



The Danish Soldiers Club



November—December 2017

www.danishsoldiersclub.com

NEWSLETTER FOR THE DANISH SOLDIERS CLUB OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC. POST OFFICE BOX 41, PETALUMA CA. 94963
MEMBER OF DANSKE SOLDATERFORENINGERS LANDSRÅD. PROTECTOR HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARGRETHE II OF DENMARK

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings -

Despite the uncertain weather, catering problems etc., the November meeting turned out quite well. As usual, the weather behaved despite the dire forecast.

The Kastania season is now over for 2017, and the facility is already winterized.

But as usual, we still have one major party on our schedule, I.e. the big Christmas event in the large Veterans auditorium in Petaluma.

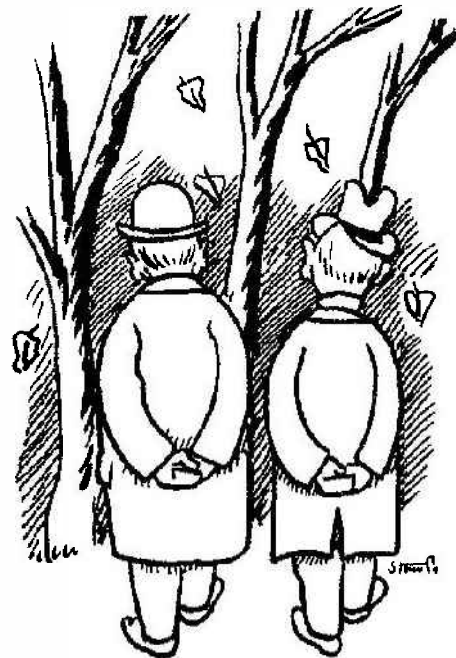
All arrangements are pretty much on the rails, thanks as usual to our great volunteers, And we can assure you of an enjoyable family event.

I would remind you, that this is definitely a true Danish style Christmas event, so be sure to bring children and grandchildren. Santa has already confirmed that he will come by despite his busy schedule.

I am looking forward to see as many as possible on the 17th December.

Our club has had a great 2017, so let us end the year in great style.

Poul



-Now the leaves are falling, Hansen.
-Yes—it is also the only thing that falls.
-Everything else goes up.

The Danish Soldiers Club

Post Office Box 41
Petaluma, CA 94953



Address Correction Requested



-Excuse me—but are you an old man looking young, or a young man looking old?

The Governing Board for 2017

Poul Poulsen President to 2018	San Rafael (415) 459-7727 poulsenpo@danishsoldiersclub.com
Per Madsen Vice Pres. to 2018	San Francisco (415) 928-4509 permads@danishsoldiersclub.com
Vagn Nielsen Treasurer to 2017	Sonoma (707) 996-9950 vknielsen@danishsoldiersclub.com
Rick Santarini Secretary to 2019	Santa Rosa (707) 479-6575 ricksantarini@sbcglobal.net
John Johansen Newsletter/Web Director to 2019	Modesto (209) 545-8992 admin@danishsoldiersclub.com
Ken Fultz Director to 2017	American Canyon (415) 362-7509 KFCVA41@comcast.net
Leo Pedersen Director to 2018	Danville (925) 820-2150 Leo.pedersen@gmail.com
Keith Brians Director to 2017	Petaluma (707) 789-9953 kastaniakeith@gmail.com
Jill Brians Director to 2019	Petaluma (707) 227-8404 jcbrians@yahoo.com

Volunteer

Lilian Rasmussen Membership Coordinator	Roseville (916) 771-4961 mormor@surewest.net 4397 Coach Whip Way Roseville, CA 95747-8623
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Thanks to the donors of the raffle: Poul Poulsen, Ken Fultz, Erik Larsen, Rick & Lisa Santarini, Tove Lindberg, Finn Jacobsen, Tudy Kapellas, Judith Larsen, Kirsten Pedersen, Margrethe Baekgaard. Thanks again to Birthe Baekgaard, who made the Tosca cake for desert.

November 4 was the last regular meeting of 2017. Members & Guests brought their own lunch. This is the second time this year. The reason this time was that our caterer Annette had fractured her heel and because of this was unable to deliver. I noticed helping selling raffle tickets, that there were some very good and delicious looking lunch baskets.

