



The Danish Soldiers Club

February 2020

www.danishsoldiersclub.com

NEWSLETTER FOR THE DANISH SOLDIERS CLUB OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC. POST OFFICE BOX 41, PETALUMA CA. 94953
MEMBER OF DANSKE SOLDATERFORENINGERS LANDSRÅD. PROTECTOR HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARGRETHE II OF DENMARK

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings.

While January was my last newsletter as President of the Danish Soldiers Club, I have continued my role as the newsletter editor. With the cancellation of our February meeting our Board of Directors still needs to select a new President at our March meeting for the coming year.

Our February meeting was canceled due to fact that we were well under the 40 people needed to meet our minimum order for our caterer. February is usually our least attended meeting and we have discussed eliminating the February meeting from the schedule.

We are now embarking on a New Year with the hope, that we shall have some enjoyable and fun filled events in 2020.

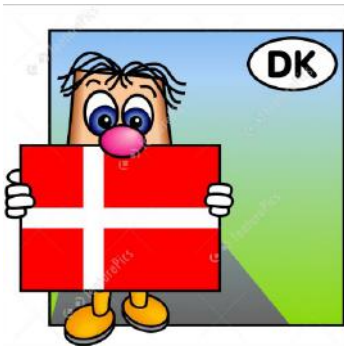
Best wishes for a successful 2020 to our new board. We are still looking for someone to fill our recent vacancy (2 years left on that Term). With a great board, we will continue to develop our club.

Rick



The Danish Soldiers Club

Post Office Box 41
Petaluma, CA 94953



Address Correction Requested

The Governing Board for 2020

Keith Brians Vice President to 2020	Petaluma (707) 789-9953 kastaniakeith@gmail.com
Margrethe Bækgaard Treasurer to 2020	Santa Rosa (707) 293-7972 margrethebaekgaard@danishsoldiersclub.com
Jill Brians Secretary to 2022	Petaluma (707) 227-8404 jcbrians@yahoo.com
Michael Stecher Web Master Director to 2022	Mill Valley (415) 624-6215 mstecher@me.com
Ken Fultz Director to 2020	American Canyon (415) 362-7509 KFCVA41@comcast.net
Adam Byer Director to 2021	Oakland (510) 332 6932 adam@cherrystreetgames.com
Dennis Wimple Director to 2021	El Cerrito (510) 525-4120 denniswimple@yahoo.com
Vacant Director to 2021	
Henrik Olsgaard Director to 2022	Orinda (510) 847-5186 holsgaard@hotmail.com
Volunteers: Lilian Rasmussen Membership Coordinator	Roseville (916) 771-4961 mormor@surewest.net 4397 Coach Whip Way Roseville, CA 95747-8623
Rick Santarini Newsletter Editor	Santa Rosa (707) 477-6669 ricksantarini@danishsoldiersclub.com

With Rick Santarini having left the Board at the end of 2019, the position of President will be decided by the incoming Board at our March Governing Board Meeting

Unfortunately due to the low number of members signing up for our February meeting the Board made the hard decision to cancel the meeting. All efforts were made to contact those members who already ordered lunch to inform them of that decision. If any of you were missed and therefore happened to show up on February 1st you have our apologies. Therefore going forward lets have a great March meeting and please remember that we have a minimum order of 40 lunches required for our caterer. Before the March meeting all steps are being made to return the Kastania Faelled grounds back to their regular state after winterizing the grounds back in November.

Those of you that attended our 2019 Julefest in Sonoma, along those of that plan to attend in 2020 preparations have already started. Good news is that we have already reserved the Sonoma Hall for Sunday December 20th with a deposit being paid to the county.

2020 Danish Soldiers Club Schedule		
March 7th	Luncheon/Meeting	
April 4th	Luncheon/Meeting	
May 2nd	BBQ/Meeting	
June 6th	Luncheon/Meeting	
July 4th	Luncheon/Meeting	
August 1st	Luncheon/Meeting	
September 5th	BBQ/Meeting	Board Nominations
October 3rd	Luncheon/Meeting	Board Elections
November 7th	Luncheon/Meeting	
December 20th	Julefest	Sonoma Vets Hall

Also on a sad note, long time member Gudrun Solomon passed away on Friday January 10th at the age of 94. Many long time members will remember that her brother Jim Jensen who proceeded her in death was also a long time member and contributor to the Danish Soldiers Club. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Gudrun's friends and family.



