

# The Little Mermaid



A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHWEST DANISH ASSOCIATION

Apr May Jun 2023 Issue #2022/2023 Volume 4

## Celebrating 100 Years of NWDA

*By Emily Olsen*

One hundred years old. Now in the broader context of time, that may not be all that long. Especially if you think about history and longevity in Europe, and Denmark in particular. The Danish flag alone has an 800-year history. However, things are “newer, younger” in the United States and we live in a time where things are ever more fleeting and even disposable. So truly, one hundred years is a major milestone.

The world is constantly changing, and all organizations and businesses must adjust or become obsolete. The Northwest Danish Association has not always been as it is today. In the future it won't be what it is now either. Change happens. Change must happen.

In August 1923 the Northwest Danish Old Peoples Home was founded. It was created to fill a need that the greater Danish community in the region saw as something they could do something about. Danes that had immigrated to the Pacific Northwest in the late 1800s and early 1900s were starting to age and didn't have the extended families who could help care for them that they may have had back in Denmark. At home services, like many we have now, didn't exist and these Danes wanted to live through their retirement in a place they could be surrounded by people who spoke their Danish language and appreciated their Danish culture.



The Home became one of the meeting grounds for the Danish community of the greater-Seattle area and the Pacific Northwest for decades. It was rebuilt and changed with the times as care home regulations were updated. Until the time there were no Danes left in the Danish Home. The need had changed. Danes wanted to stay in their homes longer, but still needed services and the Danish community still needed a meeting place. So, in the 1980s, after about 60 years of the Danish Old People's Home, it was time for a big change. The office building in North Seattle was purchased, some renovations made, and a new home for the Danish Community was created.

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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



### Reminder - This is Our One Hundredth Year

*By Edith E. Christensen, EdD, NWDA President*

It is almost one hundred years since NWDA was founded. Be sure to come to some of our special events this summer and fall to celebrate one hundred years since we were founded. There are only 38 organizations here who have had that many years as an organization. We plan to celebrate that this summer and fall. If you would like to be included in the planning, please call Emily in the Seattle office. We need people to help with this great event! There may be events, or dinners, or gatherings of people. Let us know what you would like to have. The timing is near our annual picnic time of the year, August. We plan to extend it for a couple months, so call and we can work together to make this a special time – 100 years – that is a long time! Please call now as that time will suddenly be upon us.

As I mentioned last time, we would like to create a One Hundred Year Endowment. This would really help sustain us for another 100 years. Any amount you are willing to donate is appreciated. Please mention that it is for the special Hundred Year Endowment. This would really make it a wonderful year for us to sustain the NWDA for another 100 years. We have an endowment for Elders and another for Scholarships.

One for sustaining the organization would be "GREAT". You can help!

If you have ideas for events, please call and let us know as we are beginning now to plan and organize programs and events for August and into the fall.

We have reserved Menucha for the weekend of September 8, 9, and 10th for our annual Danish American Cultural Retreat. Please note that it will be in September rather than the end of June. Everyone really enjoys the programs which are planned by Sonja Kromann. We already have some speakers lined up. If you have someone to suggest, please call me at the office. Unless we have suggestions, we won't know who you might like to have as a speaker.

*Continued on page 10*

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*The Seattle Danish Center is in  
Suite 205*



*Image: The NWDA Building in Seattle*



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# NWDA News and Programs



## Celebrating 100 Years of NWDA

By Emily Olsen



Continued from page 1

SCAN ME



Use the QR code above to get to the Bonfire Page to view and order shirts!



The Northwest Danish Foundation got a new name and it was updated again in the early 2000s to the Northwest Danish Association. Programs still include elder services and lunches, but also include family events, Danish classes, conversation groups, holiday celebrations, children's camps, art installations, and educational opportunities and talks. In the last few years, there has been another shift to online events and content. This has made NWDA an organization with national and international connections in more ways than it was before.

