

# Laugs - Tidende

Christian Den Fjerdes Laugs Nytaarsbrev 2015



## From initiation directly to 4th of July festivities in Rebild

The American ambassador to Denmark, Rufus Gifford, had just time for a cup of coffee in a café before he in the morning of the 4th of July was going to be initiated into Christian the Fourth's Guild. And he was happy for that cup of coffee because he – like the other Guild members-to-be – had to sit with an empty glass until the end of the ceremony, while the benchers often raised their glasses and called out: "Our thirst first".

The ambassador was initiated along with other

prominent persons at the Rebild festivities: the two main speakers, Maersk CEO Niels Smedegaard Andersen and photo model Malene Belafonte, together with their spouses. The American military attache in Denmark, Michael Wise, and the host of the Rebild festivities, mayor of Rebild Leon Sebbelin, also became members of the Guild.

After the initiation all the new members and most of the spectators continued to the celebrations in Rebild.

## 97 year old D-day veteran initiated into the Guild

Normally the persons who are going to be initiated into Christian the Fourth's Guild are of course present in Duus' Winecellar in Jens Bangs Stenhus in Aalborg. But on the 4th of July one was missing: 97-year old Esben Christensen, who lives in Portland in Maine in USA, is still going strong and still drives his own car. But the journey to Aalborg was too much. So he was initiated in absentia and was in Duus' Winecellar represented by his son, Thomas Christensen. Esben Christensen's parents emigrated to USA in 1914 and Esben Christensen was born a few years later. He is a D-day veteran as a soldier in the 82. Airborne Division and served the rest of the war in Europe.

His nephew is Egon Hygum Poulsen who from 1995 to 1997 was technical chief at Air Station Aalborg. He became member of the Guild at that time, and it was he who arranged the initiation of the 97-year old WW2-veteran. The son Esben - who was also initiated - considers himself a genuine Danish-American.

"My grandparents – all four of them – were Danish" he proudly says.



## 80 Norwegians celebrate summer with the Guild



"Wonderful Danish company, sunshine, beer and "snaps" in generous quantities – and at fantastic prices!" was what around 80 happy Norwegians expressed after a few days in Aalborg in the delightful June-weather. The Norwegians are all members of Christian the Fourth's Guild in Aalborg. 15 of them only became members during their stay in Aalborg – but all the Norwegian guests were members of the Guild's Norwegian branch in Oslo.

The Norwegian board accompanied them on the visit to Aalborg, led by vice chief benchner Helge Qvigstad. It is a tradition that the very active Norwegian branch each year arranges a summer tour to Aalborg, where the Guild initiates new members.

It happened in the usual festive way in Duus' Wine-cellar, where the members-to-be prior to the initiation and the walk around Jens Bangs Stenhus traditionally only will have empty glasses.

The Guild still pays tribute to the words that was essential when the Guild was founded in 1942, which were that the Guild should "create a pleasant meeting place for optimistic and positive citizens". And this obviously pleases the Norwegians too, so that 80 - 100 of them each year enjoys a few happy days together with the Guild in Aalborg.

In October the board of the Guild went on an also

traditional return visit to Oslo. 21 new Norwegian members were initiated. The Norwegian board had invited the Danish board to a visit to "Eidsvoll", where the Norwegian constitution was signed in 1814.

The number of members of the Guild in Aalborg is approximately 7,700. They come from 124 different countries.



# The Board of the Guild's New Year Greetings

The annual general meeting of the Guild was held Wednesday the 26th of February 2014, and on that occasion several prizes were according to tradition presented:

"Soldier of the year" was konstabel Niklas Kirkedal.

"The Prize of Initiative" was presented to Dorte Christensen for her tireless work on the occasion of the 70 years anniversary for the creation of the "Churchill Club".

"The Aalborg Prize" was presented to Aalborg Kanonlaug – represented by Bernt Jensen – for its noticeable and audible efforts to celebrate special occasions and preserve the old Danish tradition of saluting.

"The Prize of Honor" was presented to sports director Lyng Jacobsen for his lifelong interest and engagement in the football club AaB, which has made him an excellent ambassador for Aalborg – both at home and abroad.

In 2013 we had 21 initiations for 463 persons from 24 different nations: 251 Danes, 95 Norwegians, 25 Swedes and 23 Americans. The rest come from so exotic places as Burundi, Rwanda and Ukraine.

During the general meeting our new benchner, Jens Chr. Schmidt, was dressed in the Guild cloak. Jens Chr. Schmidt is chairman for "Visit Aalborg" and Norwegian consul in Aalborg. Furthermore he is well known as director in Rambøll and former chairman of Aalborg Industri- og Handelskammer.

