REBIL DIEWSLETTER DANISH AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP ORGANIZATION - AUGUST 2011 - ISSUE 151



Danish Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen:

"The Rebild Festival is a tradition that we can all be proud of A tradition just as relevant today as it was 99 years ago when the Rebild Festival was celebrated for the first time."

Read all the speeches from Rebild Celebration 2011.



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Nominating Committees for 2012 Board Elections

According to society by-laws the below named individuals have been named members of the US and Danish nominating committees for the 2012 Board Elections. Please send suggestions to a member of the committee as soon as possible, though no later than October 1:

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In our Anniversary year of 2012 the term of office will expire for the following board members:

Danmark

Karsten Falborg Vibeke Henrichsen Ove Jensen

All can run for re-election.

USA

Jørgen K.Andersen* Kirsten Juul Kane Connie Hanson Edward Bladt

*According to the by-laws Jorgen K. Andersen cannot run for re-election.

Thank You to the Photografer Thank you very much to our photographer, Jørgen Nøhr – Expresfo@post I 2.tele.dk who again this year has taken many wonderful photos from the Hills and the Danish-American days in Aalborg in connection with the 4th of July Festival.

NOT SO BAD AFTER ALL

As you know we are modest people here in Jutland – also when we have to say something really nice, the words are not too big. It is probably rather healthy during a time, when rhetoric is often bigger than the event. Therefore I will leave it with ascertaining that the Rebild Celebration of the year "was not so bad after all". It had all that it takes - good speakers, good entertainment - and good weather. All three speakers spoke on good Danish-American relations from their families. Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen should not go so far back in his family to meet emigrants. Steny Hoyer was the result of a Copenhagen emigrant, and Ida Wohlert had Danish-American parents. Furthermore we know from last year that Ambassador Laurie S. Fulton, who brought greetings from President Barack Obama, has a big family in Jutland. Good meaningful stories, which made it a happy Danish-American afternoon in the Hills.

Room for more

The only thing we missed were more visitors! Not that the attendees did not fill up nicely in the hills, but we would have liked to stop the declining tendency of fewer and fewer visitors. I have a firm belief though that we can turn the tendency from and including next year, when we celebrate our 100 year anniversary. It is both a milestone and a turning-point.

Great efforts are made to maintain the beautiful tradition of what the Rebild Celebration is all about, namely a tribute to the Danes, who went out and made Denmark bigger, and a marking of the historic friendship between the two nations, USA and Denmark. We know of course that the new generations do not have the same motivation — and veneration — as their parents and grandparents, who filled up the hills 50-60 years ago. It was a national festival, filled with joy at meeting somebody again and many happy stories. It was a national event, which most of our generation remembers from the radio reporter Gunnar Nu Hansen's enthusiastic and warm-hearted reports. At that time a trip

from the US to Denmark was some event, and also a very costly one, but at the same time an illustration that USA was the land of possibilities, that those who went out had managed well and brought inspiration back to the old country. It was also expressed popularly in another



way: In the request program in the radio – Giro 413 – where Buster Larsen sang about "Uncle from Minnesota".

The challenge of to-day

Those were other times – and the challenge of the present looks differently. We have to strengthen the local anchoring, both with the Danish-American associations and the development of our own support group and all the time develop the good cooperation with the two municipalities, Aalborg and Rebild, and I thank them for both attention and readiness to help. Luckily there is a wide understanding of the Rebild Society and the Rebild Celebration as a local asset, which has to be both protected and developed.

As part of safeguarding the future we are presently developing a Rebild-for-young people on the internet. We aim at getting hold of the younger generations and to maintain the interest in partly meeting other young people with a corresponding background, partly secure the handing-over of the friendship organization to the next generation. It will not happen from one day to the next, but the process has been started. With this background there is a good reason for optimism. The picture I see for the coming year is not at all so bad after all..."

Karl K. Nielsen President of the Rebild Society

Proposal for the 100 year anniversary?

A 100 year anniversary can be celebrated in many ways, and within the Rebild Society several committees are already discussing the many topics, which are already standing high in the agenda, for example speakers, entertainment and what possibly should be published on

the occasion, etc.In short – during the autumn many important decisions have to be made, but we will not omit asking the members' advice before that.

If you have proposals and ideas, which may contribute to the 100 year anniversary,

we are ready to meet possible wishes, and to make it easy we have set up a special E-mail address for good ideas, thoughts, proposals etc.

Write to: 4juli@rebild2012.dk







Ambassador Laurie S. Fulton and Secretary at the Rebild office Tove Hannibal.





The A Capella Choir Whim'n Rhythmn.

The yearly Tent Luncheon.

NICE WEATHER AND HAPPY ATMOSPHERE IN THE HILLS

By Svend Erik Pedersen

Both Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen and the American top politician Steny Hoyer, are commemorating family relations across the Atlantic. Friendship between the nations and common values are viable and the celebration of July 4 in Denmark a very fine tradition.

It is raining the day before the day before the day, when we meet in the Monastery Garden in Aalborg for the traditional garden party. Very much indeed. So much that we go inside. But it does not matter, we are coming closer to each other and it unites people in a new way – the good atmosphere becomes perceptible. The well-playing band from the Airstation in Aalborg went on for a long time, but gave up, when the rain was threatening their instruments.

We are all thinking the same: Let it rain to-day and let the sun shine, when we are sitting in the hills on the 4th. Maybe somebody has even sent a quiet prayer. At any rate the sun is shining as we wanted, and a light breeze made the flags fly from the 50 newly purchased flag poles, when we are leaving the tent luncheon and go down into the hills, where more and more guests are spreading in the heathery hillsides – with the cheerful students, fond of singing, on each their hill top. It is always a lovely sight.

The President of the Rebild Society, Karl K. Nielsen, strikes the bell. The Celebration can start. Salute for Dannebrog and shortly thereafter for Stars and Stripes. The two flags fly in the wind, marking the start of the Rebild Celebration, and the President bids welcome to the Rebild Celebration No. 99, after which Karin Færløv – an MC in good form – takes over.

