



Mini KIRKEBLAD



July 2020

Solvejg Nielsen

October 23, 1932 – June 7, 2020

The Danish Community lost a valuable member when Solvejg Nielsen died on Sunday, June 7th, 2020.

Solvejg was involved in the Danish Church, Burnaby, serving as president twice. She was also involved with the Ladies Auxiliary in charge of funeral coffee arrangements. As well, she volunteered for Danish House Society and served as vice-president some years ago. Also She was president of The Scandinavian Centre for a term. Solvejg had also served as president of the Federation of Danish Associations, Western Division. Solvejg was on the Board of Dania Home for four years in the early 90s. Solvejg was a star volunteer and a ticket seller extraordinaire.



Solvejg always had a smile on her face and a kind word for everyone she met. She knew everyone by name, and enquired about the health of children and grand-children when seeing friends at the annual church events like the Spring Tea & Bake Sale and the Fall Bazaar.

The past two years had not been easy for Solvejg. Her beloved husband, Børge, died on April 15, 2018. Then in June, 2018 Solvejg suffered through a difficult knee replacement operation which was followed by long hospital stays to rid her from an infection in the knee, and subsequently was confined permanently to a wheelchair. She finally was able to get into Dania Home some months ago. Despite her suffering, Solvejg never complained. Solvejg and Børge had been married for 59 years, and had three children, Tina, Erik and Anne, many grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Solvejg will be missed by many.

“Æret være hendes minde”



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Donations to “Kirkebladet”

Jeanette Hansen, Lilly Hildebrandt, Kate Dickieson, Randy Meyers.

Donations in Memory

In Memory of Sofie & Gunnar Lyth, from Tom Lyth and family
In Memory of Ann-Britt Everett, Anonymous
In Memory of Bernd Cramer, from Tove Clarke
In Memory of Edith & Helmut Petersson, from Soren Petersson
In Memory of Eve Lyth, from Tom Lyth & Family and Julia Forbes (Lyth) & Family
In Memory of Solvejg Nielsen, from Tina, Erik, Anne and their families, Thygesen family in Denmark, and many other friends, to many to mention.

Thank you, Margit Hansson, Treasurer

Did you know ?

Memorial Walk at Danish Lutheran Church

In 2003 Knud Nielsen had the idea that the Church should have a Memorial Walk, where Plaques could be installed up against a berm on each side of the Walk. I was a member of the Board and suggested that the Walk be made with concrete slabs poured off site and then installed in a specific design. I was asked to make a suggestion and made a drawing which was accepted by the Board. Concrete slabs for the walk, curbs and backings for the plaques were poured in forms (in my yard) and at a work party excavation was done for the first part of the walk starting by the Dolmen, and I installed the slabs. The design and form for the plaques were made by expert pattern maker Benny Svensson, and the plaques are made in a foundry out of a special brass mixture. Early on we had a problem with people trying to steal plaques so we had to make a substantial anchoring system to prevent plaques from being removed. Several extensions have been completed since then as the demand for spaces grew. Today we have 94 plaques in place and a new extension has room for 27 more. Maintenance is ongoing and done by volunteers. On January 25th, 2004 the first plaque was installed for Pastor Immanuel Rasmussen and his wife Anna.

Poul Erik Rasmussen

Pastor's Report - Welcome back to Church!

We have now reopened our Danish Church and the board is carefully following the authority's health guidelines.

But not everybody is able to join us on Sundays and not everybody is able to receive visits just yet. So, please make sure to continue checking in with friends and relatives by phone, shopping assistance or an old school letter!

During these last months I have received so many emails, phone calls and messages from people all over BC, not just Lower Mainland! Lots of Danes are happy to connect and reconnect with the church via our email greetings and video devotions, Zoom, Facebook and other online activity.

Lots of people simply live too far away from the church to come to Burnaby.

And so many people have a special connection and feel like the Danish Church in Vancouver is their church! Even when they live far away and only come in for Christmas or the occasional funeral. Lots of people feel a strong connection even when they haven't been here since their own baptism sometime way back or since they attended a wedding back in the old Vancouver church.

I find it very moving to listen to all these stories and I hear how immigrants feel a special connection to their heritage and background through the Danish church.

So, even now when we are back to celebrating in-person services at our church, I will continue sending out YouTube videos a couple of times a month featuring immigrant stories and a devotion. Please follow us on social media or get on our email list and you will get news, updates, and a tour of BC, visiting some of those Vikings who is living all over Beautiful British Columbia!

Sunday services will be celebrated at **11am in July and August in Burnaby**; except the last Sunday **August the 30th where we meet at 5pm**. Please e-mail ebba@shaw.ca or phone 604-990-3550 to let her know you are coming.

Now, last but not least! I want to thank you for all your generous donations! These are difficult times and we are truly grateful for every single donation we have received during these hard times. Thank you for also keeping our small, but great church in your prayers. Looking forward to seeing you in person again, and let me end by quoting one of the late Solvejg Nielsen's favourite hymns:

Day by day, and with each passing moment,
Strength I find to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He, whose heart is kind beyond all measure,
Gives unto each day what He deems best,
Lovingly its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

God bless, Pastor Susanne



From the Board July 2020

We are still living with the virus, and it looks like it will be with us for a while, but things are getting better and the daily report on new cases are down to a manageable number. All the effort we have put into stopping the spread is starting to pay off but now is the time to keep up the good work to keep the trend going down.

We have now had two successful services in the church hall, where we sat up chairs with 6 foot spacing, and last Sunday we had the first service up in the church. It was nice to be back. We have re-arrange the pews, so we also have 6 feet between the seats upstairs. There is now room for 16 couples and 16 singles, we will seat singles in a couple's seat if the numbers don't match up. We are planning to have services every Sunday from now on, but you still have to let us know that you are coming. We have to make sure we have proper space for everyone. Contact Ebba Grey e-mail ebba@shaw.ca or phone 604-990-3550 to let her know you are coming.

We still don't have any idea when we can have our AGM. We have to wait until we are allowed to gather more than 50 people. We have received a lot of support from the congregation during this difficult time, our revenue is however still down, but it is not as bad as it could have been. A lot of our expenses did not change when we closed the church so we will most likely end the year in the red. We will be sending a regular newsletter out for September/October and the annual Fall Drive letter will be coming at the same time, I hope you will think kindly of your church when it comes.

We are also thinking of the Fall Bazaar, and for good reason we don't know if we will be able to have one. We will send the Fall Lottery Tickets out in the end of September, and hopefully we will know a little more by that time. I hope you find the emailed newsletter enjoyable and convenient. It is a big saving for the church not to have to pay postage and printing.

*Be kind, be calm and stay safe.
Knud Nielsen, President*

"Kirkeblad" Information

The Danish Church sends out its newsletter "Kirkebladet" to Danes, and others, all over BC every second month. It now arrives by email to many of you, which has been wonderful as we are saving money in postage and printing. If you received Kirkebladet in the mail, would you be able to have it emailed instead, please let us know by emailing the office office@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca or calling 604-298-6112