

The Little Mermaid



A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHWEST DANISH ASSOCIATION

Apr May Jun 2022 Issue #2021/2022 Volume 4

Himmelbjerget Danish Camp 2022

By Kayti Hilzinger

På Gensyn

By Line L Larsen



Image: Himmelbjerget campers in 2019

Himmelbjerget Danish Camp is excited to announce that we will be back in person this year at the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center in Corbett, OR for the week of June 26th – July 2nd! We want to thank everyone who supported our last two years of virtual camp, but we cannot wait to get back in person for Vikings in 2022! While our virtual camp was open to campers of all ages, our return to in-person camp is for campers aged 10 – 18.

Registrations are open now but close this Friday, April 15th. This earlier-than-normal registration deadline is due to our need to have enough camp-

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Image: Line at the NWDA Annual Meeting 2019 at the Seattle Danish Center

This month marks my seventh year at NWDA. My first day of work was April 1st, 2015. Throughout the 7 years I have worn many hats. Edith and I were always stumped on what my official title should be, and it sure saw many variations as we discussed it over the years. I went from being the Office and Program Coordinator to the Event Coordinator to the Program, Development and Executive Assistant. I then became NWDA's Communications Specialist during the last two years and focused on handling the organization's social media and marketing.

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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



The New Way After Covid

By Edith E. Christensen, EdD, NWDA President

The Northwest Danish Association continues to promote the culture and traditions of Denmark. Even though times have changed over the past couple of years due to COVID-19, we strive to continue promoting programs and events with a Danish theme, although differently.

Due to the nature of online platforms like Zoom, some of our programs, like the Danish language program, have grown significantly. Students from all over the U.S., and even Canada, attend Danish classes in this new virtual way. Online courses have expanded our ability to teach the language to more people than we could ever have reached before in person.

While some of our programs have continued virtually, we are excited to be hosting in-person events, although we are continuing the masking requirement despite the new state regulations. Fredagscafé meets on the first Friday of the month but in a new location. Unfortunately, The Dane restaurant in Ballard closed, so we are now hosting at a wonderful craft distillery in Ballard, Heritage Distilling.

Upcoming this summer, we have the Himmelbjerget Danish Camp for 10 to 18-year-olds at Menucha Retreat and Conference Center in Corbett,

Oregon. We plan to be back at Menucha for the Himmelbjerget event from June 26th to July 2nd. We have postponed our Seattle Dane Camp (a day camp) for 5 to 10-year-olds this year.

This month, we have a celebration for Denmark's Queen Margrethe on April 20th in Harmony Hall at the Seattle Danish Center. The Royal Danish Guards will be in town! Watch the e-bulletin for specifics and how to make reservations.

Dates have not been set yet for other activities, so watch our e-bulletins for details. If you have suggestions for other events, please let us know.

Thank you for supporting this important Northwest Danish Association program. Your contributions to the Annual Fund at the end of each year and supporting donations all year long help us continue to plan these programs for you. We are hoping for donations to provide scholarships for young adults to further their education.

A really good way to make sure the organization continues into the future is to leave a legacy. You really can't take it all with you! By naming the Northwest Danish Association as a beneficiary in your will, you can help maintain the NWDA's ongoing success far into the future. I am sure



Image: The NWDA Building in Seattle

you want us to be able to continue having events like the Himmelbjerget Camp for young people, the Dane Camp for the younger kids, and the Danish American Cultural Retreat for adults for generations to come. It is important to support and encourage the education of the students. Over time, current generations will grow farther and farther away from their cultural backgrounds. Help them continue to appreciate their Danish heritage and cultural traditions. You will feel good about your legacy in supporting the NWDA's ability to flourish in the future. It is easy to include the Northwest Danish Association in your will. For more information about how to include the NWDA in your estate plan or to let us know that you have already done so, please contact the NWDA office.

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NWDA and News From Denmark



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1833 N 105th Street, Suite 101
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The Seattle Danish Center is in Suite 205

Danish Easter Tradition

By Gabrielle Clement



Image: Gækkebreve by Martin Tangaard
for isabellas.dk

In need of some ideas for an Easter celebration this year? Try out a letter crafting Danish Easter tradition called *gækkebreve*.