In August 2023 the Northwest Danish Association will have been in operation for 100 years. We no longer just serve the Danish Community. Our mission is to preserve and share Danish culture, traditions, and values. We want everyone to learn about Denmark, past and present, and come to cherish the culture, traditions, and values the way our Danish and Danish-American community has in the Pacific Northwest for a century.

In celebration, we have events and programs planned to gather our members and friends together.

Read more on page 11 about our 2023 plans, but here are a few ways we are celebrating, and we hope you join us!

- T-shirt campaign with Bonfire: You can wear your

NWDA support over your heart with our "One Hundred Years" logo t-shirts and sweatshirts. Visit [www.bonfire.com/nwda-100-years](http://www.bonfire.com/nwda-100-years) to see the styles and buy a shirt!

- Open House: On our anniversary, Friday, August 18th, there will be an informal open house at Harmony Hall (Suite 205) of the Seattle Danish Center. Gather to visit and tell stories of NWDA through the years and visit with friends, new and old, alike.
- NWDA at the Sounders: On Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, join NWDA at the Seattle Sounders FC match against Atlanta United FC to kick off our next 100 years! Tickets can be purchased for this group event and \$4 of the ticket price comes to NWDA! Use this website to purchase tickets: <https://fevo.me/nwdanish23>
- Gala Dinner: We are planning a Gala dinner for in late September—more information soon.
- Many more events (that you can read about later in this newsletter) throughout this Spring, Summer, and Fall!

If you have any questions about NWDA programs or our century celebrations, please contact me at [emily@nwdanish.org](mailto:emily@nwdanish.org). Myself and the NWDA staff and board members welcome suggestions for new programs, presentation topics, and always welcome new, enthusiastic volunteers and participants.

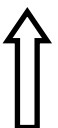
Visit our website for more information about events and programs!

Via our website you can also sign up for our e-bulletin to receive updates on all these activities:

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



Use the QR code above to order Sounders tickets!



# NWDA News and Programs



## Fastelavn Fun!

By Emily Olsen

February can get pretty gray around Seattle. We get lots of rainy, dreary skies, so it is fun to add a little color and brightness with our Fastelavn celebration.

Fastelavn was Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> this year. We had about 50 people participate at the Seattle Danish Center. It was a mix of NWDA members, friends, and community members. Some have been coming to NWDA events for years and others this was their first time at one.

We started off with a few traditional crafts. Kids decorated Fastelavnris with crepe paper, colored twist ties, and cut outs of masks and cats. There were also coffee cans to decorate so they could collect coins from their parents and the other adults.

Then all the kids gathered on the dance floor to hear the Fastelavn story. They learned a little about the tradition of Fastelavn, its roots, and how it is celebrated in

Denmark. We also practiced *Fastelavn Er Midt Navn* so they could sing it during the costume parade. All the kids paraded through the hall in their costumes and with their decorated coffee cans while we sang. There was lots of happy noise!

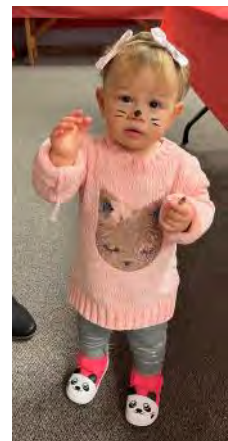
The barrel was tackled next. With about 20 kids of all ages, it took a little while to break it open to reveal the candy and cat, but no grown-up assistance was needed this year. The kids went round and round taking turns smacking the barrel with wooden bats until it finally gave way! Oliver was our cat king this year.

The party finished up after everyone enjoyed hot cocoa and fastelavnoller. The delicious cardamom buns from Larsen's Bakery were a hit like they always are.

Everyone had so much fun celebrating together, and who doesn't like an excuse to dress up in fun costumes and drink hot cocoa!



Image: Cat King, Oliver Madsen  
by Emily Olsen



Images Above: Verity Merola

Image Far Left: Klara Ianoliu-Urda and  
Adriana Urda

Image Middle: Susan Hill and  
her daughters and friend

by Emily Olsen

## Church Towns and Crocodiles

By Jan Bruun-Petersen



Image: Jan Bruun-Petersen in front of Eskilstrup Kirke.

