



The Danish Soldiers Club

October 2018

<https://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.

They say summer is over but we certainly had a great summer day during our October meeting. Great fun and an enjoyable social gathering.

We also managed a detailed discussion on club matters, with very active participation by attendees. It is interesting to note, that as our board members tend to be younger, ideas are freely proposed and discussed. New ideas and suggestions are very essential for the future health of our club. We are no longer a stoic military minded club for old men, but a living and functional social club. Naturally we fully respect and cherish our heritage and military background, but things are changing with the times. I personally find it enjoyable that children often come and go during board meetings. No point in being stuffy. A kid should be allowed to check on her/his mother!

As usual this time of year we are starting to plan our large Christmas party, and we are confident that it will be a success as usual. And indeed as usual, young folks and children will be the focus. But we will not forget the traditional entertainments. I understand that efforts will be made to teach English speaking children to sing traditional Danish children songs!

The election of the board members for 2019 was also discussed in great detail. We are fortunate to have a supportive membership roster with people, who are not afraid to come forward and serve our great club. Elections of the new board will take place at our November meeting.

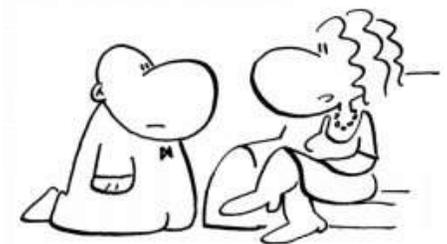
See you all in November.
Poul



**Date to remember:
Christmas Party Sunday
December 16th at the
Petaluma Veterans Hall**

The Danish Soldiers Club

Post Office Box 41
Petaluma, CA 94953



"Your marriage proposal sounds good, Arnie, but I'd like to hear about the retirement plan."

Address Correction Requested

The Governing Board for 2018

Poul Poulsen President to 2018	San Rafael (415) 459-7727 pouls Poulsen@gmail.com
Per Madsen Vice Pres. to 2018	San Francisco (415) 928-4509 permads@danishsoldiersclub.com
Margrethe Bækgaard Treasurer to 2020	Santa Rosa (707) 293-7972 margrethebaekgaard@danishsoldiersclub.com
Rick Santarini Secretary to 2019	Santa Rosa (707) 481-8251 ricksantaini@danishsoldiersclub.com
John Johansen Newsletter-Web Director to 2019	Modesto (209) 545-8992 admin@danishsoldiersclub.com
Ken Fultz Director to 2020	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 2020	Petaluma (707) 789-9953 kastaniakeith@gmail.com
Jill Brians Director to 2019	Petaluma (707) 227-8404 jcbrians@yahoo.com
Vagn Nielsen Kasernemester	Sonoma (707) 996-9950 vknielsen@comcast.net
Lilian Rasmussen Membership Coordinator	Roseville (916) 771-4961 mormor@surewest.net 4397 Coach Whip Way Roseville, CA 95747-8623

Thanks to all the donors for the raffle:

Poul Poulsen, Carsten Johansen, Per Madsen, Vibeke Jensen, Birthe Baekgaard, Adam Byer, Kirsten Pedersen, Ken Fultz, Rick & Lisa Santarini, Tove Lindberg, Trudy Kapellas and Finn Jacobsen.

Thanks again to Birthe Baekgaard who brought her famous Tuscan cake.

46 members and guests enjoyed the meeting and the beautiful weather in the Kastania Park October 6th.

Poul mentioned we have a board election coming up at our next meeting. Three positions up for election that are currently held by the President Poul Poulsen, the Vice President Per Madsen and Director Leo Pedersen. Poul, Per and Leo have termed out, so we will need to have new people coming in. Nominated thus far are Dennis Wimple and Michael Stecher. If needed Leo will stay on as a non-voting member of the board for the next year (as allowed by the by-laws). We still need people to fill this third position and a fourth position being vacated by our newsletter editor and webmaster John Johansen. Volunteers is what keeps this club running so if any of you know someone that be interested please contact Poul Poulson before the November meeting.

As stated John Johansen is resigning because he and Kirsten are moving back to Denmark by the end of the year. Michael Stecher volunteered to do the web site, and Rick Santarini agreed to do the newsletter in Microsoft Publisher and send the file to Michael Stecher for posting on the web site. We are still working out the details on how to deliver the newsletter to the 41 members that still received it by US Mail.

Get ready the Christmas Party is coming up soon. Sunday December 16 is the date. Poul and Per will be making the necessary arrangements. Remember one thing that helps keep Christmas Party costs down is our raffle, so we are again reaching out to our membership to please donate prizes that will help make the raffle its usual success.



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

ricksantarini@danishsoldiersclub.com

Or:

Rick Santarini
325 La Crosse Avenue
Santa rosa, CA 95409

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 _____

NICK NACKS – but why?

A nick-nack, also referred to as a knickknack (with silent k's, please – otherwise it sounds really silly) is a small trivial article, usually intended as an ornament. The nick-nack term was first heard in 1682, around 4pm. Other descriptions are: A small worthless object which is especially used as a household ornament. I am initially backing that last understanding of nick-nack. You see a lot of these things in gardens and inside houses - all over. Nick-nacks seem to slowly take over the world. But why?

