was extremely popular, and Hanne's great gløgg was enjoyed by everyone. The room looked great, decorated by Jette Steuch and Bodil Muller in fall colors. 40 generous Danes made sure we raised enough funds for a dishwasher and kitchen cabinets, and besides, everyone had a wonderful time with old and new friends.

Nils Jensen gave an interesting talk about the history of the Northwest Danish Association in Oregon/SW Washington and how we got our meeting place, "Danebo". For many, it was the first time they had a chance to meet at Danebo, and everyone one was very pleased with our new space.

Learn Danish in the Pacific Northwest



Northwest Danish
Association

Danish Language Classes in Washington and Oregon



Image Graduates of the Danish Language Program in Seattle (Fall Term): Joey, Peter, Sandra, Eva, Linda, David, Nancy, Tristan, Nikolai, Emil, Linaea, Agatha (Also pictured: Claus; Not pictured: Ann and Sarah

Danish Program in Seattle

NWDA's Danish program in Seattle began during summer 2019 with great success. For the third term of this program, our Danish teacher, Claus Windelev, will be out of town. The Winter Term will take the form of 'conversation groups' led by native speakers while Claus is absent. Enjoy the discounted price for the Winter Term and join us on January 18th for the first class.

Winter Term:

January 18th to March 14th
Saturday mornings: 9:00 to 10:30 am

Cost:

NWDA members \$80
Non-members \$100

Location: Seattle Danish Center
1833 N 105th Street, Suite 101

Register early to secure your spot:
www.northwestdanish.org/learnandish/

Danish Program in Portland

Learn Danish in Portland in an informal and cozy setting. Aase W. Beaulieu is the instructor. Two levels are offered: Beginning/level 1 has no prerequisite. Intermediate/level 2 requires level 1 or instructor permission.

Dates and Times:

Classes will meet on these Tuesdays:
January 7 & 14; February 11, 18, 25;
March 10, 17, 24, 31

Level 1: 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
Level 2: 7:35 pm to 9:05 pm

Cost:

NWDA members \$160
Non-members \$200
Danebo is located in Suite 207 at
Kristin Square II, 9498 SW Barbur Blvd

To register, contact Danish instructor,
Aase Beaulieu: Call 503-320-1041 or
send an email to
aasewbeaulieu@yahoo.com

Danish Mountain Goats

By Bodil Muller

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many opportunities for beautiful hikes.

Altogether ten Danish immigrant women have been hiking with our group through the years, and most of us still get together for parties. Although most of the original Mountain Goats are no longer able to hike with the group (the oldest is now 86 years old), some of us hold down the tradition and walk almost every Tuesday. We still go to the forest and the beach, but don't climb mountains much any more. The group, which had fifteen members at one time, has shrunk considerably, and some people live too far away to join us on a regular basis, but when there is a party, we all try to show up. At this Christmas party on December 10 we were 20 people, including "Billy Goats", and we had a great time together at Northwest Danish Association's new "Danebo" meeting place.



Image: The Danish Mountain Goats at NWDA's "Danebo"

From Denmark



Sailing to the Church for Salt

By Jan Bruun-Petersen



Image: Jan Bruun-Petersen sitting in front of Vrangstrup Church.

Vrangstrup Parish is the most northern parish in Næstved Municipality on the island of Zealand. The parish borders Sorø and Ringsted Municipalities. In the village of Vrangstrup is the little Vrangstrup Church. It is the smallest church in Næstved Municipality and one of the smallest churches in Denmark. However, it has some incredible frescos inside.

The complete history of the church is difficult to trace back so far, but it is estimated that it was built around 1200-1250 in stone in the Romanesque style (however about 200 years later there was an addition made in the Gothic style). Some of the older woodwork in the church points to that there was a completely wooden church there before the current stone one.

Fresco is a form of painting where the pigment is applied on to wet plaster, so as the plaster sets, the painting becomes a permanent part of the wall. The frescos beautifully embellish the interior of the church with religious (the three kings, crowned Jesus, Mary and Joseph plus some saints) and secular depictions of marketplace activities in Vrangstrup from the old days.

Viewing the church and churchyard outside, one can see that the old bell tower is unusual compared to other churches from this period and there are two modern artworks outside in the churchyard from the last twenty years (a sculpture and a fountain). The tower was built in 1588 with a half-timbered construction in the walls. These walls are covered with wooden shingles, which is an unusual look for a bell tower from that time period (normally whitewashed walls). The Jerusalem Stone near the church driveway is a sculpture that tells stories from the Bible, depicting the apostles and is topped off with glass symbolising the New Jerusalem coming down from Heaven. On the other side of the church is a little fountain called the Life's Spring. The fountain depicts Life's Crown, the Trinity, God and Jesus. The church is mostly surrounded by farmland.