In the northern part of the island of Falster is a little town called Eskilstrup. The name Eskilstrup from the masculine navn Eskil or Eskild plus the word torp. A torp is a town that usually was created during the age of the vikings. The original "adelby" or mother settlement allowed a torp to be created nearby as an outlying settlement. If the adelby thought that the torp was not benefitting the adelby, the adelby had the right to force the torp to be abandoned.

On the island of Zealand, there is a town called Kirke Eskilstrup, which

means Church Eskilstrup and there is actually a church there called Kirke Eskilstrup Kirke meaning Church Eskilstrup Church. But I actually visited Eskilstrup Church on Falster. That church was built around 1130. It is painted red, which is a tradition for churches in Gulborgsund Kommune. The church has the oldest frescoes in Denmark from about 1275. The pulpit is from 1639. It is unusual to see that on the church tower, there is a large working clock that can be read from quite a distance.

The town of Eskilstrup had about 10 houses and farms in 1682. A hundred

years later, a train station was built just east of the edge of town. This led to many more houses being built east and south of the church. Just before 1900, it now had a couple of schools, an assembly hall, an inn, a telephone/telegraph station and a medical doctor living there. In the past hundred years the population has doubled to about 1000 people.

Some things, one can enjoy within five kilometers of Eskilstrup, are Torkilstrup Windmill built in 1743 for milling grain, Denmark's Tractor Museum, Falster Golf Club and the Crocodile Zoo. The zoo is the world's largest, having over 150 crocodiles. The zoo is working with the Venezuelan government to protect the Orinoco crocodile from extinction in the wild by releasing 200 a year in the South American country. This crocodile can reach up to 13 feet in length and only lives on the Orinoco River which also is in Columbia. It is legally protected there, but it is difficult because of poaching. When not being killed, they can live as long as humans. The zoo is also helping endangered crocodiles in Cuba.

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Twitter!



# NWDA News and Programs—Oregon



## Updates from Oregon

By Bodil Muller

### OREGON NWDA RECENT ACTIVITIES

We moved again! The Oregon NWDA is trying - once again - to adjust to a new meeting place. Now we meet at Nordia House, a beautiful building in Portland that we enjoy very much, but it is difficult to get along without all the books, storage space, and ability to schedule our events and activities freely without having to share the space with four other Nordic groups. Needless to say, it means that we have had to cut down on our activities, but it has also given us new ideas and possibilities, such as the following new event:

In February we launched a new venture, which is proving to be very successful: A Danish Conversation Group, which meets twice a month, on the second Monday at 12:30 - 2:00 pm, and the fourth Monday at 7:00 - 8:30 pm. In this way, it is possible for those who don't drive in the evening to meet in the afternoon, and those who work day time jobs to meet in the evening. For the first two meetings we had 11 participants each time - not all the same 11 - and everyone had a great time. Most of them know some Danish, but we had all levels from beginners to native speakers. There is no pressure to speak, but all have a chance to participate at their level, and only if they indicate that they want to be corrected, do we comment on their grammar or vocabulary. It was great to hear that everyone encourages those who struggle to find the right



Image: Glogg Party at Danebo by Bodil Muller

words, and no one is critical. We all had many good laughs, and the time went really fast. Each meeting has a conversation topic, and the first time it was "Danish Food", which is easy to discuss. Everyone knows a lot of Danish food and has likes and dislikes. The second time it will be "Family", including emigration of family members. We plan to continue these groups as long as there is interest, and we may divide up the groups part of the time, if their knowledge of Danish makes it necessary. However, adding "Zoom" participation is probably not advisable, because it might cut down on the spontaneity of the members, especially those who are not fluent speakers.

