



The Danish Soldiers Club

June 2019

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

Our meeting on June 1st had great Kastania Faelled picnic weather. Even though attendance was down everyone appeared to have had the usual great time.

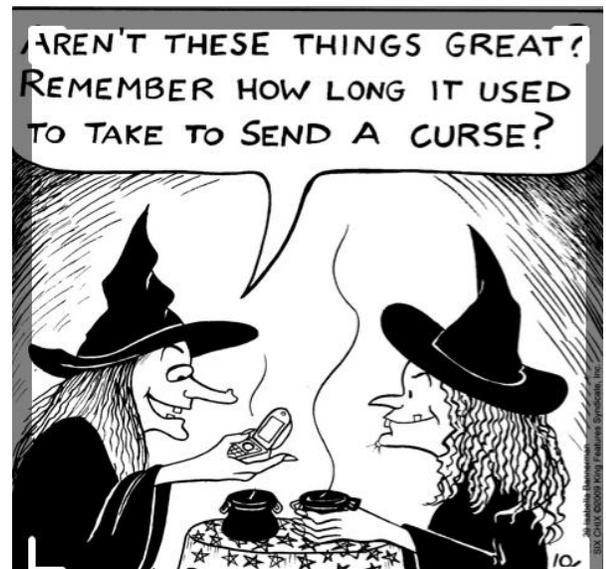
Final paperwork was signed with the County of Sonoma to hold this years Christmas Party in Sonoma. Everyone seemed quite pleased with the 2018 event there.

Our annual membership renewal routine is still moving along, but hopefully we can wind this process up by the end of June. Email and US Mail reminders are being sent. If you are one of those who have yet to send in your renewal, pls. do so soonest, so we can move on.

Hope to see you all in July.

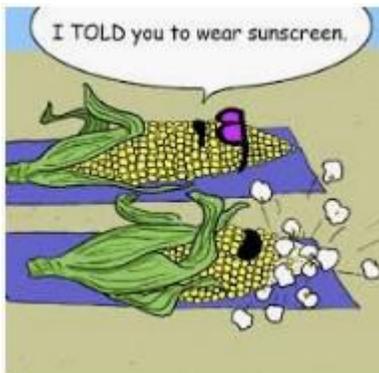
Best Wishes and see you in July

Rick



The Danish Soldiers Club

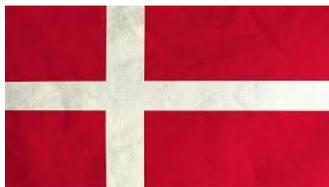
Post Office Box 41
Petaluma, CA 94953



Address Correction Requested

The Governing Board for 2019

Rick Santarini President/Newsletter to 2019	Santa Rosa (707) 477-6669 ricksantarini@danishsoldiersclub.com
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 2019	Petaluma (707) 227-8404 jcbrians@yahoo.com
Michael Stecher Web Master Director to 2021	Mill Valley (415) 380-9276 mstecher@me.com
Ken Fultz Director to 2020	American Canyon (415) 362-7509 KFCVA41@comcast.net
Leo Pedersen Director to 2021	Danville (925) 820-2150 Leo.pedersen@gmail.com
Adam Byer Director to 2021	Oakland (510) 332 6932 adam@cherrystreetgames.com
Peg Saragina Director to 2021	Petaluma (707) 481-3039 msaragina@gmail.com
Dennis Wimple Director to 2021	El Cerrito (510) 525-4120 denniswimple@yahoo.com
Lilian Rasmussen Membership Coordinator	Roseville (916) 771-4961 mormor@surewest.net 4397 Coach Whip Way Roseville, CA 95747-8623



June 1st came with beautiful weather, and 39 members and guests enjoyed the Kastania Park and the Danish Smørrebrøds lunch.

We are now down to 28 members owing 2019 dues, and hopefully that will be taken care by the end of June.

Rick reported that everything concerning rent of the Hall in Sonoma for the Christmas party is in place, except the final approval of our own security guards.

The rest of the meetings will without any doubt have great Kastania Faelled picnic weather and temperatures. Again share this with your family and friends as a way to encourage new members to join and help us celebrate our Danish Heritage. Though this the club will continue to remain vibrant

Thanks to the many donations for the raffle that help support this club from Margrethe & Birthe Bækgaard, Vibeke Jensen, Rick & Lisa Santarini, Ken Fultz, Per Madsen, Erik Larsen and Tove Lindberg. Thanks also to Birthe who brought her famous Tuscan cake.