The Danish Roots

They are sitting on the front row – the speakers and V.I.P.'s, the invited guests. Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen is the first



to enter the platform. He is making a well-phrased and good speech – about both the historic as well as the very current good relations between our nations in the defense of our common values and a peaceful world – in Iraq, Afghanistan and in Libya. He also shares with us personal memories of family members, who emigrated to the US and did well.

The other main speaker, Steny Hoyer, top politician in the US, deputy leader of the democrats in the House of Representatives, also has his Danish-American story. His father was Danish from Copenhagen. He is proud of his Danish roots and is always mentioning it, when he tells about his life.

Like most American top politicians he is an eminent speaker and he makes it abundantly clear that he is very happy to be our speaker at this occasion. The celebration of July 4, the American Independence Day, is a great event, Steny Hoyer says. The friendship between our nations and our common values will be emphasized, and Denmark's role in the world is not underplayed. We are growing a little that afternoon.

The Youth speaker, TV-journalist Ida Wohlert, also with Danish-American roots, is a scoop. She is regularly in the US and is telling vividly and cheerfully about her experiences. With the well-trained TV-journalist's talent to make words living pictures she is speaking freely and easily with a good sense of the essential points, moving perspective from the world to what we recognize in everyday life.



lette Torp and Claus Pilgaard.

Dancers from Berea, Kentucky

Greetings from President Obama, H.M. the Queen and Danes in the US

The compulsory greetings are part of the tradition. The President brings the greetings from the Queen – she is the protector of the Rebild Society – and last year's American main speaker, Ambassador Laurie S. Fulton, also with Danish roots, brings well-formulated greetings from the President of the US, Barack Obama. Danes in the US have asked Marilyn Kramme from lowa to bring many greetings – and as a school teacher in the past she does that nice and confidently.

Fine entertainment

As previously the Aalborg Police Orchestra is in charge of the musical part of the day. Led by a conductor in good form, Jonas Lind, the swinging orchestra entertained us with a very popular repertoire. The singer Jette Torp and her accompanist Klaus Pilgaard are in charge of the Danish part of the entertainment, and she is fantastic. She is leading the community singing and is providing a musical and cheerful mini-show, well assisted by Claus Pilgaard, who is also playing on a saw – a very popular number.

From the US we meet a very musical and well-singing A Capella choir –Whim'n Rhythm from Yale University. They also perform during the Gala Dinner. The day is rounded out by the tradition – the community singing, where the front row takes each others' hands, singing "Auld Lang Syne".

Another beautiful Rebild Celebration is finishing up, and now we look forward to the 100 year anniversary in 2012.



Open Air Family Church Service in the Hills of Rebild

As per tradition an open air family church service was again held in the Hills of Rebild on July 4, and once again the Gospel Choir of the Church of Hadsund – Spirits of Joy –

under the leadership of Steve Cameron was in charge of the musical part of the service, which also this year was performed by Pastor Torben Poulsen from Langeland.



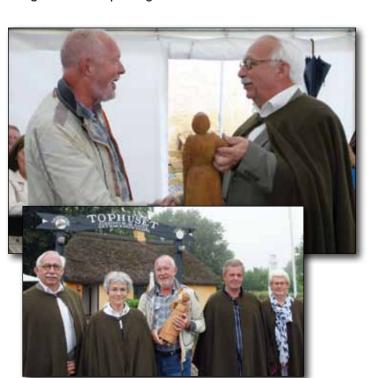
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Appointing a popular Mayor for a Day

The highlight of the traditional "day before lunch" at Hotel Hvide Hus, arranged by Danish-American Club is the appointment of "Mayor for a Day". The choice of this year was Erik Pedersen from Solvang – and that was a popular choice. Throughout the years Erik Pedersen has worked hard for the Danish-American relations and the local chapter. In 2011 Solvang could celebrate it's 100 year anniversary. As it is well-known Solvang is the most Danish of all Danish cities – outside Denmark – with thatched roofs, half timbered houses and storks on the roofs, and it attracts every year a great number of tourists to the cozy surroundings near Santa Barbera, CA. On the occasion of the 100 year anniversary the city had the visit of H.R.H. Prince Henrik. As usual the mayor of Aalborg, Henning G. Jensen, was in charge of the ceremony, which is performed in an amusing mixture of Danish and English.

When Erik Pedersen returned the Mayor's chain at the Gala Dinner on July 4 he quoted former President Bush Senior (who is an Honorary President of the Rebild Society): "Read my lips. No more taxes.." with the addition: "I am not quite sure that they will follow my advice."

The lunch at Hotel Hvide Hus had the new chairman of Danish American Club, Jens Søndergaard as host. He succeeded Egon Østergaard, who was chairman for more than 20 years. The traditional speech for America was this year held by the managing director of the art museum of Aalborg, Gitte Ørskov. After the lunch the guests went to Kildeparken for the tree planting, and as usual the US vice-president of the Rebild Society, Peter Ørum – also chairman of the "Mayors for a Day" – was in charge of this tree planting.





Erik Pedersen and Mayer in Aalborg Henning G. Jensen.



Tree planting in Kildebarken, Aalborg

Picnic and Top Karen's Prize

The usual picnic in the garden at Top Karen's House moved indoors this year – in a tent raised for the occasion. The rain poured down over the hills.

A couple of fiddlers entertained at the picnic and this year the traditional Top Karen's Prize was given to a Dane for the first time, namely the retired board member Svend Erik Pedersen from Chapter East.

The picture shows Svend Erik Pedersen with the prize, the wooden figure of Top Karen, together with the prize committee from left Danish Vice President Jørgen Vagn Larsen, Mayor in Rebild Anny Winther, Svend Erik Pedersen, Erik from Top Karen's Hus, Secretary General of the Rebild Society, Ketty Bisgaard.

Text: Svend Erik Pedersen

DANSIH MAIN SPEAKER

Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen's speech at the Rebild Celebration 2011

Congressman Hoyer, ambassador Fulton, president of the Rebild Society, Karl Nielsen, Danish-American friends.

