



The Danish Soldiers Club

May 2021

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

As things seem to be getting better and many people have completed their vaccinations we again hope you will join us again on June 5th, for a picnic at Kastania Field. We had about 22 people last month and they enjoyed a delightful day in the eventual sunshine. Members do not need to RSVP, but you will have to bring your own food, beverages and tableware.

There is plenty of space to provide appropriate social distancing. No indoor activities are planned at this time. We look forward to seeing you then.

Keith Brians
President



Believe it or not, but in Denmark
"Fart-kontrol" means "Speed check"



The Danish Soldiers Club
Post Office Box 41
Petaluma, CA 94953



Address Correction Requested

The Governing Board

Keith Brians President to 2020	Petaluma (707) 789-9953 kastaniakeith@gmail.com
Dennis Wimple Vice President to 2021	El Cerrito (510) 525-4120 denniswimple@yahoo.com
Margrethe Bækgaard Treasurer to 2020	Santa Rosa (707) 293-7972 mbaekgaard@gmail.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
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Vagn Nielsen Director to 2021	Sonoma (707) 996-9950 nielsen.vk@gmail.com
Henrik Olsgaard Director to 2022	Orinda (510) 847-5186 holsgaard@hotmail.com

Volunteers:

Lilian Rasmussen Membership Coordinator	Roseville (916) 771-4961 mormor@surewest.net
Rick Santarini Newsletter Editor	Santa Rosa (707) 477-6669 santarinirick@gmail.com

Club News

We have are getting good feedback for the "bring your own picnic lunch" club get togethers we have been holding this year. So with Sonoma County moving into the COVID Orange Tier and with more people having completed their vaccinations we hope you will please join us on Saturday June 5th, for a "bring your own picnic lunch" at Kastania Field.

Members do not need to RSVP, but you will have to bring your own food, beverages and tableware. There is plenty of space to provide appropriate social distancing. In compliance with regional Covid guidelines, indoor activities are not planned at this time. If we are allowed by the county to attain a liquor license there is a chance that the bar will be open for beer and wine.

20+ people attended the picnic on May 1st. We enjoyed a delightful day that started a little windy but ended up being comfortable in the sun. as the month before most of those attending had been vaccinated and enjoyed the company of fellow club members and guests.

With more people getting vaccinated and restrictions starting to ease hopefully more members will start attending. Eventually we can get to the point where we get can hopefully resume the catering service (we need a minimum of 40 orders), resume regular bar service and hold our club meetings. Fingers crossed for this summer. As stated earlier people seem to be enjoying the "bring your own picnic" lunches. If you have not tried it yet, think about joining us in June.

Reminder: Elections for 2021 Board

Due to the COVID 19 situation the Board decided in 2020 to delay the election of a new board until the early 2021 schedule, that election is still on hold. We have three board members with expired terms; Keith Brians, Margrethe Bækgaard and Ken Fultz. As always, this is a volunteer run organization and your participation in the board and other activities is appreciated and necessary for the club's success. So this is the time for Members to consider (especially new members) joining the board to help continue to keep this club strong and vibrant.

If you are interested please contact one of the Board Members to state your interest.

Sad News

We were notified by Diana Matcham that her father Eric Miller passed away on February 28, 2021. Eric was a long time member of the club who helped out over the years with many projects, including being on the Board from 2005 thru 2009. My experience included Eric assisting us every year to set up the Christmas Tree for our annual Glade Jul. His daughter mentioned that he loved and looked forward to socializing with everyone at the DSC. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Eric's family, he will be missed.

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

Margrethe Bækgaard

1740 Brandee Lane

Santa Rosa, CA 95403-8676—

Email:

mbaekgaard@gmail.com

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

Important Notice for the June Luncheon

Saturday, June 5th will again be a "Bring your own food and beverages" picnic, no reservations necessary.

To comply with the County guidance's the following requirements would be in place.

- *All buildings except restrooms would be closed.*
- *Members would provide their own lunch Groups of ten or fewer could sit together.*
- *Picnic tables would be spaced such that greater than six feet of space separate them.*
- *We will be compliant with CDC recommendation pertaining to Face coverings at outdoor events.*

Fellow Members,

As you know the dues in 2020 were raised to \$40. The website was 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](https://www.paypal.com).

If your 2021 dues will be automatically paid this way and you have not already changed your account please 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.

Sorry for any inconvenience this causes you.

John and Kirsten Johansen

I know many of you remember John and Kirsten Johansen, John for years was a club member, Board Member, our Web Master and Newsletter editor. Two & half years ago they sold their house in Modesto and moved back to Denmark.

I have been sending them our newsletter so they could continue to be connected to the club. Recently I reached out by email to John and Kirsten to see how they were doing and I received the following email which I thought that many of you would enjoy reading.

Hi Rick,

Kirsten & I are doing fine here in Denmark. We have now been here two and a half years and fully settled in, and we enjoy it. Except 2020 was a quiet year with most of the society closed down. However in December there was a little window of relaxed restrictions, so our two sons flew in to wish me a happy 80th Birthday. That was great.

This summer, in June they both are coming with their whole families all 9 of them. With no restrictions we plan to tour Denmark. We have rented two beach houses, where we will stay and tour from there. We are in the middle of preparations now, and look forward to the summer.

