The Little Mermaid

A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHWEST DANISH ASSOCIATION

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Thirty Years of NWDA at MOB

By Emily Olsen



Image: NWDA building dedication ceremony on February 17th, 1990

Think back to February 17th of 1990. It was a snowy day in Seattle. Just a couple of weeks earlier Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow, but the city still seemed to be stuck in the middle of winter with no spring in sight despite his predic-



Image: Otto Brask sharing memories from the early days of NWDA at Torsdagsklubben in February

tion of an early one. Mind you, I hadn't been born yet, so I had to google the groundhog prediction and look at photos to know there was snow that day. Yet there was a celebratory air in the Danish community of Seattle on that snowy day in February. The Northwest Danish Association, after a long hunt, had finally found a new home in the Meridian Office Building just west of the

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"Snapshots": H.C. Andersen Art Exhibit Travels to Seattle

By Line Larsen



Image: Frank Christensen (NWDA), Edith Christensen (NWDA President), Bruce Bro (NFDA President), Line Larsen (NWDA), Emily Olsen (NWDA) at the Opening Reception for "Snapshots"

"Snapshots: Traveling with H.C. Andersen by Susanne Thea" is on display at the Seattle Danish Center. The art exhibition opened on March 5th with the help of Bruce Bro, President of the National Foundation for Danish America. Bruce flew to Seattle to introduce the exhibit and the National Foundation for Danish America, a new umbrella organization for Danish groups across the U.S. The opening of the art exhibition in Seattle shows the power in

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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





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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.

Happy Spring

By Edith E. Christensen, EdD NWDA President

It has been an interesting and frustrating time that we are now in. I hope you are taking care of yourselves and your families. The NWDA office is temporarily closed, but we can be reached by email as usual. The building is unlocked from 9 to 5 weekdays, but not the offices in the building. Some are coming to their offices and working alone, or working from home. We are trying to keep people well through this period of uncertainty.

We have cancelled events for March and April and we are still thinking about the Danish American Cultural Retreat and Himmelbjerget which are held in late June at Menucha Conference Center in Oregon. At this time nothing has been decided, but it has been put on hold until the end of April. By that time we hope that a definitive decision can be made about continuing with them, postponing them, or suspending them for a year.

If you would like to plan to go to DACR or Himmelbjerget (if the virus has been controlled), we would very much like to know that now. PLEASE send us an email stating that you plan to attend either event if the government gives the Green Light for events to open up again. That gives us a better idea of whether to

keep it on hold or cancel entirely. Please let us know so we can plan accordingly. Send an email to the office at one of these emails: seattle@nwdanish.org line@nwdanish.org edithchristensen@hotmail.com

If you are not signed up for our ebulletins on Wednesdays, now is the time to sign-up. Go to our website northwestdanish.org and sign up for our newsletter the e-bulletin. We have NWDA Washington and Oregon activities on that site. We also have information of other Danish groups.

A new organization, the National Danish Foundation, is posting events of a Danish nature from all over the United States. Visit their website: www.danishamerica.org for more information.

We have extended the showing of Snapshots by Susanne Thea, Danish artist, in our Harmony Hall through April after which it will be shipped to the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa. However, we are setting up an online version of the exhibit for you to explore.

Our lives are being interrupted temporarily, but hopefully will be back to a normal very soon. Keep well!

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



Danish Programs in Seattle and Portland



Congratulations to the 16 students who completed the Winter Term of the Danish Language Program in Seattle!

The next term will be offered online, beginning on Saturday, April 4th. Due to the online format, the maximum number of students we can have in the course is 15. If more students are interested in taking the course, we will offer an option to audit the class. Auditors will be sent a recording of each session. If you are interested in joining the Spring Term online, send an e-mail to line@nwdanish.org. Registrations are required.

Information about the online Danish Language Program based in Portland will be available on our website soon. The classes in Portland will begin towards the end of April. Contact Danish teacher Aase Beaulieu at aasewbeaulieu@yahoo.com for details about the Portland program.

"Snapshots" Exhibition Goes Digital on H.C. Andersen's Birthday



Danish poet and author, H.C. Andersen, was born 215 years ago on April 2nd 2020. In honor of his birthday, NWDA is creating a virtual version of the "Snapshots: Traveling with H.C. Andersen" exhibition by Danish artist, Susanne Thea.

