



The Danish Soldiers Club

March 2022

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

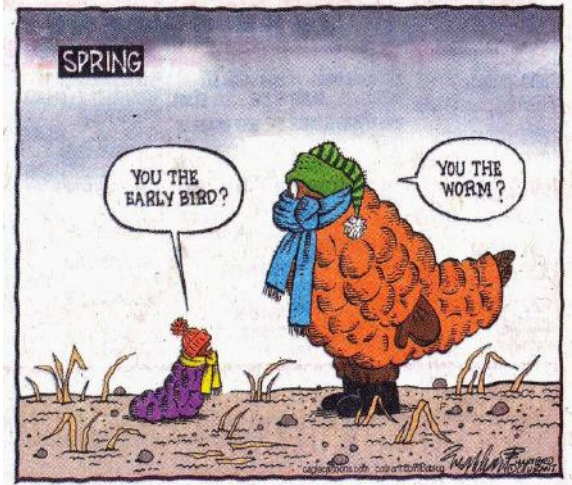
Despite the cool weather we had blue skies and a very good turnout for the luncheon. It provided for me an opportunity to meet and get to know some of the members. I may not remember all your names, but I will remember your face. Thank you for welcoming me as your elected President.

The board and I have met several times during the last couple of months and I'm excited about their enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication to making this year one of the best. We have collectively gathered ideas for special monthly events that will include children/grandchildren and adults. With the coming events we will need volunteers to help. Share your talents with us and collectively we can accomplish great things.

Lunches are back beginning in April so check out the rest of your newsletter for further details. On that note, as a reminder April 1st is the last day to pay your membership dues. You can pay at the April meeting.

I'm looking forward to seeing you again and meeting many more of you in April.

Michael Gunlund, President



The Danish Soldiers Club

Post Office Box 41
Petaluma, CA 94953



Address Correction Requested

The Governing Board for 2022

Michael Gunlund President to 2024	Prather (559) 908-9609 mgunlund0674@gmail.com
Annalisa Juul-Diaz Vice President to 2024	Concord (925) 451-4278 annalisa0518@yahoo.com
Vagn Nielsen Treasurer to 2024	20650 Burndale Rd Sonoma ,95476 (707) 996-9950 dscvagn@gmail.com
Lizette Burtis Secretary to 2023	Santa Rosa (707) 321-0206 Lburtis@sbcglobal.net
Michael Stecher Web Master Director to 2022	Mill Valley (415) 624-6215 mstecher@me.com
Dennis Diaz Director to 2023	Concord (925) 500-3892 nicktazgordonsetters@yahoo.com
Vacant Director to 2022	
Martha Smith Director to 2023	San Bruno (650) 922-4481 marthasmith32@yahoo.com
Henrik Olsgaard Director to 2022	Orinda (510) 847-5186 holsgaard@hotmail.com

Volunteers:

Lilian Rasmussen Membership Coordinator	Roseville (916) 771-4961 Mormor3@comcast.net
Rick Santarini Newsletter Editor	Santa Rosa (707) 477-6669 santarinirick@gmail.com

Club News

Saturday Jill Brians the club Secretary, informed the board that due to time constraints and family activities she needed to resign from the board. After

some discussion, it was decided Lizette would take over the secretary position. With Jill's resignation, we are short one board member. If you are interested in filling Jill's term please contact someone on the Board.

Other issues discussed by the incoming board were The By-Laws need to be updated. A special board meeting (via zoom) will be held on March 16, 2022, at 7:00 PM to discuss changes to the By-Laws. They decided to use the same By-Law change template as the Danish Sisterhood.

Also the Board discussed ideas to increase membership and attendance for the Monthly Meetings.

April Meeting: The Board decided to bring back open-faced sandwiches for the **April 2nd meeting**. Annalisa, Martha, and Lizette will make the sandwiches. Price per person is \$25.00. Therefore, we ask people not to bring their own lunches. Also the plan is to bring back the **Raffle** so all donations will be appreciated. Also we will see the return of **Kringle**.

Liquor License: We were able to secure a Liquor License for the April meeting so the bar will open. Therefore, We ask that people refrain from bringing their own alcohol .

Bar: We will need to locate a volunteer to bartend at the April meeting. We decided to keep the beer/wine/Liquor/ Soda prices the same.

May Meeting – BBQ

The Board discussed continuing the tradition of having two per year starting with the May meeting

March Meeting

25 members met on a chilly Saturday for a "bring your Lunch" with fingers crossed hopefully the last time we need to do it this way.