Election of officers was held with Keith Brians and Ken Fultz being reelected, and Margrethe Baekgaard unanimously voted in as our new treasurer. We are delighted to have another Baekgaard on the board. Two descendants of the Founder of Kastania Park R. C. Rasmussen are already on the board.

The next event is our Christmas Party on December 17. A lot of preparation is going on by Per Madsen and all his volunteers. The Children's "goodie" bags plus four red almonds for the "mandelgave" are handled by Inger Marie. Hot dogs for the children are handled by Erika Hill. Peter Schakow will again sing and dance around the Christmas tree, and Jesper Lundbæk will arrange the childrens program. The Veterans Hall in Petaluma is rented, the Caterer is under contract, so it seems we are on the road to another major success. Come and join us for a delightful party.

If you feel you want to help in any way please call Per Madsen (415) 928-4509 or email him at permads@comcast.net

Keith Brians will coordinate donations to the raffle. We hope like last year a lot of people will bring gifts. If you want to donate an item to our raffle please email Keith at: kastaniakeith@gmail.com or call him at (707) 789-9953.

Order form for the **JULEFEST** at Veterans Memorial Hall, 1094 Petaluma Blvd. S. Petaluma 94952 Sunday December 17.

We will gather around 11:30 AM, when the Veteran's Hall bar opens. (It is a cash bar only). There will be ample time to socialize, buy raffle tickets and find your tables. First course will be served at the tables at 1:00 PM, main course will be served around 1:30 PM.

MC will be Per Madsen.

Adult Members & Guests.

Smoked Salmon or Bay Shrimp over Napa Cabbage & Iceberg tossed in house pesto dressing.

Oven roasted Danish style Pork loin roast with crisp skin. Served with pickled red cabbage, boiled white potatoes, sugar browned potatoes and a savory sauce.

Ris A la Mande with warm cherry sauce:

Red or white wine plus coffee.

\$55.00 Total Count _____

Name: _____

Check amount _____

Treasurer Vagn Nielsen must have your order no later than Thursday Dec. 7th.

PayPal:
www.danishsoldiersclub.com

Email:
vknielsen@danishsoldiersclub.com
(Email orders are binding).

Young Folks 16 and under have two selections :

Choice # 1

The same traditional Danish Pork Roast with red cabbage & all the trimmings plus Ris A la Mande. Soft drinks are included.

\$40.00
Total Count _____

Choice # 2

Courtesy of DSC we have a special Hot Dog dinner which includes soft drinks.

FREE
Total count _____

Or mail your order with your check to:
Vagn Nielsen
DSC Treasurer
20650 Burndale Rd.
Sonoma, CA 95476

Final deadline for ordering is
Thursday December 7th NOON.

Ordering after that time will be charged an extra \$5 per person/order, and with regret we cannot guarantee that such orders will be met. This is due to catering complications with late orders, so please get your orders in on time.



-Yes, it is still only \$30 for membership.

2018 Membership fee of \$30 is now due.

You can pay for the Christmas Dinner and the dues with PayPal on our website. www.danishsoldiersclub.com

You may also pay for both Christmas Party and 2018 Membership dues by check.

When you write the check for the Christmas Party, it is easy to include \$30 for your 2018 membership.

We will appreciate to receive ALL dues no later than Feb 1, 2018. It will save time and money, if we do not have to send out reminders and call members.



-I hate sending reminders

HOLIDAYS - to greet or not to greet

by Peter Steiness

I like Thanksgiving. Though I do not need a specific day of the year to express how thankful I am overall, I still eat this day up (also literally) as we meet with friends and family, all of us making a huge effort getting together – at least that one specific day. Most certainly, I also lean on this day as an effective reminder that there are so many daily things to be thankful for – and let’s not forget that, please.

If I’m not totally dim (nobody’s perfect), wasn’t it actually Thanksgiving that was, at some point many years ago, the true start of the Holiday season, this gloriously exciting part of the year? I thought so – but then this happened, kind of.

If you live under a rock, you wouldn’t know that the Holidays start mid-to-late October and will race toward the final crescendo the last week of December. If this trend continues, we might soon see the beginning of Christmas starting mid-August, all wearing red shorts, T-Shirts with blinking lights and sun-burned noses. Is that really what we want?