If you are not totally clear about what a nick-nack is, here are a few synonyms: trinket, novelty, and gewgaw (look it up – I did), bibelot, gimcrack, curio, tchotchke, memento, souvenir & kickshaw, just to name a few. Yes, I also had a hard time pronouncing some of them. So I made up some easy ones of my own: Junk / You must be kidding / What the hell is that? / Whatever / Are you serious? Just to name a few.



I walk our dog twice daily, and pass many front-yards on our way. It seems as gardens are hit the hardest by nick-nacks; perhaps there is no more room inside, so the gardens are used as a last option. Tess, our lovely dog and I chat and giggle a lot about the things we see on the way. One neighbor, and they seem like really normal and semi-sane people, have this little rusty metal-thing with small beady glass eyes, pretending to be the cute face of a kitten. I think it's utterly weird, and cannot fathom the reason they have it there; to scare away mice and rats? I think any approaching mouse or rat would simply die laughing seeing this pretend metal faced cat. So with rodents die laughing, it seems to be working its purpose; if that is why it's there.

In another front-yard there is a nearly life-size T-Rex, no kidding, 12 feet tall. Okay, so that's about the biggest nick-nack I have ever seen, next to another metallic nick-

nack of a life-size crocodile. I have always felt so tempted to stick a rubber chicken in its mouth, just for fun. But let's get back to normal sized nick-nacks.



Our garden has many different and weird nick-nacks of all kinds. There are the proverbial small signs stating warnings about a 'licker' dog on the premises. I'm scared already. Another proverbial sign stating 'welcome friends'. So I ask, are any non-friends not welcome?



There are frogs of all sizes hanging on to the edge of flower-pots for dear life; they must be real tired by now. There's a very small birth bath with a pretend bird on top; a big metal star hanging on a wall. A wind-driven colorful spinning around thing that our older son bought for \$5 that I actually seem to like, though it doesn't go with the 'theme' of the garden, so perhaps that's why I like it – to be contraire.

Even though I might sound a tad sarcastic (read: cynical), I do like all the things we have around our house and garden. It's not so much that I like those nick-nacks no end, but more so the reason is that it makes my wife and very best friend ever, very happy. I think it's the process of finding these (weird) things, buy them and find a place for them to rest in peace, that makes this happen, makes these vast variations of nick-nacks pop up around here.

At times, when I'm face-to-face with a nick-nack, I imagine the board-room wherein decisions about design and production of some of these (weird) things take place; though, I cannot imagine that any of these decisions are decided upon with a straight face – please.

But now it's confession time: 'Oh Father (or Mother) I have nick-nack sinned...', and I really have. I giggle when my wife brings home 'another' one, but in all reality, I do the same darn thing. The shelf above the computer monitor here in the home-office is full of nick-nacks; a picture of my wife in a Tigger Bouncy frame. A rubber sphinx duck, that squeaks when squeezed (a nick-nack from The British Museum in London). A not actual-size Terra Cotta Warrior from our recent trip to Xian, China. A very colorful wine-glass given to me by our older son. A Napoleon Dynamite chap-stick (go figure). A little heart-shaped stone I found on the beach during an early date with my wife-to-be (sigh). A larger stone from a visit to Omaha Beach in Normandy (France). Tigger figures (my favorite character and role model), a small Snoopy, a VW Beetle flash-drive, etc.



In the corner of the sofa-bed in the office, there is a larger selection of my stuffed toys, from Snoopy, Angry Bird, many renditions of Tigger, a panda bear from Beijing and a cute dinosaur (looks like a T-Rex), etc.



Oh, and if we consider fridge magnets nick-nacks, I have plenty of them. I actually got them off the fridge (by 'advise' from management) and 'framed' them and they are now hanging on the wall in a hallway. They are really great reminders of many of the places we have visited over the years, here and overseas. At last count there

were around 160 magnets inside this frame; and seriously only room for 4 more – and that will be it.

I don't see any practical use for these things, but that is of course not the purpose of them anyway. But I see that they give some 'personal' touch to one's surroundings and daily environment; perhaps they tell us a bit about the persons who live here. And at times we even walk into somebody's home and brazenly wonder out too loud: Where the hell are the nick-nacks? True story.

At times I ask people where they got a certain nick-nack from. Initially they get defensive because they think I'm ready to ridicule them, but after I convince them that I really want to know, there are a lot of great and fun stories as well as interesting explanations; we can learn a lot about people that way – seriously; of course, in some cases, perhaps we learn too much...

After writing this story about this stuff, starting out self-righteously on a sarcastic note, as if I'm better than any diehard nick-nack collector, I have now learned that I was wrong – second time since 1998. No matter how bloody weird some of those things really are – really, they are here with a purpose and I found out what it was.

I look at my own selected nick-nacks that I'm surrounded by daily, especially in the office. After I apologized to all of them for being momentarily disrespectful, we are yet again back on track, where I do enjoy them all and realize that this environment I'm in, would not be the same without all those 'weird' things. I'm even going to apologize to the neighbor's metal-faced cat with the beady little eyes – the cat's eyes, not the neighbor's. I wonder what other nick-nacks they have and of course why. I do want to know...