A link to the online exhibition will be sent out via email on Thursday, April 2nd, to those who have signed up for our ebulletin list. Sign up here if you haven't already:

www.northwestdanish.org/e-bulletin/

Event Changes

By Line Larsen

As Edith Christensen mentioned in her article in the President's corner, due to the current global pandemic, all upcoming events have been cancelled or moved online. At this time we are unable to predict the fate of events in May or even our summer programs. Please bear with us as we work to navigate this unchartered territory, where each day we are faced with a changing landscape, locally and globally.

We will keep you updated on our progress and the decisions being made via the weekly e-bulletin. If you are not yet on the list, you can sign up here:

www.northwestdanish.org/e-bulletin/

We are working on moving to an online format for as many activities as we can. As you can see, our Danish language programs in Washington and Oregon will be offered online. We are also currently working on offering a virtual version of the "Snapshots: Traveling with H.C. Andersen" exhibition which is currently on display at the Seattle Danish Center.

We will keep you updated on our progress. In the meantime, stay healthy and happy!



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For organization/business memberships please see our website or	r contact us					
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Add a tax-deductible donation (Check boxes that app	ly)					
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NWOA



Thirty Years of NWDA at MOB

By Emily Olsen

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Northgate mall on the other side of Interstate 5. At that time they were the Northwest Danish Foundation after having been the Northwest Danish Home for more than sixty years. This was a new chapter for the organization that was celebrated in style.

The building and new Harmony Hall were dedicated on February 17, 1990 with a crowd here to recognize the achievement. There were tours of the office building, speeches, and a banquet dinner and dance following. Looking at those pictures I am amazed at how many people we fit in that room to celebrate our new home.

Thirty years on we celebrate again. We remember the hard work and community that got us to where we are today. Below is an excerpt from a speech dictated to and then read by Edith Christensen, NWDA President, by Joe Matsen. Joe has worked tirelessly for decades for the Northwest Danish Association in all its forms. He has served in many positions on the board and that is only the beginning of his contributions. Here is some of what he had to say regarding the completion of our new Harmony Hall and dedication of the Meridian Office Building in 1990.

"I thought you might like to know that it was a real struggle to close the building we owned in South Park, but that is nothing new for the



Image: Our NWDA members enjoying lunch at the Seattle Danish Center followed by a slideshow of old memories

Danes when it comes to making changes. We had the vote to go on the search for a new location. Flemming Sorensen, Jette Bunch and I were on the search committee, and there may have been some others.

We looked at various places. We needed to have a space and also something to support the organization. To help us decide where to locate we put pins on a map where Danes lived. It was decided that the best place was in the Northgate area. The Meridian Office Building came up and it was handy to the places where the Danish community lived.

The location and building were handy for most of our members and there was substantial income from the building, which made a good cash flow for Danish activities.

Parking was available which was very important to us. More recently we have tried to acquire more property for parking but that didn't materialize.

When we purchased the building, we searched the capacities of the building and looked to see where we should

have a hall for our home activities in the building. It was decided to have the Harmony Hall location on the second floor, which then needed substantial remodeling.

As you know the Danish community has many contractors and people skilled in the building trades. They volunteered their time and muscle power to work on the west end of the second floor. We needed to have a place for meetings, a kitchen, and restroom facilities. So we went to work. Flemming Sorensen, Gert Jacobsen, Ed Olsen, Otto Brask, Jette Bunch and others, got hammers and tools to break up the concrete. We took out the windows on the north side and put a shoot down so we could dump debris out on the north side of the building into wheelbarrows and get rid of it. We worked all day long for more than a week to demolish and get it ready to remodel for our purposes.

In the meantime, Jens Bruun of Scan Design Furniture heard of the new home and he very generously donated top grade cabinets to furnish the kitchen. Tom and Nadine Paulsen donated the flag poles in front of the building to hold the Danish and American flags.

The Danish community has been well pleased with the direction of our new home. With the work of Edith and Frank and others, we have been able to keep it that way and enjoy its many opportunities."