Legend has it that Vrangstrup in the old days was a type of destination for water traffic that had sailed all the way from Karrebæksmunde (a harbor) all the way up Suså (a small river) to the church was then used as a depot for salt. Suså is 87 km long, while Denmark's longest å is Gudenå in Jylland at 127 km long.

Happy Pigs Come from Denmark

By Line Larsen

Continued from page 1

of the pigs never receive antimicrobial drugs.

Cultural changes and tougher regulation are among the factors that have led to this marked improvement in Denmark. The country's decreased use of antibiotics has been attributed

to the following changes:

> An old financial benefit that incentivized veterinarians to prescribe antibiotics was removed.

> Farmers became required to hire veterinarians for regular visits, so that veterinarians could sell their knowledge instead of medicine.

> A 'yellow card' system was set into motion in order to reach national targets set by Denmark since 2010. If farms exceed their target, they receive a yellow card, negatively impacting their reputation.

The main force in the reduced use of antibiotics was a cultural change among farmers. With regulations set in place, farmers gained knowledge on how to keep their animals healthy. To minimize the chance of infection, they began to provide the pigs with more space, improved the conditions and ventilation in their indoor spaces, and decreased their stress.

In the U.S. there is resistance against such change modeled after Denmark due to the widespread belief that food prices will increase. In Denmark, there seems to be a different sentiment. As Søndergaard notes, "Most of us have kids, we want to make sure we leave them a world where antibiotics will work."

Sources:

Jacobs, A. (2019). 'Denmark Raises Antibiotic-Free Pigs. Why Can't the U.S.?', *The New York Times*, December 6.

Available at:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/06/health/pigs-antibiotics-denmark.html> (Accessed: December 29)

Image: Billede af Roy Buri fra Pixabay

NW Danish Calendar



January 2020

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
			1 Godt Nytår!	2	3	4
5	6	7 Work Party (S) Danish Class (P)	8 DBIA/DSS (S)	9	10	11
12	13	14 Danish Class (P)	15	16 Torsdagsklubben (S)	17	18 Danish Class (S)
19 Badehotellet (P)	20	21	22	23	24	25 Danish Classs (S)
26 Duolingo group (P)	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2020

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

March 2020

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
1	2	3 Work Party (S)	4 DBIA/DSS (S)	5	6 Fredagscafe (S)	7 Danish Class (S)
8	9	10 Danish Class (P)	11	12	13	14 Danish Class (S)
15 Badehotellet (P)	16	17 Danish Class (P)	18	19 Torsdagsklubben (S)	20	21
22 Duolingo group (P)	23	24 Danish Class (P)	25	26 Nordic Ventures (S)	27	28
29	30	31 Danish Class (P)				

(P)= Portland (S) = Seattle (E) = Eugene

For more information on these events, programs, and activities, please visit our website: 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!



July 2019 to December 2019

General Donations:

Grand Dane

Anja Bakland & Verner Andersen
Benevity Community Impact Fund

Great Dane

Georg & Nina Pedersen
Ian Proctor
Erik Muller & Susan Trapnell

Bold Dane

DBIA #29
Edith & Frank Christensen
Inga Kromann
Sonja Kromann
Annette Kyle
Egon Molbak
Your Cause Trustee

Noble Dane

Odd & Tove Askilrud
Sally Beck
Otto & Minna Brask
Jette Bunch
Dell & Renee Deierling
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Teeda Gengo
Martin & Benedicte Hey
-Mogensen
Paul E Jensen
Kenneth & Annie Kromann
Greta Larsen
Jimmy Larsen
Anna Leslie
Lynn Pattison
Anne Lise Pedersen
Britt Pfaff-Dunton
Bo Schultz-Andersen
South End Circle

Gloria Steberl
Hans M Rasmussen
Ib Rossen
Elaine & Sheila Richards
Annie & Jan Syberg

Royal Dane

Diane Chapman
David & Jean Christensen
Travis Christensen
Terry Crawford
Joann Derie
Becky & Scott Ealy
Anna Lou Falck
Lene Hajek
Kjeld & Helle Hansen
Aage & Diane Jensen
Judith Kiteley
Annemarie Lorenzen
Bodil Muller
Victor Nielsen
Dean Pedersen
Bodil Stevns
Karna Town
Inga & Dick Wiehl
Per & Lilli Zeeberg

Danes

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Bonnie & Don Fisher
Kai Hansen
Nathan Kalet
Kirsten & Robert Kromann
Preben Pedersen
Lynn Rasmussen
Hollyce Snyder

Restricted Donations:

