

The Little Mermaid



A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHWEST DANISH ASSOCIATION

Jul Aug Sept 2022 Issue #2022/2023 Volume 1

Danish American History: Jacob Riis

By Gabrielle Clement



Image: Portrait of Jacob Riis

As a student researching photography and popular media of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, one name repeatedly appears in my studies: Jacob Riis. Riis (1849–1914) was a journalist and photographer whose book, *How the Other Half Lives*, sparked a movement of urban reform that fundamentally changed the social fabric of American cities. Riis wrote about and photographed impoverished neighborhoods and tenement housing in New York City. The lack of zoning laws and fair housing in densely populated areas created terrible living conditions for newly arrived immigrants. Families and

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Vikings are Landing at Dane Camp

By Emily Olsen



Image: Emily and Ellen Olsen folk dancing at Dane Camp in August 1998

This summer Dane Camp for Little Vikings returns to Harmony Hall! After a two-year hiatus, with one online edition in 2020, Dane Camp is back in person at the Seattle Danish Center. This is a fabulous opportunity to introduce some of our younger members and friends to Danish culture through language, food, games and stories. Dane Camp is a day camp that runs for five days, the first week of August. Children ages 5 to 12 can come explore Denmark through our Viking theme and begin (or continue) their learning of the Danish language.

Dane Camp has been a longstanding

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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



A New Year and Hope for the Future

By Edith E. Christensen, EdD, NWDA President

It has been a year since we paid off the mortgage on our building. We have been lucky to have the building almost full through this trying time of the COVID virus. We hope you have been able to stay well and cope with the various rules in various places due to the virus. With new research we are hopeful things will soon seem normal again.

There have been changes in the office buildings in the past couple of years. People have learned to do more through Zoom and virtual methods. But we are humans and like the company of others. So perhaps there will be some kind of compromise with companies allowing for interactions and work in some form to satisfy our need to be together.

It was fortunate that we had paid off the mortgage so that expense did not have to be a burden in these crazy circumstances.

Frank is now gone and I will miss him terribly. But we all go on somehow. Gabrielle has gone on to graduate school for an advanced degree. Emily is still in the office part time and when we have someone new to help in the office, I will let you know.

Frank and I have worked as volunteers for all these years to keep expenses as low as possible and still be able to run programs and events which is a mission of the NWDA and the reason to exist.

The Goal is to “promote programs for those interested in the unique traditions, culture, history, accomplishments, social concerns, and contemporary issues of Denmark; to share these cultural activities with others in the community; and to support programs and provide services for elders and youth.”

Now without a mortgage, we can focus on what successful non-profits do by having endowments and savings so we never have to be in debt again. We aim to be a successful non-profit. Donations, legacies in your wills, etc., can be used to establish that support so NWDA can still be around many, many years in the future fulfilling our mission.

You probably know other prominent non-profits which you may donate to; like the National Nordic Museum,

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Image: The NWDA Building in Seattle



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Seattle, WA 98133

*The Seattle Danish Center is in
Suite 205*

NWDA News



Farvel, NWDA!

By Gabrielle Clement



Image: Gabrielle in Olympic National Park in June 2022

Farvel, NWDA! June was my last month working with the NWDA. This summer, I will be moving to the East coast and settling in Philadelphia. I am moving to pursue graduate studies at the University of Delaware in Art History and to be closer to my sister—who just had an adorable baby! I am very excited about this next step in my academic career, but I am still sad to be leaving Seattle and the NWDA. The breathtaking scenery of the PNW truly swept me off my feet, and I will definitely try to return one day.

Although I only joined the NWDA staff in September after volunteering in the Danish Library, I still had the opportunity to wear many hats around the office. My first project was planning the 2021 Juleauktion, which successfully raised over

\$10,000! I also planned events like movie nights and helped Line create the weekly E-Bulletin, The Little Mermaid, and manage our website and social media. In February, Frank trained me in bookkeeping and showed me the ropes of basic accounting. Since then, I have been wearing a non-profit bookkeeper's hat! When I told Frank I was going to grad school for Art History, he replied point-blank, "You should be an accountant instead." Even though that might not be my desired career path, at least now, I appreciate Frank's candor and trust in me. I know the skills Edith and Frank taught me will give me a leg-up in any leadership role I'll have in the future.