I have never known the Northwest Danish Association in any other home besides the Meridian Office Building. I tell people that I grew up

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NWDA Events



Fastelavn in Seattle 2020

By Emily Olsen



Image: Rasmus, the 2020 Cat King

Fastelavn in Seattle is always a good time and this year was no exception. About sixty children and adults converged on the Seattle Danish Center on Sunday, February 23rd for crafts, costumes, and boller. The afternoon started with families arriving with kids of all ages in costumes ready to play. There were many new faces in the crowd as well as many familiar ones.

Kids received birch branches to decorate for fastelavnsris, though they didn't get to wake their parents up with them on Fastelavn morning. There were streamers and cut-out cats and masks aplenty to make their fastelavnsris colorful. Meanwhile, kids decorated empty coffee cans to make raslebøsser that would be used to collect coins from the adults and shook during the costume parade. There were coloring pages as well that gave attendees some background on Fastelavn before the story was told.

Once the kids were done decorating their fastelavnsris, everyone gathered on the dance floor to sit and listen to the story of Fastelavn. Some of the kids remembered parts of it from past years but were eager to hear it again. After the story was decorated over, those who raslebøsser got them and all the kids lined up in the hallways to make their entrance. They paraded around the room showing off their costumes and getting coins from adults throughout the room. Then it was time to break open the barrel to get to the black (stuffed) cat and all that candy! The kids were good about staying on the edge of the dance floor for safety as the barrel hung in the middle from the ceiling. This year's barrel was not nearly as tough as some past years' and gave in pretty easily. Every kid got a bag full of candy and our Cat King, Rasmus, won a crown, stuffed cat, and a trip around the room carried on the arms of a couple of adults.

It was finally time for boller and hot chocolate. All was gobbled up by kid and adult alike. People hung around for a while longer while kids played and adults talked. This event could not have happened without our wonderful volunteers. Edith, Frank, Line, Emily, Patti, Joey, and Emilie made sure everything ran smoothly. Greta and Henning Buus prepared the birch branches and delivered them so no one would miss out on decorating a fastelavnsris. It takes many people to have a successful event. Thank you to all the volunteers and attendees for making Fastelavn 2020 in Seattle a wonderful event. We hope to see everyone back next year and at many more events throughout the year.

DAVS New Year's Luncheon at Danebo

By Bodil Muller



Image: Guests raising a toast at the DAVS New Year Luncheon

January 4, 2020 - For many years we have called our annual luncheon "DAVS". It is a fun name that stands for "Danish American Vintage Society". We used to have these luncheons in December, so of course they were Christmas luncheons, but everyone got so busy in December that we moved them to January, so for several years now we have had New Year's Luncheons. It turned out that it is a perfect time for the NWDA community to get together, and it is very popular

Each couple brings ten slices of Danish smørrebrød, all the same kind, to share with the group, (singles bring five), and it is a great way to have a delicious and very Danish selection. At the same time, it is easy for each person to prepare only one kind of "pålæg" with various items for decoration. We set up the serving tables with seafood, then meats, followed by cheeses and fruit, in the proper order according to the Danish "smørrebrød rules".

This year 48 happy Danes joined us,

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Nordic Ventures



Snapshots: H.C. Andersen Art Exhibit in Seattle

By Line Larsen



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collaboration between individuals and groups, including the Danish Church of Southern California, National Foundation for Danish America, Northwest Danish Association, and Danish artist, Susanne Thea.

At the opening, Edith Christensen, President of the Northwest Danish Association, introduced the Association's Nordic Ventures series. The series acts as a precursor to the annual Danish American Cultural Retreat. The "Snapshots" exhibition is the second of the four features that were planned in this year's series that highlights travels of the Nordic people.

During the reception, Bruce Bro introduced the audience to the National Foundation for Danish America and took them on a brief tour of their website. To transition to the much-anticipated exhibit opening, Bruce shared Susanne Thea's exhibit story on her behalf. Susanne Thea joined on screen through a video she had created for her Seattle audience. During her remarks in the video, Susanne surprised Bruce with a painting as a thank you gift. Bruce

also gifted an etching to the Northwest Danish Association on Susanne's behalf.

With introductions and surprises in place, the doors were opened to the exhibition's walls covered in the colorful, dreamlike paintings. Guests were free to explore the exhibition for the rest of the evening.