Order form for Smørrebrød at \$20.00 each

Yes, I wish to order lunch for Kastania Fælled. My check is enclosed

Four pieces of Smørrebrød of which one is **SALMON**

Total plates with Salmon

Four pieces of Smørrebrød of which one is **SHRIMP**

Total plates with Shrimp

Four pieces of Smørrebrød of which one is **HERRING**

Total plates with Herring

Four pieces of "non-seafood" Smørrebrød **REGULAR**

Total plates Regular

Drink Tickets are 3 for \$12.00, or 6 for \$20.00. Please specify quantity _____
1 ticket for any mixed drink, wine or beer. Soft drinks 1/2 ticket. Bottled water free.

Name: _____ Check amount

Email or mail this order no later than Tuesday prior to the lunch to:

Margrethebaekgaard@danishsoldiersclub.com

Or:

Margrethe Bækgaard
1740 Brandee Lane
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Or PayPal thru the DSC Web Site
www.danishsoldiersclub.com

If you already have paid your dues for 2020 you can relax. If not, please send a check for \$40 to:

Margrethe Baekgaard
1740 Brandee Lane
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-8676—

Email:

margrethebaekgaard@danishsoldiersclub.com

Also remember that you can pay online thru PayPal at www.danishsoldiersclub.com

Fastelavn

As many of you who receive emails from me already know that the Club regularly forwards information from other Scandinavian organizations. Recently I forwarded information from Aldersly Retirement Community cordially inviting members to join them for their 2020 Mardi Gras (Fastelavn) Dinner on **February 21st in the Aldersly Dining Room.**



After forwarding the email I decided to see what the Fastelavn tradition was in Denmark and the history

behind it.

Fastelavn is a Carnival tradition in Northern European, and historically Lutheran, nations of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Iceland and the Faroe Islands. It is celebrated before Ash Wednesday. Fastelavn is related to Roman Catholic tradition of Carnival in the days before Lent, but after Denmark became a Protestant nation, the festival adopted certain distinctives. The holiday occurs the week before the Christian penitential season of Lent, culminating on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. The Swedish counterpart is Fettisdagen, the Icelandic is Öskudagur, and in Finland they celebrate Laskiainen. In Iceland, Ísafjörður is the only town that celebrates *Fastelavn* on the same day as the other Nordic countries. The day is known as *Maskadagur* (mask-day).

The traditions of Fastelavn varies somewhat between the countries, and local regions even, and have also changed a bit over time, while some traditions have remained the same. For Fastelavn nowadays, a common theme in all the countries involves children dressing up in costumes, walking door to door while they sing and gather treats for the Fastelavn feast, a form of trick-or-treat. Today, the festivities of Fastelavn are generally considered to be

Fellow Members,

As you know the dues for 2020 have been raised to \$40. The website is updated so that new accounts are \$40, but we cannot control people's **OLD recurring charges** from our end. The account holder has to do that by logging in to PayPal.com.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP W AUTO-RENEWAL

Subscribe



You need to log into your PayPal account and cancel the \$30 recurring payment, and then go to our website and use the new link to approve a new

\$40 recurring payment, which works just fine.

But I'm afraid we're going to have to ask every "recurring payment" member to do the same, for security reasons; it's PayPal, not us.

If your recurring dues has already been processed for \$30 this month, we ask that you please get to us at your convenience a check for \$10.00 to Margrethe to cover the balance. Then next year do the above to reset your account.

Again, sorry for any inconvenience this causes you.

a time for children's fun and family games.

The term *Fastelavn* comes from Old Danish *fastelaghen*, which was a borrowing of the Middle Low German *vastel-avent*, meaning "fast-evening", or the day before Lent.

Festivities

As in Carnival traditions elsewhere, dressing up in costumes forms an important part of Fastelavn in all Nordic Lutheran countries where this festivity is celebrated. In some places this involves smaller processions, but in contrast to former times, dressing up in costumes are now mainly a children's activity only.

The Carnival season also includes Fastelavens søndag (with cream buns) and fastelavensris with decorated branches.