It is an honor for me to be invited to speak at Rebild, and I am particularly pleased to be here this year with one of the great Danish-Americans and champions of Denmark in the United States, congressman Hoyer. The Rebild Festival is a tradition that we can all be proud of. A tradition just as relevant today as it was 99 years ago when the Rebild Festival was celebrated for the first time.

Today we pay tribute to the historical bonds that tie our two peoples together, but Rebild reaches further than that. We celebrate the values that the American nation is built upon - in its essence a pursuit of freedom.

Freedom is a fundamental value that is strongly embedded in the American as well as the Danish people. Today we celebrate Freedom. And there is good reason to do so because freedom is not a matter of course. In many places in the world the opposite of freedom prevails. A decade ago, on September 11, the terrorist attack against the United States took place. This is a reminder to us that we should never take our freedom for granted. Owing to the brave action of the United States and strong international cooperation, the Bin Laden Era has ended, but the threat against our free society has not gone. Therefore, Denmark and the United States will continue to be close allies in the fight against terror in the future, and we will be close partners in many other fields in which we have common interests and common values to fight for.

The relationship between Denmark and the United States has never been stronger, and the basis for our strong relationship is all of you who are present here today, all of you and your forefathers and foremothers on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. During the 19th and 20th century, more than a quarter of a million Danes went to the Land of Opportunities. Today it is hard to find a Dane who does not have this immigration as part of his or her family history. I recall as a child how our house would turn upside down when, very occasionally, my father's old uncle Magnus came home from his new homeland and invited the whole family to Tivoli. And my own grandfather was also among those who crossed the Atlantic Ocean, very young and full of hope. The other day, my brother and I leafed through his "100 hours English Course" from 1931 that my grandfather brought with him on his journey. Written by captain N. Jul. Eibe following Ollendorff's method.

Among the many useful sentences in the book, we came across a sentence in lesson 32 – at this point I would have thought that the Ollendorff Method should have taught you something - "You must speak Danish, I do not understand English". I do not know if it was right there – in lesson 32 – that my grandfather stopped. In any case, he returned to Denmark, and personally I am very grateful that he did. Otherwise I would not have been here today.

The Danish immigrants were propelled by a wish for freedom. They strived for opportunities and a freedom that they did not have at home. They strived for a happiness they hoped to find. Many people still cross the Atlantic, and the motivating power is still freedom.

Many young Danes go to the United States to study, and many Americans come to Denmark for the same reason. Education is the letter of



freedom of each individual. E d u c a t i o n adds new

perspective to the world we live in. With education we can jump higher and reach further in life. Exchange enriches both our societies.

Therefore I am also glad that my own daughter will be going to the United States to study a year in high school although I shall miss her very much. Without financial freedom, no personal freedom. Both our countries are being challenged in the aftermath of the international crisis. The path to new growth goes via openness and commerce.

The United States is Denmark's biggest export market outside Europe. Danish companies are very successful in the United States. If this development continues, 2011 will be a record year for Danish export across the Atlantic.Yes, Denmark and the United States have strong bonds on several fronts. This was also confirmed during my visit in the spring to president Obama in the White House. The Dannebrog flew outside the President's guesthouse, Blair House. It was a strong symbol of the special position that Denmark holds as one of the oldest and closest allies of the United States. Much has been said and written about the fact that a new world order is appearing, and it is obvious that the Asian countries are progressing. It is obvious that the world is changing with the opportunities as well as the challenges that this provides.

That said, I am not in doubt: The leadership of the United States in the world will endure as far as my eye can see. The world needs American leadership. Denmark needs American leadership. The United States of America needs close allies who can promote and defend our common values. Denmark has established that we are ready to pull together with the United States – not just with words, but also with action.

Because our society is fed by common values like man's right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" (The United States Declaration of Independence). Mr. Benjamin Franklin said: "The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself". That is the essence of a free and secure society with equal opportunities. That is my vision for Denmark: A vision with deep roots that reach back to the United States on 4 July 1776.

Danish-American friends. On behalf of the Danish Government, I send my warmest congratulations to the United States of America on the occasion of the 4th of July. This day marks the birth of your great country, but it is also a celebration of the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, equal opportunities and basic human rights: Values to which people all over the world aspire. In Denmark, thousands of people gather here at the historic Rebild National Park on this very day. The 4th of July is an opportunity for Danes and Danish-Americans to celebrate the warm and enduring bonds between our peoples.

Denmark and the United States share basic values and interests, and as nations, we are willing to stand up and defend ideals that we hold to be true - even when it comes at a cost. Knowing that the partnership between our countries has never been stronger,

I wish you all the very best on this national day!

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Congressman Steny Hamilton Hoyer's speech at the Rebild Celebration 2011

I'm here as a proud Danish-American - someone whose ties to this nation run wide and deep. My father was an immigrant from Denmark, who began a new life in America but never forgot his Danish homeland. My grandfather, a dentist, lived and worked in Copenhagen. I'm proud to say that my great-grandfather was a Knight of the Dannebrog; and I'm proud that, two years ago, the Danish government gave me the same honor.

Sadly, it wasn't until my 30s that I was able to visit this beautiful country. But even though I wasn't an adult until I saw Denmark in person, I was raised to understand that Denmark was part of my heritage. I grew up eagerly opening the letters from my Danish aunt Grete, which came regularly for 15 years. Our nations' bond isn't just an historical fact for me. For me, it has always been personal. That's why it meant so much to me to be able to meet Her Majesty the Queen at her residence two years ago, and why I was so proud to welcome her to the United States Capitol this spring. And I was sure to point out to her that, over my office door in the Capitol, there's a picture of a Viking ship. It represents the early explorers of America; but it's also a reminder of my heritage.

The friendship between our two nations dates back 220 years, to 1791, and over those more than two centuries our nations have changed dramatically. Our friendship has outlived presidents and kings, governments and parties and ideologies, generations of Danes and Americans who looked across an ocean with admiration and respect. But through those more than two centuries, some unchanging things have stood the test of time. Our nations' strong bond and deepest shared values have endured.

