



The Little Mermaid

A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHWEST DANISH ASSOCIATION

Oct Nov Dec 2026 Issue #2026/2027 Volume 2

Himmelbjerget Danish Camp 2026

By Maren Williams, Camp Director

Himmelbjerget Danish Camp held its 38th year of camp this past June! Our Senior Campers (the High School aged campers who play a leadership role at camp) performed a skit on Monday night sharing the history of the Danish Christmas plates that this year's camp t-shirts were based on. Tuesday we learned about Nisse, magical creatures that are part of Danish Christmas traditions and stories, and Julestue, a practice of inviting your friends and neighbors into your home to help with baking, decorating, and filling your home with hygge in the winter season. Wednesday was our hottest day and to beat the heat we held folk dancing in the morning and moved Danish classes to the afternoon! That



Image: Group Photo of campers at Himmelbjerget 2026

evening we had skits about Pakkelej, gift trading games like white elephant games played here, and Julekalender, the practice of opening one small gift each day leading up to Christmas. Luckily it cooled off on Thursday, which started bright and early when we jumped in the pool for the Polar Bear Swim at 6:45 am! That evening we had a skit about Juleaften. Our snack was risalamande, and while the campers enjoyed it, the counselors transformed our space for our own Juleaften. Campers came in to see a fully decorated tree in the middle of the room, a roaring fire (on the television) and twinkle lights and (electric) candles around the room. We played a really fun version of a pakkelej which we have now dubbed red and white elephant. Everyone took home a smile and a gift. For our last full day of camp on Friday, we celebrated our week together with "Julefest," our annual Talent & Variety Show and a dance. On Saturday, despite the rain, campers performed a showcase for their family and friends demonstrating the folk dances and songs they had spent all week learning. By noon, the Dannebrog (the Danish Flag) had been lowered and our campers were all on their way back home with a little bit more love for Denmark in their hearts.

In addition to all our evening hygge, campers spent an hour each day in language classes and were immersed in the language when possible at meals, in music, and throughout the day. We were lucky to have Christian Petersen back as our Danish counselor. We hope to add to this tradition by being able to offer more than one travel stipend in the future.

Continued on page 4

In this issue

2.... Executive Director's Corner

3.... Food, Friends, and the Final | Annual Meeting & Nordic Mixer Reminder

4.... Dane Camp 2026

5.... The Sweet But Quarrelsome Sejerøboer

6.... Ugly Ducklings – A Concert of Misfits

7.... Den Lille Havfrue (Or The Little Mermaid)

8.... DACR 2026 – Photos and Thank You's | Lillejuleaften

9.... Calendar

10... Donations

11... In Memory of Egon Molbak

12... Backpage



Northwest Danish Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing with others our Danish culture, traditions, and values.

Executive Director's Corner



Remembering Sankt Hans Aften and Looking to Fall

By Preben B. Pedersen, NWDA Executive Director

We have had our Sep Work Party and after vacationing in Jul and Aug the NWDA building needed a little work around the building to maintain a nice appearance. The Sep Work Party is also a reminder that fall is around the corner, meaning there will be a need for a full Work Party crew in Oct and Nov to take care of all the leaves falling from the trees surrounding the NWDA building. Thanks to the Work Party crew for their work maintaining the NWDA building.

On Tue, Jun 23, 2026, NWDA arranged a celebration of the traditional Danish Sankt Hans Aften, where the Seattle Danish community was invited. The event took place at Blue Ridge Beach Park (a private park) located just north of Ballard. The Blue Ridge Beach Park provides a cabana with grills, a fire pit, an unhindered view of the sound and the sunset, restrooms and easy parking. It is a perfect location for celebrating a traditional Danish Sankt Hans Aften. The weather was as summer as it could be, so pretty much everyone stayed until park curfew kicked in at 10:00pm and everyone had a wonderful time enjoying the company and the sunset. Many of the participants suggested to celebrate Sankt Hans Aften 2027 at the same location. The access to Blue Ridge Beach Park was facilitated by Anne Mathiesen, and she has promised to do her best to book Blue Ridge Beach Park for Sankt Hans Aften on Wednesday, June 23, 2027, so mark your 2027 calendar with that date. Thanks to Anne Mathiesen and her husband Bryan Goldman for facilitating access to this beautiful park.