### DANISH SMØRREBRØD

Are there any of our members who don't enjoy smørrebrød? Probably not, so every year we start with a big smørrebrød "DAVS" Nytårsfro-

Image: New Year lunch at Nordia House by Bodil Muller



Continued on page 7

# NWDA News and Programs—Oregon



## Updates from Oregon

By Bodil Muller

*Continued from page 6*



*Image: New Year lunch at Nordia House by Bodil Muller*

kost. It is an old tradition here, and DAVS stands for “Danish-American Vintage Society”. It is probably the most popular and well attended event each year. Each person brings five slices of Danish smørrebrød, most on Danish rugbrød and using the typical ingredients, such as herring, leverpostej, roast beef, ham, shrimp, salmon, frikadeller, cheese etc. The smørrebrød is decorated with suitable toppings and enjoyed with the usual Danish drinks, such as beer and aquavit. We line up the food in proper order, first seafood, then meats, and finally cheese and/or fruit salad. (See illustration). As usual, we started the year with this feast, and the great room in Nordia House

turned out to be a perfect place to have it.

### GLØGG

Hanne Wagner and Kaja Voldbæk are specialists in that department! Again last fall they made a delicious gløgg, served lots of “Saltemad”, i.e. various meats, leverpostej, and cheeses, and invited all the Danes and friends to gløgg aften. What a lively enjoyable evening with lots of talking, singing, and laughter. This event always takes place in the fall, and it’s always very popular.

### SANGFEST & DANSK BOOK CLUB

One activity that is perhaps unique for the Oregon NWDA is our “Sangfest”. We used to call it “Sangaften”, and it was always at our home. Now we meet on Saturday afternoons at

Nordia House, so we call it sangfest. Our wonderful musician, Aage Nielsen, no longer lives in Portland, so we have sangaften when he is able to come, usually twice a year. Next time will be on Saturday, May 20th. We sing lots of Danish songs, and of course we drink coffee, accompanied by pastry, usually some Danish pastry or home made cake or cookies.

Another activity that is perhaps unique for the Portland group is the Danish Book Club where we all read Danish novels in the original language and also discuss them in Danish. Of course most of our members are native Danes, but lately we have acquired several active members who have learned Danish as adults, which is really admirable. Five of our current members are not native speakers, but read the novels and participate happily in the discussion. Sometimes it is difficult, but they persevere!



*Image: Glogg Party at Danebo by Bodil Muller*

# NWDA News and Programs



## 2023 Danish American Cultural Retreat Returns to Menucha

By Sonja Kromann

We are excited to have the Danish American Cultural Retreat (DACR) return to the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center this year after three years of meeting virtually. This year's DACR is scheduled for Friday - Sunday, September 8-10. This continues the early fall timing established in 2020 which we have gotten a lot of positive feedback about and eliminates conflicts with Skt. Hans Aften and other midsummer festivities that were an issue when meeting in June.

The Danish American Cultural Retreat (DACR) is a great opportunity to spend a weekend away with friends and family. The Menucha Retreat and Conference Center is located in the beautiful Columbia River Gorge and features a beautiful estate with views east to Chimney Rock and Crowne Point and west to Portland. The DACR is modelled on Danish Folkehøjskole and includes a varied program with talks on Denmark and Danish culture, nature walks, Danish food, evening entertainment and lots of hygge. This year the DACR Program will include talks from



Thomas Dambo, Danish artist known for his recycled wood troll installations and the ScanDesign Foundation's role in bringing his art to the Pacific Northwest. We will also learn about global Danish energy company, Ørsted and hear from the Museum of Danish America about their 40th anniversary festivities, 40 years of exhibits and outreach, and what they have coming next. Kyle Dittmer will speak about pioneering Danish paleoclimatologist, Willi Dansgaard.

Author and curator, Katia Johansen, will join us from Denmark. She will discuss her career as a textile conservator for the Danish Royal family and her beautiful new book, "Ten Kings' Clothes: Royal Danish Dress, 1596-1863" which covers clothing of Danish Kings from Christian IV to Frederik VII. Katia will also discuss a new art exhibit she has curated including the textile art of her mother, local artist Marg Johansen. The exhibit is currently on display in Bend, Oregon and will then travel to LaConner later this year. The 2023 Danish American Cultural Retreat program will also include free time to relax, yummy Danish inspired food, Danish trivia, and evening entertainment. Registration for the 2023 DACR will open soon and we hope you can join us. Vi ses!