On June 2nd our branch in Oslo visited Aalborg. In order to secure their safe travel from Oslo was three members of our board invited to accompany our Norwegian friends to Aalborg.

The Norwegian delegation consisted of 80 persons led by vice chief benchner Helge Qvigstad. As usual a very jolly initiation with an enthusiastic audience.

The 4th of July celebration was also this year blessed with fine, sunny weather. Before we all went to Rebild for the festivities the speakers were initiated. They were from USA: Ambassador Rufus Gifford and Melena Belafonte, and from Denmark: CEO Niels Smedegaard Andersen from "Maersk". The 97 year old veteran from

"D-Day", Esben Christensen, who lives in Portland USA, was initiated in absentia. He was represented by his son, Thomas Christensen.

At the tent lunch in Rebild the gentlemen received a Guild tie and for Melena Belafonte there was a Guild scarf.

The Danish-American Peter Ørum also received a Guild tie for his great work over the years and so was the "Lord Mayor for One Day", Peter Høy.

In October the Guild visited Oslo where our Norwegian hosts invited us to the stately home, Eidsvoll – where the Eidsvoll constitution was signed 200 years ago. A great experience!

The day ended with the initiation of 20 new Norwegian members. The initiation – true to tradition – took place at Oslo Military Society.

On the November 6 the Guild presented a check to Anders Neve Enggaard as an appreciation of his heroism as he jumped into the cold water and got a driver out of his car as it had plunged into the harbor basin.

Christian The Fourth's Guild's Foundation was despite the financial crisis able to donate more than 100,000 DKK to various good causes. It happened as usual on the first Wednesday in December in Duus' Winecellar where the menu – as usual on these occasions – were mulled wine and apple dumplings.

The Guild's website has been widely used – there has been more than 33,000 "hits" this year. We are very happy that so many people has shown interest in the Guild.

Here at the end of the year I want to say thank you to all our co-operation partners for the positive attitude with which we are always met, and I want to thank the board for a good and positive co-operation during the year.

Niels Voss Hansen

Chief Benchner



# Two students got the Guild's Prize of Good Spirit



A little before Christmas time in the middle of December two young students got a surprise when they received the Guild's Prize of Good Spirit. A modest check followed the prize.

"Aalborg is a merry city and we all have to look at the bright side of life – and in that respect the check may help" said the Guild's chief benchner Niels Voss Hansen when he presented the diplomas and the checks – first to Mikkel Siesgaard Hansen, Aalborg Studenterkursus, and later to Lisa Helene Skov, Agri College Aalborg.

Mikkel Siesgaard Hansen got the diploma and the check in a pause in the assembly hall at Aalborg Studenterkursus, and Lisa Helene Skov received her diploma and check in the canteen in Aalborg Zoo where she is a trainee, and where she hopes to become a keeper.

The annual Prizes of Good Spirit from the Guild are given to students who "with their good humor, cheerfulness and a positive disposition has added to

the good spirit at their places and thereby been an inspiration for comrades and teachers to function in a positive and cheerful way.

"It is not necessarily because of diligence or efficiency – but of course these qualities are no obstacles" said the Niels Voss Hansen at the two presentations. It is the 25th time the Guild presents the prizes which are given to a student on each of Aalborg's high schools and similar educational places. Every year some of the benchers show up at one or two of the institutions with the guild troubadour and all the trimmings. At the other places the prizes are presented by the head of the institution, usually during the Christmas celebration.

The prizes cannot be applied for but are given to a student selected by the institution's management.

"And it is because the prizes cannot be applied for, that they are special" said the chief benchner, and advised the students to use the check as it was meant – maybe something more funny than text books.

## Reward to a heroic rescuer

They didn't know each other until in the early morning hours on Saturday the first of November, but since then they have been in contact by phone or text message at least once every day.

Their first meeting was under rather unusual circumstances. 19 year old Anders Neve Enggaard rescued 39 year old Henrik Thomsen from drowning in Aalborg Harbor.

Henrik Thomsen was unfortunately driving his car into the harbor basin close to the harbor stairs and the "Honnørkaj", where there are no traffic signs and no barriers. At the same time Anders Neve Enggaard was driving along on the near-by coast road. He heard the splash and saw a glimpse of Henrik Thomsen's car as it went into the harbor basin. Anders Neve resolutely jumped into the water and got Henrik Thomsen out of his sinking car.

Since then they have been close and it seemed only natural to Anders Neve Enggaard to bring Henrik Thomsen along when he was summoned to Christian The Fourth's Guild to receive a praise and a prize for his heroic deed.