Image: Attendees at Sankt Hans 2026 in Blue Ridge Park.

NWDA had financial Year-End on June 30, 2026, and for the financial year 2025/2026 NWDA has achieved a higher rental income in the Meridian Office Building (MOB) than in any prior years. The high rental income has also resulted in a satisfying financial year 2025/2026.

Currently NWDA does not have any vacant offices in the NWDA building and hence a 100% occupancy rate. If the high occupancy rate continues through the current financial year 2026/2027 then NWDA also anticipates a satisfying financial year 2026/2027.

I wish you all a wonderful and enjoyable fall and see you at the upcoming NWDA Annual Meeting on Saturday October 10, 2026.

Northwest Danish Association Contact Information

Email: seattle@nwdanish.org

Phone: (206) 523-3263

Address:

1833 N 105th Street, Suite 101

Seattle, WA 98133

*The Seattle Danish Center is in
Suite 205*



*Image:
The
NWDA
Building
in
Seattle*

*Image:
Henning
Buus
enjoying
the Sankt
Hans
bonfire.*



Board of Directors

Gary Korsgaard, President
Patti Olsen, Vice-President
Sonja Kromann, Secretary
Preben Pedersen, Treasurer
Karla Craig
Kimbra Kasch
Lars Kasch
Annelise Kromann
Erik Laursen
Aage Nielsen
Britt Pfaff-Dunton
Erik Pfaff

NWDA News and Programs



Food, Friends, and the Final

By Emily Olsen, NWDA Staff

I did not look at the World Cup calendar when scheduling the 2026 Generations Luncheons. Turns out, chef Jørn and I chose the day of the Final as the July luncheon. Oh well! We still had over 40 people join us for food, friends, and the final.

The World Cup match between Spain and Argentina was on our big screen silently so people could watch if they wanted. When it got near the end and then went into extra time, we turned the volume on and postponed bingo until it was over. We had a pretty even split in the room rooting for Spain or Argentina, with Spain ultimately victorious before they had to go to penalties.

Chef Jørn again made a fabulous lunch. This time we had cold green pea soup to start, then barbeque spareribs, coleslaw, and corn on the cob, before ice cream with strawberries for dessert. Always delicious and always plenty to go around.

It was another fun afternoon with great people. Our fall luncheon will be on Sunday, November 8th. You can find where to register at www.northwestdanish.org/generations-luncheons or you can call the office to talk to Emily to be added to the list. The fall lunch is always popular, so be sure to sign up before it fills up.



Image: Luncheon attendees watching the end of the World Cup Final.

REMINDER: NWDA 2026 Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 10, 2026
3:00 pm at the Seattle Office/Harmony Hall

All members are invited to the Annual Membership Meeting. You must be a current 2026-2027 member by September 10, 2026 to having voting rights at the meeting. All current members are welcome to attend.

Dinner to follow the meeting for those pre-registered by Monday, September 28th. All are welcome to stay for the no-host social hour.

Information here: www.northwestdanish.org/2026-annual-meeting

NEED A SPACE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT?

The Seattle Danish Center is available for special events such as birthdays or anniversaries.

Conveniently located near Northgate between Aurora 99 and I-5, the Center features a full kitchen, dance floor, and can host up to 112 people or can be divided in half.

Call NWDA at 206-523-3263 for more information.

Friday, October 16, 2026 | 5-10pm

NORDIC MIXER



Hosted by Northwest Danish Association
at the Swedish Club

Friday, October 16 | 5:00 - 10:00pm



Scan here to learn
more and RSVP



**It's on Berserkaraoke night! So, plan to stay
for the singing!**

Read more and RSVP here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-2026-nordic-mixer-tickets-1999414614936>

NWDA News and Programs



Dane Camp 2026

By Ingrid Salmon, Camp Director

Our winning streak of Dane Camp for children continues. During the first week of August 2026, we celebrated Jul (Christmas) with our campers and helpers. Camp leader Ingrid Salmon along with the talents of chef Patti Olsen and staff Emily Olsen organized a week of hyggelig togetherness.