Saturday April 2nd—Order form for Smørrebrød at \$25.00 each

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

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

Or:
dscvagn@gmail.com

Vagn Nielsen
20650 Burndale Rd Sonoma ,95476

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

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 _____

Three pieces of Smørrebrød of which one is **SALMON**, one **MEAT (Ham or Roast Beef)**, one **CHEESE**

Total plates with Salmon

Three pieces of Smørrebrød of which one is **SHRIMP**, one **MEAT (Ham or Roast Beef)**, one **CHEESE**

Total plates with Shrimp

Three pieces of "non-seafood" Smørrebrød two **MEAT (Ham or Roast Beef)**, one **CHEESE**

Total plates with non-seafood

Order form for renewing Membership to The Danish Soldiers Club

It is time to renew your membership with the Danish Soldiers Club. The price is \$40 for 2022. The easiest way is Via **PayPal** on our website www.danishsoldiersclub.com. Just click on the member renewal button on top of the home page, and you are done.

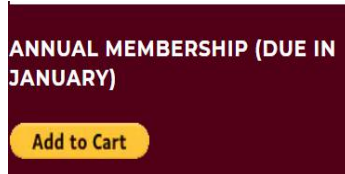
If you do not have computer access you can also send a \$40 check to **Vagn Nielsen** our Treasurer. His address is:

**20650 Burndale Rd
Sonoma, CA 95476**

Email:

dscvagn@gmail.com

Ph. (707) 996-9950



Many Members due to an unusual year in 2021 still have not paid their 2021 dues. Please use this opportunity to pay 2021 while renewing your membership for 2022

Spring in Denmark



It's almost spring in Denmark, and spring is by far many peoples favorite season there. The wonderful white Scandinavian sunlight is back after the dark days of the winter, the flow-

ers are coming out on the trees, and everybody's in a good mood. The outdoor cafés are full of people again – sometimes draped in blankets to keep warm, but outside all the same.

April and May are often the best months for weather in Denmark, along with September. Summers can be rainy. And April is when Tivoli opens in Copenhagen.

Tivoli is one of the world's great non-disappointing

tourist attractions – it is constantly updated, with new shops, new rides, fresh flowers and fresh restau-



rants. And in the spring, it is not as crowded as it is in the summer. You can hang out all day, have a picnic, ride the rollercoaster, even hear some bands play.

And you'll have time to do that, because spring is when the Danes' public holidays really stack up. There are three public holidays around Easter – Thursday, Friday and the following Monday – and then several other public holidays, like Ascension Day, and the Friday after it. And Whitsunday, and the Monday after it.

What do people do with all these holidays? You take a walk, or a bike trip. You go to Tivoli. You go to your **Danish summer house**. Or, if you're 14 years old, you get confirmed.

Confirmation: Religious event or consumer event?

Spring is also confirmation season in Denmark. In the Christian religion, confirmation is when you take responsibility as an adult within the church. So, thousands of Danish teenagers, having spent the winter learning the names of Old Testament prophets and Jesus' disciples, are ready for confirmation in the spring.



On each Sunday or public holiday in April or May, Danish churches are filled with up to 40 kids at a time going through confirmation ceremonies – the boys in new suits, the girls in pretty dresses. Danes are not particularly religious. You might ask – what's with the big church service?



The deal is, each confirmation is followed by a party, a big party. Every member of the teenager's extended family is invited, and all of them are expected to bring money. Gifts of money are part of the confirmation experience, probably one of the best parts, if you ask the teenagers.

Then the day after the ceremony, the kids are

allowed to skip school and go shopping to spend all their new cash. This is called 'Blue Monday' and it is an accepted indulgence and a great driver of the Danish economy. Shopping malls order extra clothes and electronics for the wave of teenage shoppers. Some local tourist boards offer Blue Monday package trips for confirmation kids from the countryside.

Of course, the confirmation service also has some advantages for the Danish church: it gets potential worshippers through the door right before they're 18, which is when they often they decide whether or not to pay church tax. Church tax is one of the few optional taxes in Denmark, but if you do not pay it you do not get access to church services: Danish priests

often refuse to bless the burials of people who did not contribute to the church coffers while they were alive.

Highly educated drinking

As spring fades into summer, another familiar sight appears in the streets of Denmark that Lisa and I experienced in 2018: slightly older teenagers wearing distinctive canvas white caps. These kids are now officially 'students', in the Danish phraseology, which means that they have just finished their secondary education.



The different colors of cap or ribbon on the cap indicate what type of education has been completed: Bordeaux color for an academic gymnasium, royal blue for business school, dark blue for technical school.

Each school of students rents a giant open-back truck and drives around town to every single classmate's home, singing, screaming, and honking horns. If you're taking a Saturday afternoon nap, a truck of students driving by will wake you up. The students have a drink at each stop, so by the end of the day they're pretty much falling off the truck.

In the United States, the liabilities lawyers would

be all over this. One drunk kid would fall off the truck, sue the school, and the tradition would be ended forever.

But this is Denmark, and spring traditions live on.