### 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 if interested in our publication.

# NW Danish Calendar



Sign up for our e-bulletin to receive the most recent updates: [www.northwestdanish.org/e-bulletin/](http://www.northwestdanish.org/e-bulletin/)

## April 2023

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
						1
2	3	4 Work Party (S)	5 DBIA & DSS Meeting (S)	6	7 Fredagscafe (S)	8 DBIA & DSS Meeting (P)
9	10 Conversation Group (P)	11 National Danish Book Club (online)	12	13 DBIA Meeting (E)	14 Queen's Birthday and Soft Opening of "Deep Blue Sea" Art Exhibit (S)	15 Danish I and Danish III/IV (Zoom)
16	17	18	19 Danish Reading and Pronunciation (Zoom)	20 Danish Conversation and Culture (Zoom)	21	22 Danish I and Danish III/IV (Zoom)
23/30	24 Conversation Group (P)	25	26 Danish Reading and Pronunciation (Zoom)	27 Danish Conversation and Culture (Zoom)	28	29 Danish I and Danish III/IV (Zoom)

## May 2023

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
	1	2	3 DBIA & DSS Meeting (S) Danish Reading and Pronunciation (Zoom)	4 Danish Conversation and Culture (Zoom)	5 Fredagscafe (S)	6 Danish I and Danish III/IV (Zoom)
7	8 Conversation Group (P)	9 Work Party (S)	10 Danish Reading and Pronunciation (Zoom)	11 Danish Conversation and Culture (Zoom) DBIA Meeting (E)	12	13 Danish I and Danish III/IV (Zoom) DBIA & DSS Meeting (P)
14	15	16 National Danish Book Club (online)	17 Danish Reading and Pronunciation (Zoom) Syttende Mai Parade (S)	18 Danish Conversation and Culture (Zoom)	19	20 Danish I and Danish III/IV (Zoom)
21	22 Conversation Group (P)	23	24 Danish Reading and Pronunciation (Zoom)	25 Danish Conversation and Culture (Zoom)	26 Deep Blue Sea" Art Exhibit Official Opening (S)	27 Danish I and Danish III/IV (Zoom)
28	29	30	31 Danish Reading and Pronunciation (Zoom)			

## June 2023

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
				1 Danish Conversation and Culture (Zoom)	2 Fredagscafe (S)	3 Danish I and Danish III/IV (Zoom)
4	5	6 Work Party (S)	7 DBIA & DSS Meeting (S) Danish Reading and Pronunciation (Zoom)	8 Danish Conversation and Culture (Zoom) DBIA Meeting (E)	9	10 Danish I and Danish III/IV (Zoom) DBIA & DSS Meeting (P)
11	12 Conversation Group (P)	13	14	15 Danish Conversation and Culture (Zoom)	16	17
18	19	20	21 To Be Confirmed: Gangspil Concert and "Deep Blue Sea" Art Closing (S)	22	23	24
25 Himmelbjerget Camp	26 Himmelbjerget Camp	27 Himmelbjerget Camp	28 Himmelbjerget Camp	29 Himmelbjerget Camp	30 Himmelbjerget Camp	1-JULY First day of New Membership Year

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



# Donations: July 2022 to March 2023—Thank you!



**Donations and gifts are cumulative from July 2022 to March 2023.**



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Nina Pedersen

## Bold Dane

Henning and Greta Buus  
Gary Olson  
Barbara Smith

## Noble Dane

Peter Carroll  
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #15  
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Gary Korsgaard  
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## Restricted Contributions