One is the value of solidarity. On January 30, 1933 - the same day on which Hitler first took power in Germany - Denmark's leaders came together to chart a different course. It was facing the same economic crisis that confronted the rest of the world; but instead of choosing the path of radical nationalism, Denmark chose a more hopeful future. Its leaders created public works programs to put the unemployed to work and a comprehensive system of social insurance to care for Danes in need. They eased Denmark's recovery from Depression and set a model for social democracy that inspired much of the world. What Denmark built was not simply a temporary response to a temporary emergency, one that could be dismantled as soon as the crisis passed. It was an idea of a just society: one that values the social compact binding one citizen, one neighbor, to another. Danish governments have come and gone; policies have changed in response to changing times; but the basic ideal of that compact has stood strong.

Denmark has also stood as a bright symbol of the value of tolerance. We all know this story: under Nazi occupation, your King, Christian X, pinned the yellow Jewish star to himself, turning what was meant as a mark of shame into a badge of honor. Some call that story a legend. But I prefer the words of the American author who wrote: "It seems to me that when something really ought to be true, then it has a very powerful truth." And the truth is that, when so much of Europe turned against their Jewish neighbors, Denmark chose differently: you stood by your Jewish neighbors, and you saved almost all of them from the Nazi extermination machine. And this is why at Israel's Holocaust museum, Yad Vashem, the only country for whom a memorial tree was planted was Denmark.

There is also the value of foresight. Just as we faced a

Depression together in the 1930s, we faced an oil crisis together in the 1970s. That crisis ultimately passed—and too many nations were quick to forget. But Denmark used that crisis to build the foundation of an energy independence that is paying off today. Long after the crisis was forgotten in other nations, Denmark was burying pipes to warm homes with power plants' surplus heat, insulating houses and upgrading appliances, building lines of windmills that stretched out to sea. And today, Denmark has achieved its energy independence. For three decades, while its GDP has doubled, its energy consumption has remained unchanged. Now, your nation has launched a bold plan to achieve complete freedom from fossil fuels by 2050, one unparalleled anywhere else in the world.

Last, I honor the value of sacrifice, which has made Denmark a defender of human rights and democracy across the world. Few American allies have been more dependable or more steadfast: in Bosnia, where Denmark sent more troops per capita to stop the ongoing genocide than any nation on earth; in Iraq; and in Afghanistan, where Danes are serving courageously, side-by-side with Americans, in some of the most dangerous areas. Sadly, in fact, more Danish troops per capita have lost their lives in Afghanistan than the troops of any other nation. Each of those lives is irreplaceable - but it matters that they were lost in an effort to defeat radical Islamist terrorism and to protect and promote the democratic principles our nations hold most dear.

Solidarity, tolerance, foresight, sacrifice: these are the values that have endured even as generations have come on the scene and passed away. But our friendship is also built out of men and women, individual Americans and Danes - and the living bonds they have built between our nations, year after year. For me, those bonds are exemplified by my friendship with the late Svend Auken, a great leader for Denmark and also an inexhaustible fount of knowledge about America.

The bonds between our nations have also been built by 300,000 immigrants who have made America their home, but who have always remembered, with great pride and affection, their Danish heritage. I am the son of one of those immigrants, and I am proud to live in a nation where I can call myself both Danish and American. As long as it has existed, America has been a nation of immigrants - a nation that has drawn ambition and talent and dreams from every corner of the earth. We are richer for our heritage of immigration - and richer because our immigrant families, even as they became Americans, have not forgotten their roots.

I haven't forgotten - and I am always proud to tell everyone I meet that I am a Danish-American. Here's to over two centuries of friendship, to the values and the people who have built it over the generations - and to two centuries more.

Gud Bless Denmark and America!



TV Host and journalist Ida Wohlert's speech at the Rebild Celebration 2011

In all modesty I am the right person to hold this speech, as I have just returned from a trip to the US, which has lasted one month.

But my very first meeting with the country was not exactly love at first sight – It was the meeting with my new stepfather! At once I noticed: He TALKED much, he ATE much, and he took up much room – in other words, HE was an American! Luckily we found each other and he was the one, who showed me the US for the first time.

I remember, when as a 14-year old girl I stepped into a Wallmart – and here there was not only one shelf with soft water – there were rows of them, and when you went round the corner it was the same as for the corn flakes - I felt I had entered heaven! I remember I turned to my mother and said: Here I want to live!

And it happened – two years later. At the age of 16 I went there as an exchange student and was absolutely sure that I was going to Beverly Hills to carry myself in stiletto shoes and mini skirts – buuuut it never happened. I ended up in a small town, Broken Arrow, outside Tulsa, Oklahoma. It was some culture shock – here they said "Howdi" to each other and not "hello"

I was matriculated in a very strict catholic school, where penalty for almost everything was detention – for example if the skirt of the school uniform was too short and if the shirt was not properly inside the skirt. One Friday a month it was "Free dress-day". And I remember I had been in New York, where I had bought some very modern plateau-shoes and a pair of very smart leggings. I wore them proudly the following Friday, and that I should never have done. I just reached the area of the school, and I was stopped by one of the nuns and pulled by my arm all the way to the headmaster's office, where they called my host family that they could come and pick me up, for such a get-up was not welcome at the school. So I never again wore smart shoes in Oklahoma, but in return I learned everything about

cow tipping and square dance!

Americans are

very friendly and open towards foreigners, visiting their country. It has also always been my experience – just until a summer day some years ago.

My boy friend and I had to go to a big 4th of July party in the US in connection with a long trip over there. We were students and had pinched and scraped to afford this trip. On the way over we had an intermediary landing in London, where we should stay overnight. The next morning we got up very early to catch our plane to New York. But when I approached the counter the lady from British Airways looked at me saying: Sorry love, you ain't going to The States on that passport!!! It sent cold shivers down my back, while I just stuttered: WHAT??? It appeared that I did not have a digital passport, which was demanded to enter the US. The lady told us that I would promptly be thrown out of the US and get an entry ban for 5 years, if I tried to go over there anyway. So there was nothing else to do than to fly back to Denmark to have a new passport, return to London in order to take a new plane the next morning. The whole unfortunate affair cost the earth and taught me that maybe Americans are friendly, but ONLY if your papers are in order!