We decorated the tree on day one – and that gave us all week to practice our dancing around the tree. Nu er det Jul igen (Now it is Christmas Again) as a song and line dance was easy to learn and fortunately a favorite for we danced it nearly every day. Given that the campers were boys and sports enthusiasts, we walked to the park to play soccer and disc golf at North Park near the Danish Center. One camper was so enthusiastic about sport that he wanted to visit the park twice a day.



Image: Campers and counselors at Dane Camp 2026.

Volunteer counselors Maija Hammond, Henry Middleton, and Bjorn Hammond happily shared their leadership, knowledge of Denmark and its traditions, and their good spirits. What fantastic help they were to our camp! Each of these counselors have regularly attended Himmelbjerget, the week-long camp in Oregon held each summer. By bringing their presence to Dane Camp – they are spreading good camp vibes to the next generation of campers.

We all learned new Danish words, sang new Danish songs, and danced folk dances taught at camp. Thank you again Maija, Henry and Bjorn. Please return next year!

Himmelbjerget Danish Camp 2026

By Maren Williams, Camp Director



*Images:
Top:
Christmas
tree in
Wright
Hall.*

*Middle:
Open-faced
sandwiches
at meal.*

*Bottom:
Camp craft
projects
with Jul
theme.
(photos by
Annelise
Kromann)*



Continued from page 1

Please contact the office if you are interested in contributing to this cultural exchange opportunity.

Himmelbjerget was the recipient of a grant from the Scan Design Foundation this year allowing us to grow our practice of teaching traditional Danish handwork and crafts. This year that allowed us to bring in woodworking using the Sloyd technique taught by Nick Maier of Skillcraft Institute. We are excited to see our craft program grow as we utilize this grant.

This year 50 campers joined 11 counselors for a week of Hyggelig Jul. We are thrilled to see our numbers continuing to grow. We were especially proud to see half of our campers this year came from Alumni families, demonstrating the long term impact of our program and success of our mission to encourage the continuation of cultural exploration and the celebration of our shared heritage. As always, campers left camp with a felt understanding of Hygge and a camp family that they'll have for years.

You can see more on our Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/people/Himmelbjerget-Danish-Camp/100063789390361/#>), or on Instagram. Come check us out!



Save the dates for Camp 2027! We will be visiting the whole of Denmark as we explore the geography, culture and historical significance of different regions of the country from June 20th-26th! Registration will open in early 2027 and available through nwdanishcamp.com.

The Sweet But Quarrelsome Sejerøboer

By Jan Bruun-Petersen



Image: Jan Bruun-Petersen and Lise Høyer at Sejerø Lighthouse.

I was in Havnsø with my girlfriend. Havnsø is an important ferry port in Kalundborg Municipality, with ferries connecting Zealand to the nearby islands of Sejerø and Nekselø. We decided to take the ferry to Sejerø, since it seemed to have more to see than Nekselø. The trip took about an hour. A little over 300 people live on the six-mile-long island. Besides the beautiful nature that Sejerø has to offer, two historic buildings particularly stand out: the church and the lighthouse.

Sejerø Church dates from around 1300 and contains frescoes that are about 500 years old. Church records and Achton Friis's book *De Danskes Land* paint a picture of islanders (sejerøboer) who historically had a reputation for being rather quarrelsome, both among themselves and with outsiders.

One colorful example involves Otto Grundtvig, the brother of N.F.S. Grundtvig, one of the most influential figures in modern Danish history. Otto served as the priest on Sejerø about 200 years ago and soon found himself in conflict with some of the islanders. Apparently, they sometimes preferred spending their Sundays at the inn rather than attending church.