I have had an incredible time working with Edith, Line, Leah, Emily, and NWDA's lovely volunteers and members. I know I have made lifelong friends and developed a connection with Danish culture that I will take with me wherever I go. I hope to keep in touch, and you can always reach me at my personal email address gclement24601@gmail.com.

Med Venlig Hilsen! Take care.

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 is Hiring!

Program Coordinator/
Office Administrator



The Northwest Danish Association (NWDA) is a non-profit organization that strives to enrich community life experience through Danish cross-cultural exchange and social outreach. We hold interesting and fun community events and programs for young and old, language classes, and book clubs that are focused on Denmark and the Danish society, culture, history, and innovation. The NWDA is a great place to meet the many members of the Danish and Scandinavian communities in the Pacific Northwest and nationally. In addition, we own and manage the office building where we are located. Our North Seattle office is seeking a full-time, in-office Program Coordinator/Office Administrator to perform in a multi-functional, customer-centric role. As the front face of the NWDA and The Meridian Executive Suites and office building, you will perform three primary functions in the capacity of Program Coordinator/Office Administrator.

TO APPLY: PLEASE UPLOAD AN APPLICATION, RESUME, AND COVER LETTER INCLUDING A DANISH GREETING OR SENTENCE TO seattle@nwdanish.org OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE www.northwestdanish.org/careers/

NWDA Programs—Dane Camp for Little Vikings



Vikings are Landing at Dane Camp

By Emily Olsen



Image: Ellen Olsen in viking costume at Dane Camp in August 1998

Image below: Campers at Dane Camp in August 1998 in their viking costumes

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program of the Northwest Danish Association. Since the early 1990s, elementary age children have been spending a week in Harmony Hall in the summertime learning about Denmark through a variety of themes.

I was a camper back in the late 90s and early 00s. This was a staple of my summer adventures and has instilled a life-long love of learning about different cultures and languages, especially Danish. One of my first years attending was a previous instance of a Viking theme for camp. The Viking theme is one we have revisited over the years. There is a reason the camp's name was updated a few years ago from "Dane Camp" to "Dane Camp for Little Vikings"!

Dane Camp has changed over the

years. We have had years of camp with 30 kids and years with 5. We have had folk dance lessons some years and others we have put together plays based on our theme. We play games and sing songs. We do crafts and have Danish lessons. We always have fun, no matter what.

This year, our new Camp Director, Jakob Bak-Thomsen, and his two children, Birk and Norr, are organizing our week of camp. As Danes living in America, they offer a different perspective on Danish culture than many of our past camp organizers. Jakob brings a teacher's mindset to camp. Birk and Norr, as 8- and 10-year olds, bring a child's perspective of Denmark and America, as well as the Danish language and the English language, that other campers will be able to relate to. I am excited for this summer's Dane Camp and all the fun and learning there is to be had.

I hope, if you have kids or grandkids ages 5-12 this summer, you sign them up for Dane Camp to join us in the fun. More information and registration is available at www.northwestdanish.org/danecamp.



Meet Your Dane Camp Director!



Image: Jakob with his children Birk and Norr

Hi, I am Jakob Bak-Thomsen, this year's Dane Camp Director. I am 47 years old and have lived in Seattle since November 2021. I live with my wife and three of our four children. Two of them (Birk 10 years old and Norr 8 years) will be co-directors at the Dane Camp. I've been teaching at Danish high schools in the subjects of Danish, Social Science, Economy, and Politics for more than 15 years and look forward to starting teaching again at the Dane Camp. The camp will focus on a basic instruction in Danish language and culture. We will focus on introducing ourselves, numbers, letters and much more. But mainly we will have a great time getting to know each other and playing together.

From Denmark



Where Skagen's Painters Thrived

By Jan Bruun-Pedersen



Image: Jan Bruun-Petersen standing in front of the Ancher House. Notice the white lacey look along the red roof's edge.

