



# The Danish Soldiers Club

June 2021

[www.danishsoldiersclub.com](http://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

Fine weather made for a pleasant afternoon for 25 or so members on Saturday, June 5th, at Kastania Field. As we have been doing during Covid, members brought their own meals and beverages.

We had anticipated returning to our traditional lunches as Covid restrictions eased, but our long-time caterers recently let us know that they will no longer provide lunches for our meetings. We are now looking for alternatives. Regardless, we can continue to enjoy each others company until a solution is found. Looking forward to seeing you on July 3.



Keith Brians  
President



## 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
Adam Byer Director to 2021	Oakland (510) 332 6932 adam@cherrystreetgames.com
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 been informed by our caterers Gerner & Annette Andresen that they will no longer be offering off site catering. They gave their thanks to all members of The Danish Soldiers Club for these many years, they offered their service, it's close to 28 years. Thank you Gerner & Annette.

Kristen Peterson said she has a friend who might be interested in catering our lunches. We would like you to kick around the idea around so we can see if there is any interest. Email your thoughts to any of the board members listed above.

We have are getting good feedback for the "bring your own picnic lunch" club get togethers we have been holding this year. Until the club can figure our next step for the luncheons please join us on Saturday July 3rd, 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 so-

cial 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.

25 people attended the picnic on June 5th. We enjoyed a delightful day with good weather and ended up being comfortable in the sun 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 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 July.

### 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 that long time member Tage Hansen passed away on April 29, 2021. Tage was a long time member of the club who was on the Board from 2010 thru 2013. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Here is a link to his obituary in the Marin Independent Journal [Tage Hansen Obituary \(2021\) - Marin County, CA - Marin Independent Journal \(legacy.com\)](https://www.marinjournal.com/obituary/2021/04/29/tage-hansen-obituary/)

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](mailto:mbaekgaard@gmail.com)

**Also remember that you can pay online thru PayPal at [www.danishsoldiersclub.com](http://www.danishsoldiersclub.com)**

## Important Notice for the July Luncheon

**Saturday, July 3rd** 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.

## **Independence Day**

The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades, and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues. The Fourth of July 2021 is on Sunday, July 4, 2021; the federal holiday will be observed on Monday, July 5, 2021.

When the initial battles in the Revolutionary War broke out in April 1775, few colonists desired complete independence from Great Britain, and those who did were considered radical.

By the middle of the following year, however, many more colonists had come to favor independence, thanks to growing hostility against Britain and the spread of revolutionary sentiments such as those expressed in the bestselling pamphlet "Common Sense," published by Thomas Paine in early 1776.

On June 7, when the Continental Congress met at the Pennsylvania State House (later Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, the Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion calling for the colonies' independence.

Amid heated debate, Congress postponed the vote on Lee's resolution, but appointed a five-man committee—including Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York—to draft a

formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain.

*Did you know? John Adams believed that July 2nd was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American independence, and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest. Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826—the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.*

*On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of Lee's resolution for independence in a near-unanimous vote (the New York delegation abstained, but later voted affirmatively). On that day, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail that July 2 "will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival" and that the celebration should include "Pomp and Parade...Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other."*

On July 4th, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, which had been written largely by Jefferson. Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, from then on the 4th became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American independence.

### **Early Fourth of July Celebrations**

In the pre-Revolutionary years, colonists had held annual celebrations of the king's birthday, which traditionally included the ringing of bells, bonfires, processions, and speechmaking. By contrast, during the summer of 1776 some colonists celebrated the birth of independence by holding mock funerals for King George III as a way of symbolizing the end of the monarchy's hold on America and the triumph of liberty.

Festivities including concerts, bonfires, parades and the firing of cannons and muskets usually accompanied the first public readings of the Declaration of Independence, beginning immediately after its adoption. Philadelphia held the first annual commemoration of independence on July 4, 1777, while Congress was still occupied with the ongoing war.

George Washington issued double rations of rum to all his soldiers to mark the anniversary of independence in 1778, and in 1781, several months before the key American victory at the Battle of Yorktown, Massachusetts became the first state to make July 4th an official state holiday.

After the Revolutionary War, Americans continued to commemorate Independence Day every year, in celebrations that allowed the new nation's emerging political leaders to address citizens and create a feeling of unity. By the last decade of the 18th century, the two major



*Benjamin Franklin and John Adams meeting with Thomas Jefferson, standing, to study a draft of the Declaration of Independence. (Credit: Universal History Archive/Getty Images)*

political parties—the Federalist Party and Democratic-Republicans—that had arisen began holding separate Fourth of July celebrations in many large cities.

#### **Fourth of July Fireworks**

The first fireworks were used as early as 200 BC. The tradition of setting off fireworks on the 4 of July began in Philadelphia on July 4, 1777, during the first organized celebration of Independence Day. Ship's cannon fired a 13-gun salute in honor of the 13 colonies. The *Pennsylvania Evening Post* reported: "at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks (which began and concluded with thirteen rockets) on the Commons, and the city was beautifully illuminated." That same night, the Sons of Liberty set off fireworks over Boston Common.

#### **Fourth of July Becomes a Federal Holiday**

The tradition of patriotic celebration became even more widespread after the War of 1812, in which the United States again faced Great Britain. In 1870, the U.S. Congress made July 4th a federal holiday; in 1941, the provision was expanded to grant a paid holiday to all federal employees.

Over the years, the political importance of the holiday would decline, but Independence Day remained an important national holiday and a symbol of patriotism.

Falling in mid-summer, the Fourth of July has since the late 19th century become a major focus of leisure activities and a common occasion for family get-togethers, often involving fireworks and outdoor barbecues. The most common symbol of the holiday is the American flag, and a common musical accompaniment is "The Star-Spangled Banner," the national anthem of the United States.

#### **Two Presidents Died on the Same July 4: Coincidence or Something More?**

On July 4, 1826, America celebrated 50 years of independence as, just a few hours apart, two of its Presi-

dents took their final breaths. At the time of his death, Thomas Jefferson was 83, while John Adams had turned 90 the year before. Though both were unwell, their deaths came as a surprise to many—particularly as they coincided with one another on this very striking date.

In the weeks that followed, Americans offered a variety of explanations for the sudden loss of these two presidents. Though some likely wrote it off as coincidence, many saw evidence of divine design at work. In a eulogy delivered the following month, for instance, Daniel Webster wondered what this "striking and extraordinary" coincidence might suggest. The men's lives had been gifts from Providence to the United States, he said. So too were their length and "happy termination," which he saw as "proofs that our country and its benefactors are objects of His care."

One possible explanation proposes that Jefferson and Adams deliberately "held on" for the anniversary. The phenomenon of people keeping themselves alive until they've said goodbye to a loved one or experienced a significant anniversary is well-documented: It's entirely possible that Adams and Jefferson's "will to live" kept them going through those final days ahead of July 4th—but wasn't enough to keep them alive after that.