A *gækkebreve* is a decorated paper cut-out letter that includes an anonymous poem at the center—signed only by dots signifying the letters in the writer's name. Also included with the letter is a *vintergække* (snowdrop flower), the first flower of the year.

Traditionally, children in Denmark create, write, and send letters to friends or family members. The *gækkebreve's* recipient must then guess who sent the letter. If the

recipient guesses the *gækkebreve's* author correctly, they are owed a chocolate egg. If the recipient guesses incorrectly, the secret poet is victorious, and they receive the desired chocolate egg instead. Make sure to check Google for some fun cutting patterns! God Påske!

Denmark's Corona Report

By Jan Bruun-Petersen

March 2022 -

On February 1st, Denmark dropped all COVID restrictions despite the highest daily rate of corona transmissions. But the amount of extremely sick patients in Danish hospitals is much less than last winter.

There are no travel restrictions for entering Denmark for travelers with documented vaccinations or previous infections. Otherwise, one needs to take a test within 24 hours after arriving in Denmark.

Traveling to the USA from Denmark, one is not allowed to visit if not vaccinated unless the traveler is a US citizen. All travelers to the US need to take a Covid test within 24 hours before getting on a plane.

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

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NWDA News



På Gensyn

By Line L Larsen



Image: Kelly and Line at Fredagscafe at the People's Pub in 2016

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The time has now come for me to again try something new. I will be leaving NWDA and also closing the doors on my freelance business and will instead be working fulltime for Scan Design Foundation. The Foundation has funded several NWDA programs over the years as their mission is to advance Danish American relations through the exchange of people, ideas, and cultural experiences. It has been exciting to work with the Foundation and the stories of impact from its many grantees as a freelancer. This new role as Program Officer feels like the next natural step in my career. I am looking forward to new challenges and feel fortunate to be able to continue building on my connections within the Danish-American community in the Pacific Northwest and across

the U.S.

It has been an enriching 7 years at NWDA, where I have had the opportunity to work with an eclectic variety of programs and events. I had the chance to pilot several new programs such as the pen pal program with KonTiki School in Denmark, the Danish Christmas Fest, a påskefrokost, Danish playgroup, the Danish Language Program, and restarting Fredagscafe at various venues. With my many hats on I was also involved in both the marketing and the execution of many existing programs. It has been an absolute pleasure to see the organization flourish. Our digital following has grown immensely, we now have NWDA enthusiasts across the U.S. and even internationally. Before COVID hit, our in-person programs saw a vast uptick in attendance, with new families and students showing a strong interest in events like Fastelavn and Fredagscafé.

Through NWDA's network, I had the opportunity to get to know many longtime members and consistently saw new faces join the organization. I have been amazed time and time again by the talent and commitment of all NWDA's volunteers and will forever treasure the many friendships I have made. The organization is turning 99 this year because of the devotion of people like Edith and Frank, and all NWDA's other persistent volunteers (there are too many



Image: Annual Meeting and Dinner 2019

to name, but they know who they are). Thank you all for making the organization what it is today.

I will surely see everyone I have met over the years around at Danish cultural events and will be sure to stay in contact. As we say in Danish, this is not "Farvel" (goodbye), instead I say, "På gensyn" (see you again)!

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 or
(206)523-3263 if you are
interested in our publication.

From Denmark



The Poverty-Ridden Alchemist of Borreby Castle

By Jan Bruun-Pedersen



Image: Jan Bruun-Petersen in front of Borreby Castle.

During Christmas in 1858, Hans Christian Andersen was vacationing on the Basnæs Estate. Andersen had a good relationship with the widow Henriette Scavenius who lived there. Andersen had visited the estate 37 times for a total of 15 months. He found that the estate was a quiet, ideal place to get inspiration for his writing. So that Christmas of 1858 at Basnæs he was writing about another nearby estate called Borreby. Both Basnæs and Borreby are near the larger town of Skælskør in southern Zealand.

One of the previous owners of Borreby was Waldemar Daae. He was also an alchemist. Alchemy has been prac-

ticed in Europe and Asia for thousands of years. Alchemists tried to perfect certain materials which would transform ordinary metals to gold and heal or prolong the lives of people. The epitome of their philosophy was to try to create the Philosopher's Stone. The substance of the stone would have all the properties desired by alchemists.