My papers have been in order ever since — and it has taken me to various states as for instance New Mexico, Maine, California and not least Oklahoma! To-day I am that lucky to have my in-laws in New Jersey — so I have not yet danced my last square-dance with the US.

Happy 4th of July!

Little Rebild was a success



It has been a fantastic Rebild Festival. We opened the "doors" for a group of lovely children from day care centers and their adult escorts. They were well-prepared with a lot of energy to try everything. The joy of the children is very inspiring and and gives us all the reasons to repeat the success next summer. Appr. 300 children visited Little Rebild this year, so we are very happy.

Thank you very much to the fund of Christian the Fourth's Guild for your support, which is highly appreciated.

Hanne and Jens Peter

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Marilyn Kramme's speech at the Rebild Celebration 2011

President Karl Nielsen, Rebild Board Members, Distinguished Speakers and Program Participants – and to all of you gathered in these Hills:

I have come to this celebration with greetings from Danes who now live in America and from Americans of Danish descent. I especially want to convey greetings from Rebild members in America who could not be here today. Their commitment to the organization merits recognition.

This year, perhaps for the first time, I greet you from another group of Americans, those like myself who married an American of Danish descent. My father-in-law Einer Kramme was born in Aalborg and grew up in Norresundby where he enjoyed a wonderful life. However, on a trip with young friends to the States, he realized the wealth of opportunities available and lived the rest of his life in the state of lowa.

Being of Swedish ancestry, I did not, of course, have much of a cultural gap to bridge and found that the values with which I was raised differed very little from those with which my husband Lowell was brought up. Our two ethnic backgrounds have united us through the years and given us occasions to celebrate two countries whose immigrants enriched with their cultures and values the melting pot that is America.

Before our marriage my husband had done a wonderful job of nurturing ties with family and friends in Denmark. It was only natural that he should take me on our wedding trip to this country where I met many of these family members and friends; they remain a very important part of our lives. One friendship is now into the fifth generation. Let me explain: Lowell and I are here today with our good Danish friends Lars Erik Andersen and Else-Kathrine Woidemann. The grandfathers and fathers of Lars and Lowell were good friends. Members of the fourth generation have become friends and make an effort to see one another, not only in the States and in Denmark, but also in Paris where our son and French daughter-in-law live. The small children of this fourth generation are already playing with one another and, hopefully, will continue this long-standing friendship into the fifth generation in an increasingly global world.

Similarly, this Rebild celebration, a yearly reminder of the long-standing friendship between America and Denmark, is into a fifth, or perhaps

even a sixth, generation. The tradition of celebrating America's independence in



Denmark, a country that also values its freedom, is now in its 99th year. Americans want to know the story behind the celebration when Lowell and I tell them that we are going to Denmark to celebrate the Fourth and that in 2012 this unique tradition will reach its 100th birthday.

Articles in recent issues of the Rebild Newsletter confirm that the Rebild National Park Society is positioning itself for the future. Some of the ideas reflect some of the thoughts that guide the women's civic organization which I led and which will soon begin its 126th year. They are as follows:

Service to community and/or country is key. Visibility is crucial. Membership has it privileges as well as its responsibilities. Vision accompanied by action facilitates success. Innovation and tradition must be balanced. Thinking outside the box is necessary. The world is at one's computer. The world moves online.

Perhaps the good idea of establishing a virtual Rebild Chapter should be for young and old alike. And although there's nothing like being in the Rebild Hills for the Fourth of July, those members whom I mentioned could not be with us might soon be able to witness the Rebild Festival without leaving home.

So on to 2012 – and beyond. Let us plan now to see one another at the same time and in the same place one year from today. Let each of us invite a guest, someone who has never experienced the Rebild sense of community, to join us in the Hills. And by the way, "Happiness is being married to a Dane!" – as is stated on a plaque that hangs in our kitchen and was given to me by Rebild's own first lady Martha Nielsen.

Mange tak

Greetings from Barack Obama



Ambassador to Denmark Laurie S. Fulton presented the greeting from the President.

I send my most heartfelt greetings to everyone gathered in Rebild this day to celebrate the 235th anniversary of

the founding of The United States of America. Ninety-nine years ago, thousands of Danes and Americans first gathered in this special place among the hills of Rebild. They came not only to celebrate their personal connections with relatives in America, but also to pay tribute to our common values of freedom and democracy.

This heath, so far from the shores of the United States, is a monument to a Danish and American friendship and a

testament to our mutual admiration and respect. As you stand together today in Rebild, we stand together around the world, defending our freedoms and promoting our shared values. We are fighting terrorism in Afghanistan, combating piracy off the coast of Somalia, protecting civilians in Libya, and providing assistance and hope to millions in the developing world. I am confident this unity of purpose and action will continue in the years to come.

On behalf of the United States of America, please accept my best wishes for another memorable Rebild festival.

Sincerely, Barack Obama

From the U.S. Vice President

As I write this it is summer in America – and a hot one too! The normal has been over 35°C even here in the North and the real hot places to the South and West have been 40-45°C! How would we conduct a Rebildfest under such circumstances? Fortunately we do not have this to consider on the 4th of July in Denmark.

What a nice Rebildfest 2011 we had, and how nice that the Danish Prime Minister and one of the highest Democrat leaders in America will come and speak to us! How very special it was to sit and listen to these real people, in 'flesh and blood' and not just see them on television.

The spirit was good at the tent lunch and all around in the Rebild Days. It was especially nice that our new Aalborg Mayor for the Day, Erik Pedersen from Solvang, was recognized at the lunch. That shows how far our President, Karl Nielsen, has brought the workings together of all the organizations and entities that participate in the Rebild Days Festival.