The Skagen painters are a Danish artists' colony formed in the northernmost Danish town of Skagen in the 1870s until the beginning of the twentieth century. There were also group members that were writers, composers, and sculptors. Some of them were also from other countries. The main painters were Karl Madsen, Laurits Tuxen, Carl Locher, Viggo Johansen, and Thorvald Niss. But the most famous were the two painting couples: Marie and P.S. Krøyer plus Anna and Micheal Ancher. Viggo Johansen later taught the Anchers' daughter Helga in 1901

in art school. Helga had many godparents that were Skagen painters, so she was destined to be a painter too.

Skagen in the 1800s was a popular summer destination for its natural setting and social community. It was a difficult place to get to. There was no harbor until 1907 (despite many protests by the fishing industry), no usable road until 1933, and a train line finally opened to Skagen in 1890. So the typical way to Skagen back then was either by boat or horse and carriage along the seashore. Despite the hardships, northern artists thought Skagen was won-

derful for "en plein air," from French, meaning outdoors. This involved painting directly on the canvas while sitting outdoors. Of course, these paintings used natural light. P. S. Krøyer was inspired by how the low light of the evening would make the water and the sky seem to merge visually. The Skagen painters were inspired by the French impressionists and the French Barbizon art movement that focused more on realism in landscape painting. So the nordic painters wanted to get away from the conservative traditions of the Danish and Swedish Academies of Arts and instead focus on new ideas that they had learned from Paris.

The Skagen painters would often meet to socialize at what is today Brøndums Hotel. Another important building is the Anchers' house. By the time Helga Ancher had taken possession of the house in 1935, both of her parents had passed away. So when Helga herself died in 1964, she had gifted it to a foundation that restored and opened it as a museum in 1967. Some of the furniture and paintings that the family made are in the house.

It should be noted that the roof of the Ancher House has some typical traits that make it very Skagensk. A red roof tile is used, and along the ends of the roof and the very top of the roof, roof tiles are grouted with white to give extra strength on the edges of the roof. This gives the appearance of a white "lace" look to the edges of the roof. This technique was used over all of Denmark, but now is mostly only known in Skagen. The Ancher House walls are red, but the typical Skagen house walls are a rich deep French gold ocher.

NWDA Programs—DACR 2022



DANISH AMERICAN CULTURAL RETREAT 2022

By Sonja Kromann



Image: Virtual Culture Conference, DACR 2020

Please plan to attend the 44th annual Danish American Cultural Retreat (DACR) the weekend of September 17-18, 2022. We are planning a terrific program of speakers and activities as we host the 2022 DACR virtually via Zoom again this year. Although we look forward to the time when we can return to the beautiful scenery at the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center, the Northwest Danish Association decided to hold the 2022 Danish American Cultural Retreat virtually again this year out of an abundance of caution as we continue to see high levels of COVID-19 infection in the Pacific Northwest. On the positive side, hosting the DACR as a virtual event broadens its accessibility for both attendees and speakers. The Danish American Cultural Retreat is based on the Danish Folk

High School where people come together to learn about new topics and spend time together.

The program this year is varied with speakers from around the United States, Canada, and beyond. Planned topics include the Danish West Indies, the 1619-20 Jens Munk Expedition, Danish multinational energy company Ørsted, the Danish Seamen's Church, Danish American Mormons, the Canadian Danish Museum, the Museum of Danish America, Greenland wildlife, and Nordic Northwest. The program will also include Danish trivia, group activities, and an evening concert.

The Danish American Cultural Retreat is hosted annually by the Northwest Danish Association and is a fun opportunity to learn more about Den-

mark and Danish culture while spending time with others who share those interests, albeit online. Because the 2022 DACR is a virtual event, please be sure to spread the word to friends and family outside the Pacific Northwest who might be interested in attending. Registration for the 2022 Danish American Cultural Retreat information will be sent out soon and additional information including past programs and photos can be viewed online at:

<https://northwestdanish.org/dacr/>

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Cover Story—Jacob Riis

Danish American History: Jacob Riis

By Gabrielle Clement

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Image: Tenement Yard, How the Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis

large groups of young people were forced to live in 6 ft x 6 ft rooms without light or circulating air—a hotbed for disease.