The exhibition is on a journey across America, telling the stories of H.C. Andersen's own travels. H.C. Andersen's mantra is captured in his quote: "To move, to breathe, to fly, to float, to gain all while you give, to roam the roads of lands remote, to travel is to live." The paintings in "Snapshots" mirror these words. H.C. Andersen traveled the world with wonder when he lived. Little did he know his journey would continue in 2020 by way of art.

Funding from the National Foundation for Danish America helped make it possible to bring this exhibition to Seattle, Washington from Yorba Linda, California. The foundation works to share exhibitions,

The World's Best Ocean Rower and Modern-Day Viking

By Line Larsen



The room was quiet with a sense of wonder and fascination as Erden Eruc spoke about his life. Erden, the world's best ocean rower, gave a presentation to kick off Northwest Danish Association's 2020 Nordic Ventures series. The event took place on February 27th at the Seattle Danish Center. Erden shared stories of his accomplishments with the group, including the 15 Guinness World Records he has broken in his life (so far). His next feat is a modern-day Viking voyage called "The Midgard Expedition."

The Midgard crew is embarking on this journey from Oslo to Istanbul this May. A Viking boat has been built in South Africa using traditional methods. One goal of the voyage is to discover communities that harbor sustainable practices.

Erden's fight for green solutions intensified during his time on the ocean, time of which he has had plenty of. He has spent over 312 consecutive days on the ocean. During this time he noticed the enormous amount of plastic

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From Denmark



Sitting Under a Pergola Sipping Wine

By Jan Bruun-Petersen



Image: Jan Bruun-Petersen standing under the winter-dormant grapevines that form a pergola overhead at Vesterhavegaarden.

I decided to go out for a little Saturday excursion into the countryside near the town of Karrebæksminde. I had heard that there is an organic vineyard nearby called Vesterhavegaarden. Although Danish wine is a fledgling industry (Denmark was first allowed to produce commercially by the EU in 2000), Vesterhavegaarden's proprietor Jesper Rye Jensen has 10,000 grapevines growing on his vineyard as well as 2000 apple trees. Both fruits are used for making wine. Jesper had 3000 apple trees, but they lost 1000. So it was then that Jesper decided to try out planting grape vines. Vesterhavegaarden is now considered a medium-size vineyard producing awardwinning wines (red and rosé).

Jesper is slowly converting his rows of vines to pergolas. Pergolas are normally an outdoor garden structure forming a shaded area with a sturdy lattice above which vines can grow and hang. In the case of

Jesper's vineyard, he is finding inspiration for how to construct his pergolas by looking at the Italian wine-producing region of Valpolicella. These pergolas allow most of the grape leaves to be elevated considerably above the grapes so the leaves can absorb much more sun thus converting more water and carbon dioxide to sugar for the grapes.

Jesper was nice to give me a couple of hours of his time to talk about his trade and to show me around. For Jesper, his wife, and five children, running the vineyard is a family affair. There are many delightful ways for the vineyard to connect with the public especially during the tourist season. There are guided tours for groups that can be finished off with wine tasting and tapas. Besides visiting the wine cellar and the vineyard store, there is also the opportunity to sleep in the vineyard's own bed and breakfast, which is only 200 meters from the beach here in southern Zealand. And of course, the guests can also enjoy sitting under a shady pergola on a sunny day enjoying a glass of the vineyard's own wine.

One of the vineyard's neighbors is fellow American, Chris MacDonald, who grew up in Seattle. Chris is well known in Denmark for writing and speaking about physical and mental health. It is cool, listening to his inspirational talks in Danish with an American accent.

The World's Best Ocean Rower and Modern-Day Viking

By Line Larsen

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that surrounded him and saw the detrimental effects on marine animal life, including sea turtles and other creatures of the sea.

You can find out more about Erden and The Midgard Viking Expedition by visiting www.midgardexpedition.com. If you are interested in helping to fund the expedition, the donate link can be found on the webpage.



Image: The Midgard Viking Expedition Logo

DAVS New Year's Luncheon at Danebo

By Bodil Muller

Continued from page 6

and everyone enjoyed the setting in our new "Danebo", which is beautiful and spacious, just right for such an event. A special thanks goes to Ingrid Howard and Lili Gregerson, the DAVS Committee 2020, and to Hanne Wagner and Nils Jensen for their help.