I would like to especially mention the sup-

port Rebild is getting from the new group 'Rebild's Venner" under the leadership of Poul Erik Brander. On the night of I July this group put together a spectacular evening in the tent, an evening of entertainment, dancing and much merriment! The great problem was that twice as many people came as expected, but the problem was solved by many, many people pitching in and the 'fishes and the loaves of bread' fed everyone!

Very shortly the Chicago Chapter's Organizing Committee for 2012 will convene again and finalize the program for hosting the Rebild Society's 2012 Annual meeting. You will find the program in the next Newsletter Newsletter. We are strongly urging you to sign up for this event of a lifetime right here in Chicago and the surrounding areas. Al Iversen and his committee are doing a great job; and remember, you will have to wait one hundred years for a re-run!

Early October the U.S. Chapter Presidents and U.S. Board members will gather in St. Charles, Illinois for our annual Rebild Leadership Meeting. This is



Peter Ørum (left) together with Congressman Steny Hoyer and Rebild President Karl K. Nielsen.

a two day retreat of working on current and future issues of our Society. While current issues at the Chapters and the Society are dealt with, we are especially dedicating these meetings to work on the future of the Society. We trust we will have important things to report in the next newsletter.

Thank you for your support of our work for the future of our hundred year young Rebild Society.

Very truly yours, Peter Ørum, U.S.Vice President

Young Rebild Society, Annual General Meeting in New Jersey on August 6, 2011

After a successful first Annual General Meeting the Young Rebild Society was founded. The Bylaws were unanimously adopted. The meeting had attendance from Denmark, the US, online connection through Skype, and others adopted the Bylaws by E-mail.

At the meeting posts as chairman, vice-chairman, translator, PR, technology, and event planning were distributed. Young Rebild Society will place posters at institutes of education and universities to call attention to themselves.

After the meeting lunch was served, and all participants went on to a free concert in Philadelphia. The free concert reflected the social aspect of Young Rebild Society.

Just now there are 29 members and we continue spreading the good message about Young Rebild Society. Young Rebild Society is acting on the internet by facebook and E-mail.



The participants from Young Rebild Society benefitted from the hospitality of the local Delaware Valley Chapter.

If you are interested in knowing more about Young Rebild Society you are welcome to contact Mona Konge Pedersen at aah mona mona@hotmail.com for more information.

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Membership Meeting minutes - July 5, 2011

President Karl K. Nielsen presided at the membership meeting with USA Vice President Peter Orum as translator and a supportive panel including Danish Vice President J. Vagn Larsen and General Secretary Ketty Bisgaard.

Karl K. Nielsen started the meeting by thanking all the volunteers who helped with the celebration, as well as thanking the participants who came from near and far. One major task on his mind right now is finding the right speakers for the 2012 celebration. U.S. Congressman Steny Hoyer has declared that he would help in the US. Furthermore a committee has been set up working on planning the celebration.

Both the Spar Nord Fund and Knud Højgaard's Fund will help the Rebild Society with 50,000 kroner each. We were encouraged to bring a friend to next year's celebration. We then enjoyed a slide show with pictures from this year's celebration.

A short report was given on the traditional Picnic in the Garden of Top-Karen's House on July 2 that due to rain took place inside a large tent next to Top-Karen's House. Appr. 50 members participated and Top-Karen's prize this year went deservedly to a surprised Svend Erik Pedersen from Chapter East, former Editor of our newsletter and a board member for many years. The delicious cake with the coffee was made from one of Top-Karen's old recipes.

The annual tent luncheon that takes place on the 4th was, as always, a festive and happy event with President Karl Nielsen as a relaxed and humorous toastmaster. Good Danish food, snaps and 'snapse sange' quickly got the mood going, and musical entertainment and speakers added greatly to the event.

It was estimated that attendance this year was nearly 2,500 about the same number as at last year's meeting.

Karl K. Nielsen thanked the 24 benefactors for their contributions this past year. He also announced that the latest count shows 694 members in the USA and 990 in Denmark. We are all being encouraged to gift someone a membership to help grow our organization this coming year. He also mentioned that it looks like that together with various foundations The Rebild Municipality will succeed in realizing their plans for a Visitor Center, which will probably be finished in 2013. We are pretty sure that we will be able

to secure some software from The Mormon Church's Genealogical Department in Salt Lake City, and we also hope we may have some hardware donated from elsewhere. This would provide a great service to visitors and enable them to search for Danish relatives who emigrated to the US.

US board member Ed Bladt was asked to tell us about the establishment of an Internet Use Committee and the experiences the Youth Chapter has had this past year by



communicating through Skype. They now have a chapter President, Erika Bladt, and an acting Vice President, Mona Konge Pedersen, who will function until a board has been elected. They have already had a few activities. A proactive group of youth helped distributing enrollment cards in the Rebild Hills, both in Danish and English, and invited young people to join the Rebild Youth Chapter (ages 15 to 35.)

Vice President Peter Orum mentioned the upcoming USA October leadership meeting to be held in St. Charles, IL.

Vice President J. Vagn Larsen invited the audience to make comments and ask questions. Below is a list of short answers given.

Question: Could we get membership lists? Answer: It all depends on what it is being used for. Check with secretariats.

Comment: A member hinted that the Rebild Celebration was too long and there were several possibilities to shorten the celebration. Furthermore it was hinted that the contents of the Rebild Celebration was not relevant enough.

Answer: Many things have to be considered in connection with planning the Rebild Celebration, and everybody are doing their best to find the right balance between speakers, entertainment, etc.

Comment:The relevance of arranging "Little Rebild" during the celebration.

Answer: It is the impression that many families with small children find "Little Rebild" very relevant and basically a very good idea.

Comment: Thank you to the President for the many small and large improvements throughout the past year. Maybe the President could develop a site where members could submit their ideas and recommendations.

Question: Why should an administrative fee of 25 DKK in connection with reservations of tickets for the Rebild Celebration be paid? Answer: This is an administration fee to VisitAalborg for handling the registration. Besides that there is a bank fee in connection with transfers from the

Comment: Would it not be possible to open an account in the US for this purpose in order to avoid paying this extra fee?