You may have seen Jacob Riis's photographs before, but did you know he was a Dane? Jacob Riis was born in Ribe, Denmark, in 1849, the third of fifteen children. He emigrated from Denmark when he was 21 and arrived in the U.S., like many, through New York City. He first worked as a carpenter in various Scandinavian communities around the Eastern Seaboard. Later returning to NYC to pursue journalism, Riis worked as a police reporter

for a local newspaper and covered the crime beat of urban slums. At this job, he witnessed first-hand the squalid living conditions and deprivation poor immigrants faced and began writing from a humanitarian angle. He hoped to publicize the social crisis he was observing—unsafe, deplorable housing needed to end.

When his book *How the Other Half Lives* was released in 1890, it took the country by storm and was immediately considered a classic piece of "muckraking" journalism, exposing inhumane living conditions. His photographs were poignant and gut-wrenching, image after image of people packed in small rooms like sardines. His images invoked urban reform policies and helped enact zoning laws in 1901. These laws required air shafts in all buildings, at least one toilet for every 20 people, and limits in building occupancy. Over time, these small changes lead to the development of large-scale public housing projects in the 1930s.

Although Riis's activism occurred over a century ago, his legacy as a social and urban reformer endures. When I learned that Riis was Danish, I was amused but not surprised. Danes are known for being socially conscious and supporting systems of social security that ensure the

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Corona Report from Denmark

By Jan Bruun-Pedersen

June 2022 - Denmark still has dropped all corona restrictions. Neighboring Germany still has requirements for masking up. In the German city of Hamburg, they have twice as many new cases of corona than all of Denmark. I guess that is because Hamburg has so many people concentrated in one area. It is still the case that travelling 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 one day before getting on a plane. There are actually more Danes dying of Corona now than in June 2020 or 2021. That would make sense since there are no restrictions. Four Danes have died of Covid in the past week.

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.



In Memory—Frank Christensen

Danish American History: Jacob Riis

By Gabrielle Clement

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well-being of all. While Denmark's social democratic project happened later after WW2, I would still consider Riis a part of the Danish legacy of social advocacy. His work is an early example of Danes doing good abroad. You can learn more about Jacob Riis at this online exhibit created by the Library of Congress: <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/jacob-riis/index.html>.



Image: In Poverty Gap—an English Coal-Heaver's Home by Jacob Riis

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/

In Memory of Frank Christensen

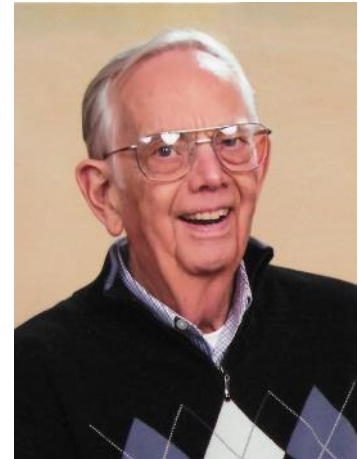
Frank (Bob) Ernest Christensen, 93, of Shoreline, died peacefully May 31 at Swedish Hospital in Edmonds. Frank was born on Dec. 28, 1928, in Seattle. He was beloved by his family and many friends.

Frank was a longtime member of the NWDA. He dedicated countless hours to the organization. We are fortunate to have had Frank's invaluable expertise to ensure NWDA's success far into the future. He will be greatly missed by our board, staff, and the Danish community.

Following graduation from Brown Military Academy in Pacific Beach, Calif., Frank attended Grandview College in Des Moines, Iowa, before returning to Seattle and earning a degree in accounting from the University of Washington. He later added an MBA and a CPA license to his credentials. Frank joined the U.S. National Guard, then served on the U.S. Army audit team in Korea.