A Scandinavian Christmas song states that: “Now it is

Christmas again, now it is Christmas again and Christmas will last all the way till Easter.” If this was true, I’m sure the Holiday suicide rate will increase. The Holidays are nice, but boy, they already have a lot of frustration, stress and high-end anxieties in the mix, and then extending the season by months; not good, I’m sure you agree. Deciding on Holiday greetings is just another ornament on this already stress-filled tree.

Christmas is a celebration we have adhered to for a few thousand years; if we are involved in the religious aspect or not, does not seem to get in our way. Sure, it’s celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, but do we all really acknowledge that or are we just hanging on for the ride?

And talking about Jesus: Our youngest son was born on December 19th. That was not what we had planned, as we had wanted him to fit in better with the academic school year. But his birthday ended up a few days before Christmas; the **one-two-BANG**. To me, he got somewhat screwed in the gift department, but through the years I think we have more-so over-compensated for that slight mishap.

But what are we complaining about? Look at Jesus, what tough luck he had; his birthday **and** Christmas on the same day – what a bummer... Just imagine the gift dilemma his parents were going through; I mean, how stressful was that? Luckily for them, he was an only child. Oh well...

Christmas cards used to be personal greetings we did about a million years ago – approximately, involving colorful cards, envelopes and seasonal stamps. When I was a young lad (1832) we even made our own Christmas cards by cutting, gluing, coloring and writing. Then we made that special and solemn trip to the mail-box so far, far away; struggling through deep snow, against howling winds and of course totally uphill. After the deposit, we turned around and struggled our way back through even deeper snow, more howling winds and of course uphill, yet again. In retrospect it sounds so romantic, though it kind of sucked back then...

Today's greetings are based on frustration, stress and high anxieties as the choices of what we should and what we should not do, adds massive pressure. It has become a game of politics, it seems. We have so many options besides those old handmade Christmas card things, and even when we do go the Christmas card way, most of the writing is already done for us – all we have to do is sign; if we even do that. What's wrong with writing something ourselves? Don't we have time or don't we really care? Are we so busy, that perhaps the people we really should reach are perhaps not that important? If that's the deal, why do we even bother? It's the old: should I write or should I not write?

But the stress is getting even more complicated as we have options like E-Mail, Androids, text messages, smart-phones, iPads, Facebook, Twitter, Hallmark E-Cards and the technological gadget list is too long. Though I'm getting better, I have a really hard time with the automated greetings – the ethics of it. But on the other hand, I have to accept that whole personal touch thing semi-died with the dinosaurs (for date-seekers, that would be back in 1832); but I still try to make my Christmas greetings somewhat personal. But who to greet and who not to greet, becomes the next big question...

I'm okay with people we care about sending us photo collages, because we do actually care. Okay, so it makes us feel a year older, but it shows us how we all progress, how we grow and that is and should be, really cool. But I am totally against the Holiday newsletters, that for the most part spell out bloody perfect lives and everybody in that specific family has only excelled and succeeded. One year, I sent out a rather sarcastic response (some of my best humorous writing ever) "the-year-in-the-life-of..." newsletter. The following Christmas we didn't get any greetings from anybody – go figure; I thought that what I wrote was utterly funny –

but they obviously didn't have a sense of humor... duh.

I like getting Holiday greetings, except from the IRS, funeral homes or my local proctologists. I answer every single greeting I get if there is something to answer or comment about. I feel somewhat guilty if I get a greeting from somebody I didn't send a Holiday greeting to, for whatever reason; but then I quickly swing into plan B – the *Happy New Year* greeting. I just make it sound like I didn't send out any Christmas cards that year, at all.

One year I didn't send anything out before Christmas, but waited till New Year and then I just send Happy New Year cards to the ones I got Christmas cards from; rather economical and as far as I was told, nobody got hurt in the process. But I did end up feeling a bit flat, cheap, cunning, though still charmingly sleazy; feelings that should absolutely not be connected with the Holidays.

I like the Holidays, I really do. I'm not a religious person, but I do respect the reasons for Christmas and whatever other celebrations are involved. The diversity of beliefs, faiths and traditions is just that – diverse, and therefore very exciting; a fact we should all acknowledge.

I really don't know what to do without the Holidays, this kind of year-end cozy part. So I bitch about writing Holiday greetings or not, but there is no serious importance in that - really. It's just to greet or not to greet; it's not a life or death issue. But of course it is about life and that rather celebrated birthday that became Christmas. And in the big Holiday picture scheme of things, if you believe or not, that is all pretty cool – I'm sure you'll agree...