We are fully vaccinated and so are about a third of the population. Most restrictions are lifted, or will be lifted here in May. There is a lot of testing going on, because if you want to go to a restaurant, movie, theater or soccer, you have to show a negative corona-test no more than 72 hours old. It seems to work, because when they find positive tests they immediately gets isolated.

We are often talking about our good times in the Soldiers club, and we are happy to hear that we are not forgotten. We enjoy the website and the newsletters. We hope the club soon comes back to its original strength.

Say Hi to everybody from us here in Denmark.

Kirsten & John

How Denmark was liberated at the end of World War II

On May 4th, 1945, Denmark was liberated from German occupation and light returned to Danish cities after five years of darkness.

"This is London! The BBC, broadcasting to Denmark!" "At this moment, it is being announced that Montgomery has stated that the German troops in the Netherlands, northwest Germany and Denmark have surrendered. This is London. We repeat: Montgomery has just now announced that the German troops in the Netherlands, northwest Germany and Denmark have surrendered."

With those words, the BBC's Danish presenter Johannes G. Sørensen cut into regular programming to inform the Danish people that their five years of German occupation were over. The message came at 8.35pm on May 4th, 1945. British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery had just accepted the surrender of German forces at Lüneburg Heath, east of Hamburg.

Denmark would have to wait another 12 hours until the liberation officially took effect at 8am on May 5th, 1945, but the radio broadcast brought happy

Danes out into the streets, many of them using the occasion to burn the hated black window shades that had been used during bombing raids.

Over seven decades later, Danes continue that tradition by lighting candles in their windows every May 4th as a reminder of the five years when Danish cities spent their nights in total darkness.

When Germany launched an invasion into Denmark and Norway on April 9th, 1940, the official Danish resistance lasted just two hours before King Christian X surrendered.

Immediately after the invasion, Denmark was able to keep its government and monarchy in place with a mix of democracy and totalitarianism until Germany dissolved the government in 1943 following strikes and upheaval.

Although some 6,000 Danes are estimated to have joined the corps of Danish Nazis known as Free Corps Denmark during the war, the Danish resistance movement is estimated to have included well over 20,000 Danes who worked to actively undermine the German occupation. Some 3,000 Danes died as a direct result and 1,072 sailors gave their lives for the Allies. Danish fishermen also put themselves at great risk by ferrying Denmark's Jews to

safety in Sweden.

The first Allied forces arrived in Denmark on the afternoon of May 5th, greeted by throngs of people celebrating in Copenhagen. When Field Marshal



Bernard Montgomery came to the capital a week later, Danes honored him with a victory parade throughout the city.

Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery was given a hero's welcome as he drove through Copenhagen a week after the liberation. Photo: Public domain

When accepting the Oscar, as he had in accepting the BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts), for best film not in the English language, Vinterberg also dedicated the movie to her.

"Most importantly I want to thank my daughter Ida, who is no longer here. She was more enthusiastic about this project than anyone else had ever been," Vinterberg said during his speech. "It made her miss her hometown, Copenhagen, and now we miss her. And we made this movie for her."

"Another Round" was nominated for best foreign-language film at the Golden Globes (but lost to the Korean-language American production "Minari," which is nominated for six Oscars but not eligible for international feature). It also has racked up nominations and wins for best international or foreign-language film from multiple critics associations and film festivals.

Although the film is filled to the brim with liquor, Vinterberg said they never actually drank on set. (Instead, the director set up a "booze boot camp" to prepare his actors to act out different levels of inebriation).

Vinterberg also was nominated for achievement in directing alongside Lee Isaac Chung ("Minari"), Emerald Fennell ("Promising Young Woman"), David Fincher ("Mank") and winner Chloé Zhao ("Nomadland").

Denmark's previous Oscar winners — when the category was still called foreign-language film — were "Babette's Feast" (1987), "Pelle the Conqueror" (1988) and "In a Better World" (2010).

"Another Round" is available to stream on Hulu, Amazon Prime, Vudu, Apple TV.

Danish Film Wins Academy Award

Denmark secured its fourth Academy Award on April 25th, this time for a life-affirming movie about friendship and alcohol as Thomas Vinterberg's "Another Round" won the Oscar for international feature.

"Another Round," or "Druk" as it is known in Danish, is an ode to life

and all its perils. Its premise, though, is based on Norwegian psychiatrist Finn Skårderud's theory that humans are born with an alcohol blood level 0.05% too low. In layman's terms, "Another Round" tests the bounds of what it would mean to get drunk, and then stay drunk, at a consistent level every day.

Starring Mads Mikkelsen, "Another Round" pushes the bounds of such an experiment, taking viewers through an emotional exploration into escapism and humanity. The movie's heavy topics took on an even deeper resonance after Vinterberg's 19-year-old daughter, Ida, died in a highway accident four days into shooting "Another Round." The driver, Vinterberg said during his Oscar acceptance speech, was looking at a cellphone when they crashed into Ida.



Thomas Bo Larsen, Lars Ranthe, Mads Mikkelsen and Magnus Millang in the movie "Another Round." (Henrik Ohsten)