One Sunday before the service, Grundtvig personally went down to the inn to round up his church personnel. A local man known as Jens Langkniv drew a long knife and threatened him. Grundtvig responded by fearlessly pulling open his clerical robe, baring his chest and declaring, "Stab me, if you dare!"

When the man hesitated, Grundtvig knocked the knife out of his hand. The strong-willed priest then proceeded to chase the whole group out of the inn and up to the church. Two centuries later, the islanders may have found something new to quarrel about: poor ferry management.

At the northern tip of Sejerø, in the Gniben area, stands the island's lighthouse. It was built in 1852 and designed by the Danish architect Niels Sigfred Nebelong. The lighthouse tower itself is 62 feet tall, while its light is about 102 feet above sea level.

The first lighthouse keepers were required to spend a month training at Anholt Lighthouse before beginning their work on Sejerø.

The lighthouse's illumination has changed considerably over the years. Originally, its light came from nine oil lamps combined with mirrors. About a century later, these were eventually replaced by a 1,000-watt electric lamp. Since 2003, the lighthouse has used a 600-watt halogen lamp.

The lighthouse complex once had living quarters for the lighthouse keeper and his family, as well as space for livestock. Remarkably, the Danish National Archives has digitized the surviving Sejerø lighthouse keepers' journals from 1852 to 1869, making them available online for anyone to read.

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.

NWDA News and Programs



Ugly Ducklings – A Concert of Misfits

By Emily Olsen, NWDA Staff

For the fourth season, NWDA has supported the reception of the Danish Concert of the Nordic Chamber Music Series, which is a program of the Northwest Edvard Greig Society. President and Artistic Director, Laura Loge, introduced the musicians – the Darkwood Consort consisting of Jennifer Drake on viola and NWDA's own board member Aage Nielsen on bass clarinet. The concert's title, Ugly Ducklings, was a special accomplishment for Laura as she called it a triple pun. First with The Ugly Duckling as a famous Hans Christian Andersen story. Second the viola and bass clarinet, as deeper instruments which are not often highlighted in the orchestra and could be considered the "ugly" instruments. Finally there is Jennifer's last name, Drake, also means a mature male duck.

Aage and Jennifer provided a lovely afternoon of music and shared some context and background on the pieces they chose to perform. The rich sounds of the instruments complimented each other, and you could tell that the two musicians have been playing and performing together for decades. They brought humor and passion into each note. Dialogues, Op. 10 by Finn Høffding especially brought out their dramatic side and it was truly as if the instruments, and their players, were conversing.

I enjoyed a simile, well two really, which Jennifer shared for the piece Intermezzo, Op. 24 by Jørgen Bentzon. To preface the piece, she said it was like salt licorice – angular and strange so not everyone might like it. But she said it is also like the weather and changes quickly, so if you don't like it right away just wait a few seconds and then you might.

After the concert, which had about 75 attendees, a fabulous group of volunteers from NWDA organized a well-stocked and beautifully decorated reception (thank you Henry for taking point on that!) which allowed attendees to linger and discuss the concert while enjoying a treat. There were Danish flags strung from the ceiling and each table had them as well. There was also an information table to introduce people to NWDA and our programs.

Lisbeth Mogensen baked lovely citron kage, vanilla kranse, and gluten free citron kokosnød mandela kage, which was supplemented by kringle from Larsen's Bakery. Tusind tak Lisbeth for sharing your incredible baking talents with everyone. Nearly all who attended the concert stayed for some treats and for a chance to talk to Aage and Jennifer.

Thank you to everyone who made this afternoon possible. If you are interested in further concerts in this season's Nordic Chamber Music Series, visit <https://nwegriegsociety.org/nordic-chamber-music-2026-2027/>.