Special Note for those of you that knew Inger Lundbæk. Her son Jesper (drlundbaek@gmail.com) wants everyone to know Family and Friends are invited to a Memorial at Menke Park in Old Town Corte Madera at the end of Montecito Drive June 22, 2019 1:30-4:00. Bring a lawn chair and we will remind ourselves that death takes a life, but not a relationship.



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

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 _____

Denmark's Sankt Hans Aften “Burn the Witch” bonfires



Last year when we were in Denmark one of the summers traditions

Lisa and I were looking forward to experiencing was the Sankt Hans Aften (St. John's Eve) “Burn the Witch” bonfire tradition that marks the shortest night of the year. Unfortunately, Denmark was in the midst of an unusually hot and dry weather period, stretching well back into May, which broke several records due to its many warm and sunny days. Due to this weather condition there were partial or complete bans on fires still in place for most municipalities across the country on June 23rd and for the first in most people's memories the bonfires were cancelled.

What drives this traditional celebration of summer in Denmark? Although many cultures celebrate Midsummer – the shortest night of the year – with fire, in Denmark the night is infused with customs that harken back to darker and more superstitious times in the country's history.

Sankt Hans Aften (St. John's Eve) takes its name from John the Baptist (“Hans” being the diminutive for Johannes, or John), who according to Christian tradition was born six months before Jesus. With Christmas celebrated on December 24th in Denmark that puts John's birthday on June 24th. The tradition of celebrating the eve of the birthday with a bonfire dates back to the 1600's.

Although the holiday is supposedly Christian, it is built upon pagan traditions. According to legend the summer solstice is a night imbued with evil, a night

in which witches make their way to the Brocken, the highest summit in the [Harz Mountains](#) in northern Germany. In order to ward off those broomstick riding witches and their evil accomplices, Danes light a bonfire to keep the spooky forces at bay. And if that were not enough, the bonfires themselves are topped with a witch figure which is set ablaze on a night when Danes eat, drink and make merry in recognition of summers peak and the coming of longer nights.

While the witch burning has survived the years, the old tradition of collecting and consuming magical herbs has been mostly replaced by getting together with family and friends for dinner and drinks. If the weather is good, they then proceed to a local bonfire venue. Here the bonfire with the effigy of a witch on top is lit around 10 pm. Beforehand, a bonfire speech is often made, at large events normally by a well-known person. According to popular belief, Sankt Hans Aften was charged with a special power where evil forces were also at work. People believed that the witches flew past on their broomsticks on their way to the [Brocken](#). To keep the evil forces away, the bonfires were usually lit on high ground. Placing a witch – made of old clothes stuffed with hay – on the bonfire is a tradition which did not become common until the 20th century.



Therefore at dusk large bonfires are lit all over the country, typically accompanied by communal singing of *Midsommervisen* by [Holger Drachmann](#). Atop



[Midsummer Eve Bonfire on Skagen Beach](#) |

(1906), an artistic depiction of the traditional Danish bonfire.

each bonfire often an effigy of a witch is placed (harking back to the days of witch trials, when real women were burned at the stake). While the witches are being burned on Sankt Hans Aften are of the paper and hay variety, roughly 1000 real men and women convicted of witchcraft were burned alive in Denmark in the 16th and 17th centuries. The last witch burned in Denmark in 1693.

Sankt Hans Aften is traditionally seen as the peak of summer and associated with beautiful late sunsets unless with Denmark's climate it turns into a wet affair.

June 14th is Flag Day. What Is Flag Day?

When the American Revolution broke out in 1775, the colonists were not fighting united under a single flag. Instead, most regiments participating in the war for independence against the British fought under their own flags. In June of 1775, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to create the Continental Army—a unified colonial fighting force—with the hopes of more organized battle against its colonial oppressors. This led to the creation of what was, essentially, the first “American” flag, the Continental Colors.

For some, this flag, which was comprised of 13 red and white alternating stripes and a Union Jack in the corner, was too similar to that of the British. George Washington soon realized that flying a flag that was even remotely close to the British flag was not a great confidence-builder for the revolu-

tionary effort, so he turned his efforts towards creating a new symbol of freedom for the soon-to-be fledgling nation.

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Con-



gress took a break from writing the Articles of Confederation and passed a resolution stating that “the flag of the United States be 13

stripes, alternate red and white,” and that “the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.”

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson marked the anniversary of that decree by officially establishing June 14 as Flag Day.

The flag has evolved over the years as our country has grown. Today the 50 stars on the flag represent the 50 states of the United States of America, and the 13 stripes represent the thirteen British colonies



that declared independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain, and became the first states in the **U.S.**