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### Eldercare

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## Himmelbjerget Camp

Ernst and Linda Jensen  
Danish Brotherhood Centennial Lodge #348

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

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



## In Memory of Frank Christensen

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## In Memory of Ellen Juhl

Denise Fernandez  
Inge Miller  
Bruce Ritzen

## In Memory of Georg Pedersen

Otto and Minna Brask

## In Memory of Paul and Margit Christensen

Linda Christensen

## In Memory of Milton Oscar "Chris" Christiansen

Deborah McDonald

## Reminder - This is Our One Hundredth Year

*By Edith E. Christensen, EdD,  
NWDA President*

*Continued from page 2*

The Himmelbjerget Camp will be held the end of June as usual. Please check our website, as we are already taking reservations. Don't miss out on this great camp for ten to eighteen year olds. They love it and once they start, they just want to keep coming back for this great camp experience. It gives them some fun activities to learn about the Danish heritage. This year will be a great year to experience activities around Hans Christian Andersen, the fantastic story teller. I am always surprised when I tell people he was a Dane and they didn't realize that.

Follow

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Instagram,  
Facebook, and  
Twitter!



## All Donations are Tax-Deductible!

The Northwest Danish Association is a 501(c)(3) organization registered in the State of Washington (Tax ID: 91-0565541)

# NWDA News and Programs



## Looking Ahead

*By Emily Olsen*

There is so much going on at NWDA in 2023! We are finishing out our first 100 years and beginning our second with as much fun as we can pack in.

We are still working on confirming some of the event dates, but here are the plans with dates to keep in mind. (If a date is listed, it is confirmed. If no date, that will be announced once settled.)

### April

- On Friday, April 14th: Celebrate Queen Margrethe II of Denmark's 83rd Birthday as well as the "soft" opening of the "Deep Blue Sea" Art Exhibit which is the work of Danish artist Susanne Thea. Seattle Danish Center at 7pm.

### May

- On Wednesday, May 17th: Join NWDA in walking in the Ballard Syttende Mai Parade! Email [reina@nwdanish.org](mailto:reina@nwdanish.org) if you are interested in participating. (You can also call the office.)
- On Friday, May 26th: The official opening of Susanne Thea's "Deep Blue Sea" Art Exhibit at NWDA's Seattle Danish Center. Come experience Susanne's vision of the Vikings' journey to North America. Seattle Danish Center 6pm.

### June

- We have a tentative date to welcome Gangspil, the talented musical duo of Kristian Bugge and Sonnich Lydom, to the Seattle Danish Center. This should be in the middle of the month.
- "Deep Blue Sea" Closing Event. We have to say goodbye to the beautiful Art of Susanne Thea in June. We will either have a separate event or welcome those to view after the Gangspil concert.

### July

- There are plans for a Hat Island Cruise in mid July. This would be a Saturday from about 10-3 and include lunch.

### August

- On Sunday, August 13th: All-Dane Community Picnic in Washington will kick off anniversary week. The Buuses have graciously offered to host again at their home and property in Woodinville.
- On Friday, August 18th: On NWDA's 100th Anniversary, join us for an evening open house at Harmony Hall in the Seattle Danish Center building.
- On Sunday, August 20th: Meet up with NWDA at the Sounders Match to cheer on the Seattle Sounders against Atlanta United FC. More info on page 3.

### September

- On Friday, September 8th through Sunday, September 10th: The Danish American Cultural Retreat is back at Menucha! Read more about it on page 8.
- In late September, on a Saturday, we will be holding a 100th Anniversary Jubilee Gala. Details are still coming together, but we are planning a big party to celebrate our major milestone.

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

# Northwest Danish Association



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Portland Contact: Bodil Muller  
e) bodilmuller@mac.com

Visit our website: [www.northwestdanish.org](http://www.northwestdanish.org)

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## Save the Date:

FREDAGSCAFE, Seattle —April 7th, May 5th, June 2nd  
DEEP BLUE SEA ART EXHIBIT, Seattle—mid April to early June  
HIMMELBJERGET DANISH CAMP—June 25th-July 1st

## Monthly Events (subject to change)

- Work Party — First Tuesday, Seattle
- Fredagscafe — First Friday, Seattle

(all events listed above are not held in 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

A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHWEST DANISH ASSOCIATION

Apr May Jun 2023 #2022/2023 Volume 4

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