*Image left:
Laura Loge
introducing
the concert.*

*Image right:
Performance
by Darkwood
Consort.*



*Image left:
Attendees
applauding
at finale of
concert.*

*Image right:
Treat table at
the reception
with many
hungry guests.*



*Image left: Musicians
Aage Nielsen and
Jennifer Drake at the
reception.*

*All photos by Preben
Pedersen*

NWDA News and Programs - Oregon



Den Lille Havfrue (Or The Little Mermaid)

By Kimbra and Lars Kasch, NWDA Board



Image: The Little Mermaid statue commissioned by Lili Gregerson at its current home at Nordia House.

One of the most famous men in history was born in Denmark. He came from the small town of Odense, where modern culture combines with medieval charm. Here, you can walk crooked cobblestone lanes lined with half-timbered houses that lead to the birthplace of one of the most famous writers in history: Hans Christian Andersen. Here, every literary lover who travels to Scandinavia finds this fairytale location on their “must-see” maps because of this one man who created much more than mere stories. HC Andersen brought dreams to life by painting pictures with words. He didn’t simply inspire little girls everywhere to dream of diving down beneath the turbulent waves. He created a watery wonderland where mermaids inhabited the coral reefs and swam with their favorite fish...and crabs. Inside this fantasy, he made them believe that if they only had a tail, they could find more than trinkets; perhaps they’d even inspire a handsome prince to fall in love, because at the core of the story, The Little Mermaid is a true love story.

It was this magical love story that inspired Lili Gregerson to have her own mythical mermaid created in 2013, to commemorate her husband Alf Gregerson’s 75th birthday.

Lili and Alf enjoyed this majestic mermaid in their garden for many years, until they could no longer house her. Then, Lili gifted the statue to Kathy Jensen in 2021, where Kathy and Nils housed her for half a decade, until they moved to a location without the necessary garden to house her.

Unfortunately, Ariel found herself like many other Portlandians. She was homeless. But not for long. Soon, she moved to the Scandinavian retreat known as Nordia House. And today, you can go walk the winding troll trails that meander through the grounds in search of this most famous mermaid in history.

And if you aren’t able to find her statue hidden in the bushes at Nordia House, you can always travel to Denmark to visit this iconic character from the famous fairy tale known as “The Little Mermaid,” where I’m sure you’ll be able to find the beautiful statue located just outside Nyhavn’s historic harbor, sitting on a granite boulder at the Langelinie promenade.

And after you travel to Denmark to find Ariel, you can always search for the statue of the man who created her: HC Andersen. His statue is located in Eventyrhaven (The Fairy Tale Garden), inside a scenic park just outside Nyhavn’s historic harbor.

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
- Free access to our Danish library in Seattle with over 2,000 books and films available
- Occasional discounts and/or free tickets from community partners

NWDA News and Programs



DACR 2026 – Photos and Thank Yous

By Emily Olsen, NWDA Staff

Here are some photo highlights from the Danish American Cultural Retreat that just happened. We had a fabulous bunch of attendees and speakers. Tusind tak to the whole team that makes this retreat happen: Sonja Kromann (Coordinator), Kyle Dittmer (MC), Patti Olsen (Kro Manager), Henry Geijsbeek (Danish Jeopardy's "Henry Jennings" and Decorator Extraordinaire), Kristin Miller (Conversation Group Leader), Ingrid Salmon (Singing Leader), and Aage Nielsen (Bass Clarinetist). More thanks to Menucha Retreat and Conference Center for their beautiful location and feeding us so well. The plan is to have videos of all the talks available soon. All attendees will receive links. If you couldn't attend, you will have the option to register and pay for access to the videos. Check www.northwestdanish.org/DACR soon. Pencil in **September 17-19, 2027, we already have next year's dates!**



Images left to right, top to bottom: 1) Christian Holtz, 2) Benny Nybo, 3) Flemming Behrend, 4) Danish Jeopardy hosted by Henry



Geijsbeek, 5) Singing Danish National Anthem with Aage Nielsen on bass clarinet, 6) Coffee break with Karen, Ingrid, Lis, Macy, Kristin, & Annelise, 7) Kyle Dittmer & Scott Burns.