The story that Andersen completed in two days that Christmas was about Valdemar Daae and his daughters. The title is "Vinden fortæller om Valdemar Daae og hans Døttre". The way that Andersen writes the story, it is the wind itself that narrates the story and is present throughout the events of the story. It

may be hard to believe that the wind can be a storyteller, but what happens to Daae is true and historical. Daae put too much of his worldly resources into creating the Philosopher's Stone. When he finally felt that he had created the stone, the glass containing the stone's liquid was accidentally smashed and he was never able to reproduce the stone again. This is the same Philosopher's Stone used in the title of Harry Potter's first book. The wind ends the story by saying that now could have told the story better even you.

The fate of Daae and his daughters because of their father's actions was a life of poverty. But a new owner of Basnæs in 1681, Ove Ramel, took pity on Daae and his children. Ramel let them stay at Borreby for the rest of his life. Thus Ramel then owned both estates.

The daughter of Scavenius, Lucie, married Carl Vilhelm Behagen Castenschiöld. They had a son together called Adolph. Adolph was the great-grandfather of the current lord of the manor, Joachim Lorentz Castenschiöld.

Borreby Estate was first historically documented in 1345. A couple hundred years later, the estate was in possession of the king and then transferred to the Friis family. This family created the existing Borreby Castle. The family eventually married into the Daae family, thus it was later taken over by Valdemar Daae.

Joachim Lorentz Castenschiöld runs the estate today through agriculture and theatre. So besides being a farmer, he is also an actor (he spent eight years in Hollywood) and theatre director. Borreby's largest barn was turned into a theatre in 2012. Prince Henrik was there to officially open the theatre.

NWDA Programs—Himmelbjerget 2022



Himmelbjerget Danish Camp 2022

By Kayti Hilzinger

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ers interested in a return to in-person camp before we place our first deposits with Menucha. Be sure to register your camper today and help us spread the news about camp! There is a \$50 registration fee at the time of registration.



Image: Himmelbjerget campers

Himmelbjerget Danish Camp will be requiring all campers and counselors to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. There may be testing or masking requirements the week of camp depending on the case numbers in June. While we are eager for our return to in-person camp, we understand this pandemic is not over and we want to ensure that we are not placing any campers or staff in direct harm.

If you have any questions about our

covid safety protocols, other details about camp, or would like the link to register, you can head to our website:

nwdanishcamp.com

You can also email the director, Kayti Hilzinger, at

himmelbjerget@northwestdanish.org

We hope to see your camper in June for a ferocious week of Vikings!

A Note from Our Camp Director

By Kayti Hilzinger



Image: Kayti Hilzinger

Hello to the NWDA and the Himmelbjerget communities – the Himmelbjerget Danish Camp committee is incredibly thankful to each and every one of you for the support we had in 2020 and 2021. I don't think we ever expected to pull off two years of virtual camp with such success, and we owe it

all to this amazing Danish community here in the PNW (and beyond)! We were able to form connections with new families and had so much fun taking the stories of Norse Mythology and bringing them to our youngest generation in a new and fun way. If you haven't watched any of our video clips from 2021, I highly encourage you to check out our YouTube Channel, *Himmeltube*.

As we plan for camp in 2022, we are once again asking for support from our community. Like other non-profit groups and summer camps, this pandemic has taken away many of our fundraising opportunities over the last two years. If you are able, we would greatly appreciate donations to camp in order to help us cover the cost of things like supplies, meals for counselors, and plane tickets for our counselor traveling to camp from Denmark.

Donations can be made at northwestdanish.org/donate. All donations made to the NWDA help to benefit us, but if you would like to ensure that your funds are applied directly to the camp, be sure to dedicate the donation to Himmelbjerget Danish Camp.

Again, we thank you for your continued support of Camp and the love of Denmark we are bringing to the next generation.

NWDA Programs—Fredagscafé



Fredagscafé at Heritage Distilling Co.

By Line L Larsen



Image: NWDA hosting Fredagscafé at Heritage Distilling April 2022

At 7:00 pm on the first Friday of each month for the last six months, NWDA has gathered around a table underneath the big distiller on display at Heritage Distilling Company in Ballard. The gathering is our monthly Fredagscafé, a social event for anyone interested in connecting over Denmark and Danish culture. Above the table at Heritage Distilling is a sign that reads "Bestemor" that hangs from the distilling machine. Although it is the Norwegian spelling of Grandmother (rather than "Bedstemor", the Danish spelling), the Scandinavian sign is fitting for NWDA's Fredagscafé and a certain Nordic vibe can be felt in the air.