NW Danish Calendar



Due to the coronavirus outbreak, all calendar events are tentative. We have cancelled a number of events for precautionary measures. Sign up for our e-bulletin to receive the most recent updates: www.northwestdanish.org/e-bulletin/

April 2020

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
			1	2 Nordic Ventures (S) SNAPSHOTS: Online Exhibit Opens	3	4 Online Danish Class Start (S) Smørrebrød Making (P)
5	6	7 Work Party (S)	8	9	10	11 Online Danish Class (S)
12 God Påske	13	14	15 Bogklub online (P)	16 Torsdagsklubben (S) Queen's 80th Bday	17	18 Online Danish Class (S)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Online Danish Class (S)
26 Duolingo group online (P)	27	28 Online Danish II (P)	29	30 Online Danish I (P)		

May 2020 (Note: All events are tentative due to COVID-19)

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

June 2020 (Note: All events are tentative due to COVID-19)

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

(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.









Donations: Thank you!



July 2019 to March 2020

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Bo Schultz-Andersen

Other News



Marietta Foubert Obituary

Marietta Foubert passed away March 6th. She was a participant in many NWDA programs and a regular at Torsdagskluben. She served on the Board for some time. Some of her participation was in the singing group Sang Aften, the choir at Lillejuleaften and she also did an imitation of Stan Boreson. She had a great sense of humor. Her hobby was photography. She framed some of her beautiful pictures of nature and donated them to our auctions. In addition she participated in the pea patches and donated her extra produce to Homeless shelters. There will be no memorial at this time due to restrictions on our movements.

Donations Continued

Jette Steuch Lois Toftemark Erik & Kaja Voldbæk Hanne Wagner

Portland Additional Space Rental

Aase Besson Nils Jensen Inger Olsen Jette Steuch Lois Toftemark Kaja Voldbaek

Thirty Years of NWDA at MOB

By Emily Olsen

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in this building. I learned Danish folk dance on the dance floor in Harmony Hall. I watched my little sister become the Cat Queen at Fastelavn in Harmony Hall. I learned about my Danish culture at Dane Camp in Harmony Hall. I was installed as a member, board member, and Danish Princess for Seattle's Danish Sisterhood Lodge in Harmony Hall. We had my grandmother's celebration of life in Harmony Hall. Many important memories have happened for me within these walls. I know that is true for many others as well.

The Danes are resilient people. No matter our hardships, we find a way to keep going and support each other. We have celebrated thirty years in this home and I am ready to celebrate many, many more. Mange tak to everyone who has made this organization what it is today. Who saw the needs of the Danish community in the Pacific Northwest and changed and grew as the needs changed and grew.



Image: NWDA's building anniversary cake from Larsen's Bakery

Snapshots: H.C. Andersen Art Exhibit in Seattle

By Line Larsen

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talks, and other similar happenings from Denmark across the U.S. This goal is evident with "Snapshots," which has made its way from Denmark to Houston, Yorba Linda, Seattle, and is landing in Elk Horn next. The exhibit will be on display in Seattle through April 2020.

Due to the COVID outbreak, we are working on offering a virtual tour of the exhibit. The exhibition will be shared online on April 2nd, H.C. Andersen's birthday.



Image: NFDA President, Bruce Bro, and NWDA President, Edith Christensen at the Opening Reception for "Snapshots" in Seattle

Northwest Danish Association



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Visit our website: www.northwestdanish.org

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ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SEATTLE

- April 2: H.C Andersen's Birthday—Snapshots: Online Exhibition Opens
- April 4-May 30: Online Danish Language Classes (Registrations Required)
- May 5: Work Party
- May 8: Fredagscafe
- May 21: Torsdagsklubben
- May 28: Nordic Ventures
- June 2: Work Party
- June 5: Fredagscafe
- June 18: Torsdagsklubben

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)

TIME DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

•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.

PORTLAND

- April 15: Bogklub Online
- April 28-June 23: Danish Level 2 & 3 Online Classes
- April 30-June 25: Danish Level 1 Online Classes
- June 19-21: Danish American Cultural Retreat
- June 21-27 Himmelbjerget Danish Camp
- June 21: Midsommer picnic

Little Mermaid

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