Danish Program Seattle

Danish American Language
Foundation

ElderCare

Dannevirke
East Side Circle
Ernst & Linda Jensen

Himmelbjerget

Jette Bunch
Ernst & Linda Jensen
ScanFair

Scholarship Fund

Catherine Askilrud
Benevity Community Impact
Fund
Dannevirke

New Portland Office

Furnishings

Jens Kim Bergenser
Vivi Fillback
Lili Gregerson
Julianne Grenzer
Charlene Jensen
Nils Jensen
John Martinson Jr
Bill and Betty McKinney
Sandra Miller
Bodil Muller
Jorn Muller
Roger Ray
Christina & Kenneth Sallee
Bo Schultz-Andersen
Jette Steuch
Lois Toftemark
Erik & Kaja Voldbæk
Hanne Wagner

Other Danish Happenings in the PNW



PNW Danes in Omaha

By Emily Olsen



This past October some Pacific Northwest Danes made the trek out to Omaha, Nebraska to attend the National Danish Sisterhood Convention. We had members from lodges in Seattle, Portland, Olympia, Enumclaw, and Vancouver, B.C. attend. This event is only held every four years, so it is a special time that Danish Sisterhood members from all over the United States and Canada come together. This year was hosted in Omaha partly because of its nearness to Elk Horn, Iowa, home of the Museum of Danish America and the Danish Windmill.

The Museum of Danish America is now archiving the National Sisterhood's history. Museum staff graciously prepared a display and "behind-the-scenes" tour for us because most of the collection is not yet

ready for public for viewing since it is still being catalogued and preserved. The museum tells the stories of Danes and their descendants in America, as well as creating and showcasing exhibits that travel to share Danish culture with as many people as possible. One thing many people were excited to see was Victor Borge's piano sitting in view of the Danish Immigrant Wall of Honor.

The Danish Windmill is an amazing feat of tenacity and community. In 1975 Harvey Sorenson had an 'impossible dream' to bring a Danish windmill to the Danish Villages of Iowa. The people of Elk Horn rallied around him and raised the money to buy, dismantle, and ship a Danish windmill from Norre Snede that was more than 100 years old all the way to Iowa. It arrived in pieces in February 1976 and reassembled by more than 300 volunteers, who got it operational, grinding its first corn meal in the United States, in March 1977. The Sisterhood strives to bring that sense of community to the Danes of America.

The PNW Danes returned to Omaha for meetings where we discussed the state of our organization and our prior and future outreach. This year we even upgraded our "virtual" lodge to full membership to better serve members who are not near an established lodge. There were also workshops to teach us about preserving our history through archival storage of our lodge artifacts and moving us into the future using social media and other technologies to reach younger generations.

In the times between meetings we had time to just spend together. It is a sisterhood after all. We talked and played games. We explored Omaha with their nearby sculpture parks and shopping district. Some of us even visited the University of Nebraska Omaha to see a photo exhibit from the Danish American Archive and Library called Danish Children Growing Up American. Since it was my first time at a National Convention it was wonderful to meet new people from all over the United States and Canada. I also enjoyed seeing the long-lasting friendships that are sustained at these conventions, even if we only get this large group together every four years.

My hope for the future is that we can continue as an organization that shares Danish culture, values, and sisterhood for many years to come. I also hope I can attend the next convention, wherever it ends up being, in 2023 to see these fantastic people again and explore more of our country while I explore my Danish heritage.

Follow NWDA on
LinkedIn, Instagram,
Facebook, and Twitter!



Northwest Danish Association



Seattle Office

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Seattle, WA 98133
p) 206.523.3263
f) 206.729.6997
e) seattle@nwdanish.org

Visit our website:
www.northwestdanish.org

Save the Date

Check website or e-bulletin for changes.

SEATTLE

- January 7: Work Party
- January 16: Torsdagsklubben
- Jan 18-Mar 14: Danish Language Program
- February 4: Work Party
- February 7: Fredagscafe
- February 20: Torsdagsklubben
- February 23: Fastelavn
- February 27: Nordic Ventures
- March 3: Work Party
- March 6: Fredagscafe
- March 19: Torsdagsklubben
- March 26: Nordic Ventures

PORTLAND

- Jan 7-Mar 31: Danish Language Program
- January 19: Badehotellet
- January 26: Duolingo Group
- February 16: Badehotellet
- February 19: Bogklub
- February 23: Duolingo group
- March 15: Badehotellet
- March 22: Duolingo Group

Portland Office

9498 SW Barbur Blvd. Suite 207
Portland, OR 97219
Portland Contact: Bodil Muller
p) 503.547.0161

Please note label problems and make corrections next to the label. Mail to the Northwest Danish Association in Seattle.

- ☐ My name is misspelled.
- ☐ My address is incorrect.
- ☐ I received more than one copy.
- ☐ I do not wish to receive Association mailings.

Monthly Events

- Work Party — First Tuesday, Seattle (except July & August)
- DBIA & DSS — First Wednesday, Seattle (except July & August)
- Fredagscafe — First Friday, Seattle (except January & July)
- Torsdagsklubben — Third Thursday, Seattle (except July & August)

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.

The Little Mermaid



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