Cat in a barrel

Traditional events include *slå katten af tønden* ("hit the cat out of the barrel"), which is somewhat similar to using a *piñata*. The Danes use a wooden barrel, which is full of candy and sometimes oranges and has the image of a cat on it. After the candy pours out, the game continues until the entire barrel is broken. The one who knocks down the bottom of the barrel (making all the candy spill out) becomes *kattedronning* ("queen of cats"); the one who knocks down the last piece of the barrel becomes *kattekonge* ("king of cats").

In Denmark, the barrel tradition has been practiced for



centuries, possibly introduced by Dutch immigrants to Copenhagen during the reign of Christian II of Denmark in the early 1500s.

Fastelavnsris have many shapes and forms and differ from area to area. In some areas they are bunches of twigs, usually from fruit trees and preferably with buds. Those are often decorated with feathers, egg-shells, storks and little figures of babies. In other areas, they are a bent willow-branch, shaped like an ankh and wound with crepe paper that has frizzles cut with scissors. Both varieties may be decorated with candy as well.

Historically, there was a real cat in the barrel, and beating the barrel was superstitiously considered a safeguard against evil. It was practised up until the 1800s, with the last known event occurring in the 1880s. The cat was not killed, but allowed to escape when the barrel was broken. The practice also used to be popular in Holland and similar events were known from Germany, called "Katzenschlagen".

Songs

A popular children's song in Denmark is:

Original Danish	English Translation
Fastelavn er mit navn, boller vil jeg have. Hvis jeg ingen boller får, så laver jeg ballade. Boller op, boller ned boller i min mave. Hvis jeg ingen boller får, så laver jeg ballade.	Shrovetide is my name, buns I want. If I get no buns, I will make trouble. Buns up, buns down buns in my tummy. If I get no buns, I will make trouble.

The song is sung on various occasions related to Fastelavn, but mostly by costumed children, walking door to door, as a form of trick-or-treat. Even though the song relates to Fastelavnsboller, candy or money is usually offered to the kids when they sing.

Cakes

In Denmark a popular baked good associated with Fastelavn is the *fastelavnsbolle* (lit. "Fastelavn bun", also known in English as "shrovetide bun" or "lenten bun"), a round sweet roll of various sorts usually covered with icing and sometimes filled with a whipped cream mix or pastry cream. In most



bakeries they are up for sale throughout the whole month of February.

Fastelavnsris

Another popular custom (especially among the children) is the "fastelavnsris", with which children ritually flog their parents to wake them up on the morning of Fastelavns Sunday.

The custom was known in 18th century in Germany and it has several roots. It may originate from an old pagan fertility ritual, which has been absorbed into Christianity. The more serious one is that after the reformation, particularly pious people used to flog their children on Good Friday to remind them of the sufferings of Christ on the cross. A similar custom is mentioned in the book "Frauenzimmerlexicon", published in 1715 in Leipzig (Germany), which describes how bachelors and virgins "bid each other good morning" by flogging each other and spreading ashes on each other. This custom is also known in both Denmark and Norway.

Earlier, it was mainly the young women and the infertile who were flogged. It was also common that a young man would carry his "fastelavnsris" and gently strike at young women he met on the street. Later it became the children's special right to flog their parents on this day. In any case, the reward given for the flogging would be a fastelavnsbolle.

Processions

Fastelavn processions are not practised on any notable scale anymore, but used to form an important part of the festivities for centuries in Denmark. Unmarried adults dressed up in costumes and visited houses of their choice across town. Here they teased, danced and gathered food and money for the Fastelavn celebration. If married people and the elderly wanted to take part in the festivities, they could put on costumes and visit friends to tease and have fun. These costume games were not liked by the Church and the authorities, and were outlawed in 1683. However, the costume games were popular among the common people and they continued to be practised nonetheless. Today, groups of costumed children walk from door to door to sing and collect candy and small-change money.

In Denmark, special boat processions were practised in coastal communities from at least the early 1700s and consisted of a regular wooden boat with wheels pushed through the streets accompanied by shouts and music. The boat was decorated, sometimes with mythological figures, and when it stopped on its route through town, onlookers were expected to feed a collection box for charity. The last boat processions died out in the 1970s.