Answer: This sounds reasonable, Pia will look into it

Comment: In connection with the 2012-Celebration an 'Idea Bank' was suggested for proposals to be sent to Karl and Ketty. Answer: A good idea which will be implemented.

Comment: 'Rebild Boxes' were suggested to be distributed and set up at the entrance to the Rebild Hills and beside the museum where people could find information about the Rebild Society and the museum and learn more about our organization.

Answer: An excellent idea, which can now be realised on account of the new fence around Hyldgaardsminde.

Comment: The American Ambassador to Denmark, Laurie S. Fulton, received high praise for her support and promotion of Rebild.

Comment: The Chicago Chapter has developed some nice professional and very attractive advertisement banners for next year's Annual Meeting. They will be on display in Copenhagen this summer and can be borrowed by chapters that would like to promote the event locally. (Contact Poul E. Roge at 847-498-2494 for information.)

Minutes submitted by Pia Ringheim Jensen and Lars Bisgaard.



Letter to Rebild Fonds

I would like to thank the Rebild Society for your support of DKK 8,000 in connection with my stay as an exchange student at New York University (NYU) from August 2009 to June 2010. The stay was very rewarding, both professionally and personally, and the stay would not have been possible without your support. I had a fantastic year, where professionally I moved very far ahead. I followed 3 subjects together with the first-year students at the PhD education within economy, and these subjects were all focused on the technical capabilities, which are demanded, if you want to work with macroeconomy at research level. This was exactly what I missed in my studies at Copenhagen University.

After the stay I was assigned a PhD position at Copenhagen University (financed by the National Bank of Denmark). In the professional valuation of my application the PhD Committee attached great importance to my stay at the NYU. Thus your support has not only helped my obtain the qualification, given by the stay itself, but it has also contributed to the fact that I have now got the privilege to spend 4 years in research within monetary macroeconomy.

As mentioned in my previous application my interests are within monetary macroeconomy, and I find the area of conflict among monetary policy, the financial markets and real economy very

exciting. Therefore at NYU I took subjects within financial derivates and mortgage backed securities from the program of mathematic financing – Exactly these financially structured products have contributed to start and increase the crisis, and it has become obvious that also macroeconomists should have a basic understanding of these parts of the financing theory.

Furthermore I took some PhD subjects within macroenonomic theory at the Economic Institute of NYU and a subject within the use of monetary economy at Stern Business School, where we discussed Federal Reserves' many unusual initiatives during the financial crisis and

especially the possibilities to dismantle these instruments (their so-called exit strategy), how the potential is for the growth during the coming years and much much more. I learned about many good tools in the theoretic subjects, and indeed I became a more skilled economist from discussing the practical aspect of the complexed situation, which is presently faced by the central banks of the world.

Once again thank you very much for your support of my stay at New York University.

Gitte Yding Michaelsen Rolfsvej 8, 1. DK-2000 Frederiksberg.

Scholarship recipients in The Hills

Also this year scholarships were given from the stage in the Hills of Rebild. From The Thanks to Scandinavia/Rebild Scholarship Fund Honoring Sanna and Victor Borge our M.C., Karin Færløv, gave 5 scholarships of each DKK 8,000 to the following:

- Simon Schmidt, Copenhagen for studies at Duke University, N.C.
- Muamer Cisija, Vordingborg for studies at Stanford Graduate School
- Anne Berg Villumsen, Copenhagen for studies at UC Berkeley School
- Katrine Bregengaard, Geneva for studies at The New School New York
- Niels Grove Jensen, Copenhagen for studies at New York University, School of Law

We should like to thank the organization Thanks to Scandinavia in New York for the cooperation, which makes it possible to give these scholarships to young students.

The 3 Scholarship Funds of the Rebild Society

- · Diana and Irene's Fund
- The Will. S. Knudsen and Elisabeth Knudsen Rebild

- Scholarship Fund
- The 1000\$-Fund

For the first time we had the visit in Rebild of scholarship recipients from these funds this year, namely

- Ask Foldspang Neve, Aarhus for studies at Yale University
- Mette Hammerich Graversen, Copenhagen for studies at University of California Berkeley

who each received a check for DKK 10,000 by board member of Diane & Irene's Fund, countess Irene Ahlefeldt-Laurvig.

The remaining scholarship recipients, who unfortunately were unable to be present in Rebild, are:

- Amalie Christensen, Frederiksberg, who is going to University of California
- Mikkel H. Jensen, who is studying at Michigan Technological University
- Cæcilie Varslev-Pedersen, Copenhagen, who is studying at The New School for Social Research, NY.

We wish all scholarship recipients all the best!

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Come Celebrate Rebild's 100th Anniversary in Illinois in April 2012

The Chicago Midwest Rebild Chapter is hard at work on the 100th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Membership Meeting scheduled in Illinois on April 25 - 29, 2012. Please mark your calendars and please view our new website: www.rebildchicago.org

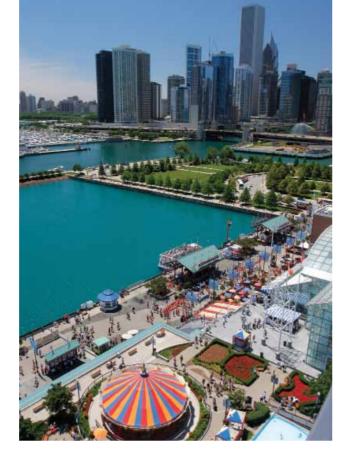
The 100th Anniversary Celebration Plans include a stay at the spacious Hyatt Regency Woodfield-Schaumburg, Illinois, a Welcome Reception, a Downtown Chicago City Tour, a Suburban Nature & Exploration Tour, an Elegant Tent Dinner at Peter & Irma Orum's Midwest Groundcovers, Meetings, Shopping & Local Attractions (Woodfield Mall, IKEA and more)

in addition to Rebild's Centennial Gala Banquet & Royal Danish Guards' Queen's Ball. Stay tuned for more details in future Rebild Newsletters and look for updates at www.rebildchicago.org.