The distillery proudly creates its own aquavits. And to the delight of our Fredagscafé attendees, Heritage Distilling Company invents a unique aquavit cocktail specially for the group each time. The names are no less inventive than the cocktails themselves. With the

bartender's creativity ablaze, the cocktails have included an "Aquavit Collins" and "Aquavit Spice and Everything Nice." In December, they featured the "Apple Aquavit in Aarhus", which was potent with Christmas flavors including cardamom, ginger, star anise, and nutmeg. These spices are also common in Danish Christmas cookies, like pebernødder. Leading into Spring the drinks became increasingly refreshing with the "Lilikoi Hammer" that had notes of hibiscus, passionfruit, lime and mint. And in April, the most recent invention was the "The Dan-ish Fly" infused with pineapple and tamarind flavors. All these cocktails could be made into mocktails without alcohol by request.

Heritage Distilling Company also gives NWDA members 20% off any merchandise and bottles during Fredagscafé. Folks from all generations have joined the event so far, including families with children and Danish students from the University of Washington. The next Fredagscafé at Heritage Distilling is on Friday, May 6th. Please RSVP via the NWDA website to join us: www.northwestdanish.org/fredagscafe/

Membership

The NWDA membership year is from July 1st to June 30th each year. If you haven't gotten your membership renewed, you still can!

Benefits include:

- Discounts on all NWDA events and programs
- 15% OFF any order at Scandinavian Design Studio
- 5% OFF at Scan Design Furniture
- Free access to our Danish library in Seattle or Portland with over 2,000 books and films available
- Occasional discounts and/or free tickets from community partners (like Heritage Distilling)

NORTHWEST DANISH NETWORK

The Northwest Danish Network is an online networking platform for the Danish community in the Pacific Northwest. Are you looking for a job, a new hire, housing, or some other connection? The Northwest Danish Networking Platform allows you to find the connections you need in our community.

Visit www.northwestdanish.org/network/

NWDA Programs



CELEBRATION FOR HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARGRETHE II OF DENMARK

~ 82nd Birthday ~
~ 50th Anniversary as Queen ~



Performance by
Royal Danish Guards
Cake from Larsen's Bakery
Champagne Toast

APRIL 20th 2022
7:00 - 9:00 PM

SEATTLE DANISH CENTER
1833 N 105th ST, SUITE 205
SEATTLE, WA 98133

Donations Appreciated

Vaccinated Guests Only, Please -wear mask unless eating

*The evening is sponsored and hosted by
the Pacific Northwest Danish community and affiliated groups.*

Please RSVP to the Northwest Danish Association:
northwestdanish.org/queenofdenmark or call 206.523.3263



Image: Line Larsen posing with Royal Danish Guards in 2018.

The New Way After Covid

By Edith E. Christensen

Continued from page 2

To make your bequest, you could use the following language: "I give ___% of my estate to the Northwest Danish Association", or you can name a fixed dollar amount. Contact your attorney to help with it! We recently received a donation as specified in the will of a member in which she stated a fixed amount of dollars, and provided that it should not be greater than a certain percent of her estate. This made it possible for her to leave a donation from her estate and also help her family.

It has been important for each one of us to be a part of the Northwest Danish Association, from the days when it was a retirement center to today, when we help people in many ways to stay in their homes in old age, to continue the camaraderie and the assistance to elders and children. Continuing the knowledge of the culture to children is important to their knowledge of all different cultures among us. When you chose to become a part of the organization, you believed in what it does and what it stands for. Your support is essential in these unsettled times.

Thanks for helping.

Thank you for caring.