Lillejuleaften

Seattle

Tuesday, December 22nd
7:00pm
St. John United Lutheran
on Phinney Ave N

Portland

Wednesday, December 23rd
5:00pm
Nordia House
on SW Oleson Rd

Danish Classes

In partnership with SLI (Scandinavian Language Institute)



Fall 2026 Classes start in late September and October online!

www.northwestdanish.org/learnDanish

www.scanlang.org

Current NWDA Members get a 15% discount!

****Plus an in-person class at the National Nordic Museum****



7TH ANNUAL
NORTHWEST DANISH ASSOCIATION

Fuleauktion

Online at 32auctions

• November 15th to November 29th, 2026 •



NW Danish Calendar

Sign up for our e-bulletin to receive the most recent updates: www.northwestdanish.org/e-bulletin/

October 2026

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
			Sept. 30 Bogklub2&3(online)	1 DAN 4 (online)	2 Fredagscafe (S)	3
4	5	6 Work Party (S) DAN 1A (online)	7 DBIA/DSS (S) Bogklub2&3(online)	8 DBIA (E) DAN 4 (online)	9	10 Annual Meeting & Dinner (S)
11	12 Conversation Group (P)	13 DAN 1A (online)	14 Bogklub2&3(online)	15 DAN 4 (online)	16 Nordic Mixer (S)	17
18	19	20 DAN 1A (online) DAN 2A (online)	21 DAN 1B (online) Bogklub2&3(online)	22 DAN 4 (online)	23	24
25	26 Conversation Group (P)	27 DAN 1A (online) DAN 2A (online)	28 DAN 1B (online) Bogklub2&3(online)	29 DAN 4 (online)	30	31

November 2026

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
1	2	3 Work Party (S) DAN 1A (online) DAN 2A (online)	4 DBIA/DSS (S) DAN 1B (online) Bogklub2&3(online)	5 DAN 4 (online)	6 Fredagscafe (S)	7
8 Generations Luncheon (S)	9 Conversation Group (P)	10 DAN 1A (online) DAN 2A (online)	11 DAN 1B (online) Bogklub2&3(online)	12 DBIA (E) DAN 4 (online)	13	14
15 Juleauktion starts at 9pm (online)	16	17 DAN 1A (online) DAN 2A (online)	18 Book Club (P) DAN 1B (online) Bogklub2&3(online)	19 DAN 4 (online)	20	21
22	23 Conversation Group (P)	24 DAN 1A (online) DAN 2A (online)	25 DAN 1B (online) Bogklub2&3(online)	26 Happy Thanksgiving!	27	28

December 2026

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
Nov. 29 Juleauktion ends at 9pm (online)	Nov. 30	1 Work Party (S) DAN 1A (online) DAN 2A (online)	2 DBIA/DSS (S) DAN 1B (online) Bogklub2&3(online)	3 Juleauktion item pick up starts (S) DAN 4 (online)	4 Fredagscafe (S)	5
6	7	8 DAN 2A (online)	9 DAN 1B (online) Bogklub2&3(online)	10 DBIA (E) DAN 4 (online)	11	12
13 Julestue (S)	14 Conversation Group (P)	15 DAN 2A (online)	16 DAN 1B (online)	17	18	19
20	21	22 Lillejuleaften (S) *note different date than past	23 Lillejuleaften (P)	24	25 Glædelig Jul!	26
27	28 Conversation Group (P)	29	30	31		

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

Donations: July 2026 to Present - Thank you!



Donations and gifts are cumulative from July 2026 to present.