"It is one of the purposes of the Guild to praise and reward persons who have done a great and brave contribution" said the Guild's chief benchner Niels Voss Hansen when he and other of the benchers at a small ceremony in the Guild room in Jens Bangs Stenhus in Aalborg presented Anders Neve with a check.

"We are not in a position to donate a substantial sum, but when we sometime can give a pat on the shoulder and some money for a good dinner or two – yes then the life gets a little funnier and nicer, said Niels Voss Hansen.





# Money from the Foundation to social and cultural activities

The budding economic recovery combined with good investment advisers is why Christian The Fourth's Guild's Foundation in 2014 has had a yield of approximately 100,000 DKK for social, humanitarian and cultural activities in Aalborg municipality and the immediate neighbourhood.

"We want to spread our donations as wide as possible and help as many as possible. That is why we also this year donate many – but more modest portions" said the Foundation's chairman, former mayor Kaj Kjær, when he according to tradition in December distributed a lot of checks during a gathering with mulled wine and apple dumplings in Duus' Wine-cellar in Jens Bangs Stenhus. This is also the meeting place for Christian The Fourth's Guild and the Foundations capital comes from the Guild's work and from the many members of the Guild from all over the world.

28 organizations, societies and a few single persons each got a check during the meeting in Duus' Wine-cellar. Earlier in the year six specific projects were supported with money which was necessary here and now.

"And we have as usual in particular considered "the voluntary, unpaid work which is being of benefit to the less privileged groups in our society" as it is stated in the statutes of the Guild" said Kaj Kjær.

Those who received the donations are a very mixed crowd and among them are: Foreningen HjerneSagen



i Aalborg, Støtteforeningen Kamillus på Kamilianer-Gaardens Hospice, De frivillige på Aalborg Universitetshospital, Foreningen Familier med kræframte børn and Dansk Røde Kors' Besøgstjeneste. But also for example Aalborg Miniby, foreningen Obel-pigerne, Aalborg Studentervej, Aalborg Mandskor and Center for Dansk Jazzhistorie. In this instance the money will support the second volume of the History of Jazz in Aalborg.

Aalborg Mandskor has 95 years anniversary in 2015. The choir sings free of charge in rest homes and activity centers in the whole region – that's why the choir received a check to cover some of the choir's expenses.

Aalborg Jægerklubs Blæsere also received a grant, and three of the hunting horn players thanked for the donation by blowing a couple of hunting signals. The hunting horn players bring medals – mostly gold - and trophies back from hunting horn competitions in for instance Switzerland and Germany. The Foundation humbly asks if it would not be a good idea to arrange an European competition in Aalborg in the near future?

The board of the Foundation consists of – besides Kaj Kjær – of former minister for ecclesiastical matters Mette Madsen, managing director (AKKC) Ernst Trillingsgaard, the Guild's chief bencher Niels Voss Hansen and the administrator of the Foundation, Per Svensson.



# The Board of Christian The Fourth's Guild 2015



The Board of Christian The Fourth's Guild 2015. From the left keeper of the archives Tom Thylkjær, bencher Vagn Thomsen, guild treasurer Ib Regnarsson, thirst master Jens Schulz, vice chief bencher Kaj Handberg, guild forest supervisor Børge Clausen, foundation ad-

ministrator Per Svensson, guild troubadour Per Iversen, guild troubadour Rudi Lykkegaard, guild clerk Henrik Jensen, bencher Jens-Christian Schmidt, master of ceremonies Karl Salling Møller and in front chief bencher Niels Voss Hansen. (Foto: Jens Morten)



## Guild Meeting 2015

Wednesday the 25th of February at 19.00 in Duus' Vinkjælder in Jens Bangs Stenhus. (Booking of table directly to Duus' Vinkjælder, telephone +45 98 12 50 56)

### Subscription for 2015:

Annual subscription:  
100 DKK, 110 NOK,  
125 SEK, 12 GBP, 20 USD or  
14 EUR.

Payment for lifelong membership is unaltered: 600 DKK, 650 NOK, 750 SEK, 120 USD, 70 GBP or 100 EUR.

New lifelong members will receive a special Guild letter signed by the Chief Bencher and the Treasurer, and the names of the members will be entered into the "Golden Book".

All members who latest 20th February 2015 have paid annual subscription or are lifelong members will participate in a draw for four gift vouchers of each 2,500 DKK from Best Travel.

### Christian the Fourth's Guild

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**Change of address:** Directly to the Guild or via the website.  
**Newsletter:** Members who have not yet signed up for our electronic newsletter are kindly requested to do so via the website.