- Edith

NW Danish Calendar



We are working on restarting in-person events! Sign up for our e-bulletin to receive the most recent updates: www.northwestdanish.org/e-bulletin/

April 2022

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
					1 Fredagscafe @ Heritage Distilling (S)	2 DAVS Luncheon (P)
3	4	5 Work Party (S)	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Nat'l Danish Lit Event (online) Beginner Danish I (online) Book Club I (online)	13	14 Book Club II (online)	15	16 Danish III (online)
17	18	19 Nat'l Danish Book Club (online) Beginner Danish I (online) Book Club I (online)	20 Queen's Celebration (S)	21 Book Club II (online)	22	23 Intermediate Danish Classes (online) Danish II & III (online)
24	25	26 Beginner Danish I (online) Book Club I (online)	27	28 Book Club II (online)	29	30 Intermediate Danish Classes (online) Danish II & III (online) Dansk Sangfest (P)

May 2022

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
1	2	3 Work Party (S) Beginner Danish I (online)	4 DBIA & DSS Meeting (S)	5 Danish III Bookclub (online)	6 Fredagscafe @ Heritage Distilling (S)	7
8	9	10 Beginner Danish I (online) Book Club I (online)	11	12 Danish III Bookclub (online) Book Club II (online)	13	14 Intermediate Danish Classes (online) Danish II & III (online) Smørrebrød Fundraiser (P)
15	16	17 Nat'l Danish Book Club (online) Beginner Danish I (online)	18	19 Danish III Bookclub (online) Book Club II (online)	20	21 Intermediate Danish Classes (online) Danish II & III (online)
22	23	24 Beginner Danish I (online) Book Club I (online)	25	26 Danish III Bookclub (online) Book Club II (online)	27	28 Intermediate Danish Classes (online) Danish II & III (online)
29	30	31 Beginner Danish I (online)				

June 2022

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
			1 DBIA & DSS Meeting (S)	2 Danish III Book Club (online) Book Club II (online)	3 Fredagscafe @ Heritage Distilling (S)	4 Intermediate Danish Classes (online) Danish II & III (online)
5	6	7 Book Club I (online)	8	9	10	11 Intermediate Danish Classes (online) Danish II & III (online)
12	13	14 Book Club I (online)	15	16	17	18 Intermediate Danish Classes (online)
19	20	21 Book Club I (online)	22	23	24	25 Intermediate Danish Classes (online)
26 Himmelbjerget Danish Camp @ Menucha	27 Himmelbjerget Danish Camp @ Menucha	28 Himmelbjerget Danish Camp @ Menucha	29 Himmelbjerget Danish Camp @ Menucha	30 Himmelbjerget Danish Camp @ Menucha		

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

For more information on these events, programs, and activities, please visit our website:
www.northwestdanish.org



Donations: July 2021 to March 2022—Thank you!



**Donations and gifts are
cumulative from July 2021 to
March 2022.**



Grand Dane

Anja Bakland and Verner Andersen
Benevity Community Impact Fund

Great Dane

Jette Bunch
Nils and Kathleen Jensen
Lene (Anna) Leslie
Georg and Nina Pedersen

Bold Dane

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Owen Winter
Marianne Stecher

Noble Dane

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In Memory of Erik Voldbaek

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Donations: July 2021 to March 2022—Thank you!



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Janne Larsen

Line Larsen

Larsen's Bakery

Audrey Larson

Majestic Bay Theaters

Kathleen Melson

Molbak's

Dee Mullins

Museum of Flight

Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP)

Peder Nielsen

Norsemask

OOLA Distillery

Pagliacci's Pizza

Svend & Erik Pedersen

Pfaff's Old Time Farm

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Rick Steve's

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Bo Schultz-Andersen

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Seattle Mariners baseball

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Get Your Donation Matched!

Many companies offer matching funds when you donate to non-profit organizations like Northwest Danish Association. Get your company to match your donation! Contact your Human Services Department and ask if they have a matching grant program. Every dollar you give NWDA could be matched, so your donation can be doubled!

Some companies that have participated (please double check your current policy at your company):

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**A heartfelt thank you to
everyone who has
donated to NWDA.**

**We would not be here
without your support!**

Northwest Danish Association



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Portland Meeting Space

9498 SW Barbur Blvd. Suite 207
Portland, OR 97219
Portland Contact: Bodil Muller
e) bodilmuller@mac.com

Visit our website: www.northwestdanish.org

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Save the Date:

QUEEN'S CELEBRATION—April 20th
FREDAGSCAFE—May 6th
HIMMELBJERGET—June 26th-July 2nd

Monthly Events (subject to change)

- Work Party — First Tuesday, Seattle (except July & August)
- DBIA & DSS — First Wednesday, Seattle (except July & August)
- Fredagscafe — First Friday, Seattle
- 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.

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Apr May Jun 2022 #2021/2022 Volume 4

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