Grand Dane

Ib Odderson
Reidel Foundation – Karl Christensen

Great Dane

Jette Bunch
Poul & Terie Larsen
Hanne Thiede & Steve Oien

Bold Dane

Birte & Jim Falconer
Nils & Kathleen Jensen
Kirsten & Rob Kromann
Nina Pedersen
Inger Seiffert

Noble Dane

Dianne & Paul Anderson
Aase Besson
Sandra Boeskov
Minna Brask
Otto Brask
Marete & James Eadie
Steve & Sylvia Ellersick
Kirsten & Paul Fischler
Anna (Lene) Leslie
Paul Friis-Mikkelsen & Rita Hackett
Donald Haslett
Annemarie Lorenzen

Lars Matthiesen & Yara Silva
Claus & Linda Mercer
Emily Montgomery-Brown
Bodil & Jørn Muller
Beatrice Reiss
Ingrid Salmon
Annie & Jan Syberg
Laura Wideburg & Asmus Freytag

Royal Dane

Kim Bergenser & Aase Beaulieu
Henrik & Jeanne Blichfeld
Elizabeth Campbell
Diane Chapman
Joan Hansen
Thomas Hansen
Tim Hansen
Hans & Jean Hoffmann
Diane & Aage Jensen
Gene & Ruth Jensen
Ulla Kauffman
Sandra Miller
Emily Olsen
Patti Olsen
Dean Pedersen
John Rasmussen
Nancy Roach
Christine Skow
Bjorn & Gail Sorensen
Jean Sparks
John Spoden & Andrea Bauer
Jette and Roger Townsend

Dane

Bonnie & Don Fisher
Vivi Hammond
Marvin & Sandra Nelson
Inger Olsen
Marianne Stecher-Hansen
Lisa Jensen Svitavsky
Harriet Thomsen
Brita Winslow

Restricted Contributions

Memorials



For Himmelbjerget in Memory of Ruth Tove Dally

Charlene and Ann Jensen
Joyce Maier
Kristine and Robert Roley
Kaja Voldbaek
Lorna Zimbrick

Seattle Danish Brotherhood Lodge #29

Meetings on the first Wednesday of each month (except July & August) at 7pm. Join us!

<http://www.facebook.com/dbseattlelodge29/>



Mange Tak to Scan Design Foundation for their continued support of NWDA!



Leave your Legacy at NWDA

What is Legacy Giving? Legacy, or Planned, Giving is created a plan to include a charity or nonprofit in your Will or other estate planning documents. A bequest to Northwest Danish Association can help us sustain programs and create new ones for years to come.

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)



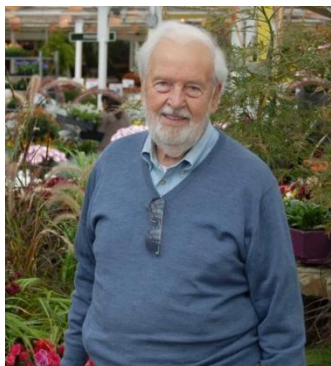
A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has donated to NWDA. We would not be here without your support!

Mange tak!

In Memory—Egon Molbak



In Memory of Egon Molbak



Egon Molbak, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, horticultural pioneer, and community leader, passed away peacefully on June 22, 2026, at the remarkable age of 100 years, leaving a legacy that forever changed the gardening landscape of the Pacific Northwest. His life was a testament to vision, hard work, generosity, and a deep appreciation for the beauty and wonder of nature.

Born at his family home, Annaslund, in Morud, Denmark, Egon first came to the U.S. in 1948. He returned to Denmark to marry Laina in 1950, and they immigrated to the United States immediately after. In 1956 they bought five little glass greenhouses in Woodinville, a rural area on the eastside of Seattle. Together with Laina, they carried little more than determination, horticultural knowledge, and a dream of building a better future. They began with a small flower growing operation and through decades of dedication, innovation, and tireless effort, they transformed that modest nursery into Molbak's Garden + Home, one of the most respected and beloved garden centers in the United States

hosting over one million visitors per year.

Under Egon's leadership, Molbak's became much more than a garden center. It became a destination where families gathered, gardeners found inspiration, and visitors experienced the beauty and joy that plants bring to everyday life. The business earned a reputation for excellence, creativity, and customer service, attracting visitors from throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond. He believed a person could walk into a greenhouse on a gray Northwest day and leave restored. Local press later captured his conviction that contact with art, nature, and beauty was a deep human necessity. Molbak's became the living expression of that belief.