Frank worked as an accountant and auditor at Rayonier Pulp and Paper Mill in Hoquiam, Wash. He also worked at Arthur Young and Company before starting his own CPA firm in Seattle. Soon after that, he joined John L O'Brien and Company as a partner, where he worked as a CPA and auditor for nearly 50 years until his retirement in 2007.

Frank showed his great love for his Danish heritage after retirement by volunteering his financial expertise for



the Northwest Danish Association. Frank loved Danish holiday celebrations and traditional foods (especially the desserts)!

Always kind and loyal, his family and friends were truly blessed to have had his steadfast love. He enjoyed making people laugh and made sure to never say goodbye to anyone without adding "stay happy."

Survivors include his wife of nearly 72 years, Edith; daughter Lynn Pattison (John), Arlington, Wash.; son Alan Christensen (Roseann), Lincoln, Neb.; eight grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Frank was preceded in death by his parents Christian C. Christensen, Jennie Bulow (Meiner Christensen), and sister Jean Lenihan.

Kom godt hjem.

A small celebration of life will be held on Wednesday, July 27th 2022 at the Northwest Danish Association's Harmony Hall in Seattle at 1:00pm.

1833 N 105th St STE 205, Seattle, WA 98133

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to: Northwest Danish Association, 1833 N. 105th St., Suite 100, Seattle, WA 98133.

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/

July 2022

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
					1 Himmelbjerget Danish Camp	2 Himmelbjerget Danish Camp @ Menucha
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

August 2022

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
	1 Dane Camp (S)	2 Dane Camp (S)	3 Dane Camp (S)	4 Dane Camp (S)	5 Dane Camp (S)	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 All Dane Picnic (P)
14 All Danes Picnic (S)	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2022

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

(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 June 2022—Thank you!



Donations and gifts are cumulative from July 2021 to June 2022.



Grand Dane

Anja Bakland and Verner Andersen
Jette Bunch
Benevity Community Impact Fund
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Great Dane

Nils and Kathleen Jensen
Lene (Anna) Leslie
Owen Winter

Bold Dane

Birte and Jim Falconer
Sonja Kromann
Lene Leslie
Annelise Pedersen
Heather Pool
Inger Seiffert
Marianne Stecher

Noble Dane

Aarhus International Inc
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Anne Marie Lorck

Patti Olsen

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In Memory of Frank Christensen

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Donations: July 2021 to June 2022—Thank you!



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Danish Brotherhood Lodge #268
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #81
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Kathleen Melson

Molbak's
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Museum of Flight
Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP)
Peder Nielsen
Norsemask
OOLA Distillery
Pagliacci's Pizza
Svend & Erik Pedersen
Pfaff's Old Time Farm
Charlotte Rasmussen
Ronnie & Jill Schmidt
Rick Steve's
Scandinavian Specialties
Bo Schultz-Andersen
Carol Schroeder
Seattle Mariners baseball
Skål Beer Hall
Flemming & Lexie Sorensen
Gloria Steberl
Tacoma Art Museum
Ingrid & Howard Thomas
Tour Mt. Rainier
Viking Soul Food
Erik & Kaja Voldbaek
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Zylberschein's Delicatessen & Bakery

A New Year and Hope for the Future

By Edith E. Christensen

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Museum of Danish America, Pacific Northwest Ballet, the Seattle Symphony, which you possibly support through donations for their operational expenses, and endowments (savings) for a successful future. We are now ready for that too—without a mortgage your donations can be used to create programs and establish endowments to have a brighter future for NWDA. Thanks for all your help in the past and for your continuing support in the future.

Come and enjoy programs as we try to open when possible. The Himmelbjerget Camp and Dane Camp for young children are in person this year. The Danish American Cultural Retreat however will be on-line again. We have some interesting presenters for the program in September. Watch for information.

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 Contact: Bodil Muller
e) bodilmuller@mac.com

Visit our website: www.northwestdanish.org

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Save the Date:

DANE CAMP—August 1st-5th
ALL DANE PICNIC—August 14th
FREDAGSCAFE—September 2nd
DACR—September 16th-18th

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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