The Officers and Members of the Chicago Midwest Rebild Chapter Welcome You!

Chapter President Al Iversen Phone: 708-857-8121 E-mail: IversenAH@aol.com

Chapter Vice President Paul E. Roge Phone: 847-498-2494 E-mail: pauleroge@comcast.net



New members in The Rebild Society

DENMARK

Katrine Cieslar, 2000 Frederiksberg.

Mikkel Jensen, 2300 København S.

Lars Bøgeskov Hyttel & frue, 9520, Skørping.

Peter Hesse, 1172 København K.

Jelva Møller Nielsen & Preben Nielsen, 9500 Hobro Prop. Helle Søborg Pedersen.

Mike Gjerluf Knudsen, 8200 Århus N.

Louise Hjuler Mikkelsen, 2900 Hellerup

Søren Holger Ørum Kopp, 2300 København S.

Katrine M. Kjær, 1721 København V.

Eva & Kurt Vestergaard, 9500 Hobro. Prop. Erik Eriksen

Ingeborg & Leon Sebbelin, 9520 Skørping. Prop. Vagn Gaarde

Svend Colding, 8000 Aarhus C.

Svend Aage Iversen & Esther Kristensen, 5792

Prop. Lars Erik Andersen

Strøjersamlingen v/Jørgen Strøjer Vedstaarup Teglværk A/S, 5610 Assens. Prop. Evald Klausen

Marlene Slot & Hans H. Okstrøm, 7400 Herning.

MOB Sommerhusudleining v/Torben Jersild, 5500 Middelfart. Prop. Karl K. Nielsen

Niels Arne Grove Jensen, 2100 København Ø.

Dorrit Rasmussen,, 4220 Korsør.

Signe Hove Jacobsen, 8000 Aarhus C.

Muamer Cisija, 4760 Vordingborg.

Simon P. Schmidt, I 169 København K.

Per Martini, 2930 Klampenborg.

Nynne Just Christoffersen, 2200 København N.

Kristian Ly Serena, E-28004 Madrid, Spain.

Henrik Bjørn-lepsen & frue, 7400 Herning.

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Johannes Beck, 1806 Frederiksberg C.

Karen Frendø-Sørensen, 8210 Aarhus V.

Christine Freiberg-Andersen, 2450 København SV.

Amalie Katharina Elmark, 1879 Frederiksberg C.

Kristina Linde Hansen, 1420 København K.

Grethe & Per Søgaard, 8305 Samsø. Prop. Grethe & J. Vagn Larsen

Lars Emil Lamm Nielsen, 5230 Odense M.

Susanne Nolsøe Petersen, 2400 København NV.

Thomas Vass & Katrine Bregengaard, 4720 Præstø.

Galina og Erling Thøgersen, 6830 Nr. Nebel

Claus M. Henriksen, 9000 Aalborg. Eigil Nielsen, 9000 Aalborg.

Flemming B. Clausen, 9240 Nibe.

Vagn Henriksen, 9000 Aalborg.

Preben Dalgaard, 9440 Aabybro.

Steen Hjerrild, 9000 Aalborg.

Jonas Nielsen, 9000 Aalborg.

Jens Kristian Jensen & Pernille Christensen, 9690

Thorkild & Mona Knudsen, 9500 Hobro.

Villy & lette Moesgaard, 9270 Klarup.

Trolle & Solveig Henriksen, 9270 Klarup.

Erik & Aase Manstrup Geisnæs, 9000 Aalborg.

Erik Jensen & Lise-Lotte Larsen, 9000 Aalborg.

Bjarne & Else Marie Frederiksen,9210 Aalborg SØ.

Frederik & Vibeke Vedel Möller, 9240 Nibe.

Anette Hansen, 9000 Aalborg.

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John Kjær, 7990 Øster Assels. Prop. Jørgen K. Andersen

Birgit & Henning Rasmussen, 6900 Skjern. Prop. Jørgen K. Andersen

Peter K. Nielsen, Frankfort / IL 60423.

Tony and Karen Bell, Brea / CA 92821.

Leif Ammentorp, Sandy Hook, CT.

Leonard Anderson, New York, NY.

Morten Anker, Rowayton, CT.

Warren & Bodil Braren, New Milford, CT.

Lissie Nielsen Carino, Palm City, FL..

Kathleen Conway, Rowayton, CT.

Vagn & Mary Fausling, Stamford, CT.

Loni Haas, New Canaan, CT.

Dorte Hansen, Wilton, CT.

Iben Cedntolt & Jes Haulund, Trumbull, CT.

Peter & Ella Jorgensen, Huntington, CT.

Jytte Maydole, Greenwich, CT.

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Martin Mortensen, Croton on Hudson, NY.

Kristian & Susanne Nielsen, Greenwich, CT.

Kirsten Olsen, Stratford, CT.

Christine A. Pascarella, Greenwich, CT.

Agnethe Paulman, Pawling, NY.

Ellen F. Pedersen, Stamford, CT.

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James & Anna Vikki Spinelli, Scarsdale, NY10583.

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Kevin & Marianne Tierney, Greenwich, CT 06830.

Verner Unger, Amityville, NY 11701.

Inger Vilter, Darien, CT 06820.

Tove Weiss, Yonkers, NY 10710.

Richardt Jespersen, Ossining, NY 10562.

Erle Andersen, Rye Brook, NY 10573.

lenny Dellaripa, New Canaan, CT 06840.

Glenn Petersen, Greenwich, CT 06830. Marc & Karen Krisch, No address given.

Mikael Vaede, Irvine, CA 92602.

Margit Bøjstrup, Escondido, CA 92025.

Heather Bøjstrup Kesner, Santa Barbara, CA 93107.

Erik Bruun & lytte Svarre, Plymouth, MN 55447.

Jeffrey K. and Mrs. Andersen, San Diego, CA 92109. Harold & Mrs. Jensen, Santa Rosa, 95407-7377.

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