Egon's influence reached far beyond Woodinville. In addition to local awards, he was recognized with numerous national and international honors. In 1990, he was inducted into the Floriculture Hall of Fame by the Society of American Florists, one of the industry's highest distinctions. Throughout his career, he received widespread recognition for his leadership, innovation, and dedication to advancing the horticultural profession.

The company he built also earned significant accolades, including Washington Family Business of the Year, and repeated recognition as one of the finest garden centers in the nation. Molbak's was consistently celebrated for its commitment to quality, innovation, and creating memorable experiences for its customers. With his wife, Laina, he continued supporting the future of the floral industry through a generous donation to the American Floral Endowment, helping fund research, education, and internship programs for the next generation of growers and floral professionals.

Beyond his business accomplishments, Egon was deeply committed to serving his community. He was a charter member and past president of the Northshore Rotary Club and one of the founders of the Scholarship Foundation of Northshore. His dedication to education, service, and helping others created opportunities for countless young people and strengthened the community he loved.

Those who knew Egon remember his warmth, humility, integrity, wisdom, and enthusiasm. He inspired employees, customers, friends, and family alike with his belief that gardens enrich lives and that success carries a responsibility to give back. Egon's legacy lives on through the gardens he inspired, the community institutions he helped build, and the generations of people whose lives were touched by his kindness, vision, and leadership. He will be remembered not only as a pioneer of horticulture and founder of an iconic Pacific Northwest institution, but as a man whose life blossomed into a lasting gift for his family, his community, and all who knew him.

His memory will continue to grow and flourish, much like the gardens he loved so dearly.

Egon was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Laina, who passed away in 2018 at the age of 92. He is survived by his children, Ellen Molbak Welsch (husband John), Kirsten Molbak Paterson (husband Rob), Jens Molbak, and Heidi Molbak (husband Rob Verchick); his grandchildren, Shon Olson (wife Taylor), Ryan Olson (wife Robyn Stem), Jason Olson (wife Amber), Rebecca Blade (husband Mark), Laina Molbak Paterson Summers (husband Donald), Andreas Molbak, Kel Molbak, Margrete Molbak, Reed Molbak, Ty Molbak (fiancee Kahyun Kim), and Luke Molbak; and his great-grandchildren, Justin, Harrison, William, Jacob, Matthew, Oscar, Sam, Henry, Wren, Theodore, Thomas and Izzy.

Donations in memory of Egon may be made to the Northshore Scholarship Fund - Egon Molbak Service Above Self Scholarship_ and the American Floral Endowment, Egon and Laina Molbak Fund.

His family was the joy of his life, and they will forever cherish his love, wisdom, generosity, and the extraordinary legacy he leaves behind.

Seattle Office

1833 N. 105th Street, Suite 101
Seattle, WA 98133
p) (206) 523 -3263
f) (206) 729-6997
e) seattle@nwdanish.org

Portland

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

Visit our website: www.northwestdanish.org

Save the Date:

ANNUAL MEETING, Seattle – Oct. 10th
FREDAGSCAFE, Seattle—Oct. 2nd, Nov. 6th, Dec. 4th
WORK PARTY, Seattle—Oct. 6th, Nov. 3rd, Dec. 1st
BOOK CLUB, Portland—Nov. 18th
GENERATIONS LUNCHEON, Seattle—Nov. 8th
JULESTUE, Seattle – Dec. 13th
LILLEJULEAFTEN, Seattle – Dec. 22nd
LILLEJULEAFTEN, Portland – Dec. 23rd

Monthly Events
(subject to change)

- Work Party — First Tuesday, Seattle
- Fredagscafe — First Friday, Seattle
(events listed above are not held in July & Aug)

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.

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

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



The Little Mermaid

A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHWEST DANISH ASSOCIATION

Oct Nov Dec 2026 #2026/2027 Volume 2

Northwest Danish Association
1833 North 105th Street, Suite 101
Seattle, Washington 98133-8973
www.northwestdanish.org
seattle@nwdanish.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY