



HRH Princess Marie initiated into Christian the Fourth's Guild

Saturday the 18th of April was an extra festive occasion in Christian the Fourth's Guild. HRH Prince Joachim and HRH Princess Marie visited the Guild in Duus' wine cellar, and Princess Marie was initiated into the Guild as a member of honor. Prince Joachim has been a member of honor since 1988 when he did his military service in Aalborg.

The royal couple was on the red carpet in front of Jens Bang's Stenhus received by the Guild brothers guided by chief bencher Niels Voss Hansen. The latter's grandchild, Frederikke, had the honor of presenting the Princess with a bouquet of flowers.

When the Prince and Princess had been seated in Duus' wine cellar, the Guild made its entrance quite as usual. Because of a pressed timetable some shortenings of the procedure had been made, but apart from that everything was as usual. Almost: During an initiation drinks are served only for the Guild benchers – and not for those who are going to be initiated. Besides the Princess a dozen other persons were initiated, and because the applicants were sitting among already initiated members and other guests, the chief bencher was obliged to announce that there would not be served drinks until after the initiation. This of course did not apply to the benchers!

After the ceremony in the cellar the new members wal-

ked around Jens Bang's Stenhus and Princess Marie got the opportunity to try the just acquired key to the wine cellar's back door.

Back in the cellar the traditional glass of mead was emptied, and at the table the Princess took care to serve the red sausages – not only for her husband – but also for the others at the table. And the aquavit was also enjoyed as it is appropriate in Christian the Fourth's Guild.

Besides Princess Marie were - among others - the bishop of Aalborg, Henning Toft Bro, the chief of Aalborg military airport, colonel Karsten Fledelius Jensen, major general Jørgen Høll, president of Aalborg University, Per M. Johansen and chief of the new Music House, Lasse Rich Henningsen initiated.



75 Norwegians visit the wine cellar

For many years Christian the Fourth's Guild has had a branch in Oslo, and one of the great traditions is the Norwegian Guild member's annual summer visit to Aalborg. The Norwegians arrive in Aalborg in the morning, and new members are immediately initiated into the Guild.

In 2015 participated about 75 Norwegians in the tour, and 15 of them were initiated into the Guild in Duus' wine cellar in Jens Bang's Stenhus. The Guild has more than 200 members in Norway. The board of the Norwegian Guild under leadership of vice chief bencher/Oslo, Helge Qvigstad, participated in the visit and the initiation of the new members.

After the visit to the Guild in Aalborg the Norwegians spent the rest of the day in Aalborg's city center before returning to Oslo.



The VIPs from the 4th of July festivities in Rebild in the Guild

For decades it has been a tradition that the main characters from the Rebild 4th of July festivities are initiated into Christian the Fourth's Guild in the morning of the 4th of July – just before the departure to Rebild Hills.

This tradition was of course also followed in 2015. The two main speakers, Peter Work, wine grower from California and Kim Bildsøe Lassen, former USA-correspondent for Denmark's Radio, had to sit still and thirsty but cheerful at the empty tables, and after that be standing on each side of the Guild benchers in Duus' wine cellar while the Guild benchers – as the rituals

demands – several times announced "our thirst first".

The companions of the two main speakers, Rebecca Work and Divya Das, were also initiated. So was several members of the Rebild National Park Society and the American military attaché, James Gibson and his wife Margie.

The American ambassador, Rufus Gifford, was initiated in 2014, when he for the first time participated in the Rebild festivities. And he had a hearty reunion with the Guild brothers.



New Year's Greetings from the Guild

Wednesday the 25th of February the annual general meeting was held in Duus' wine cellar and the following Guild's prizes were presented:

Soldier of the Year: Private first class Aksel Wedel Bang Jensen.

The Aalborg Prize: The swimmer Mie Østergaard Nielsen for her brilliant results. Since 2006 she has won 8 gold-, 3 silver- and 5 bronze medals at WM, EM and DM.

Prize of Honor: Niels Kay Strøyberg who through several decades has been a dedicated and outstanding part of the development of the City of Aalborg.

We have in 2015 carried out 24 initiations with 588 persons from no less than 34 different countries. "Top Three" was respectively Denmark with 258 persons, Norway with 91 persons and USA with 78 persons. As a curiosity it should be mentioned that from so different countries as Equador, Georgia, Indonesia, Singapore and South Korea one person was initiated from each.

Among the many initiations we must admit that the initiation of HRH Princess Marie the 18th of April was the culmination of the year. The initiation was witnessed by HRH Prince Joachim and specially invited guests.

The 5th of September we initiated the Swedish ambassador Frederik Jørgensen and the Swedish consuls in Denmark – a really cheerful occasion.

The 20th of May we – in co-operation with VisitAalborg – initiated more than 100 staff members from travel agencies. The initiation was performed in connection with the call at Aalborg Port of a cruise ship from the shipping company Star Cruises. The initiation was carried out by having two initiations of about 50 persons each with an interval of one half hour.

Monday the first of June we had the annual visit from our Oslo branch with vice chief bencher Helge Qvigstad leading the way. It was as usual a very good day with a very good mood and many new Norwegian members.

The initiation on the 4th of July took place – almost as a routine – in wonderful sunshine. We initiated the two main speakers, Peter Work – winegrower – American main speaker and journalist Kim Bildsøe Lassen – main speaker from Denmark.

The two main speakers together with "Mayor for a Day" Peter Flinch were presented with the Guild's necktie during the tent lunch in Rebild Hills.

The Board of the Guild had the pleasure of being invited to Master of Ceremonies Karl Salling Møller's 90 years birthday which was celebrated in Duus' wine cellar where we had a lovely afternoon. It should be mentioned that Karl Salling Møller is a highly appreciated member of the Board.

The 15th of September we were a small crowd who travelled to Odense to visit our branch there. We had a very fine reception and was donated 10.000 DKK. A very handsome gesture.

Traditionally we have also this year distributed 8 "Prizes of good Spirit" on the educational institutions in Aalborg. We visited Aalborg Katedralskole (with our troubadour Per Iversen and his trumpet) where Andreas Holmgaard got his prize.

The same was repeated on the restaurant ship "Prinses Juliana" where apprentice waiter Stefan Vilsen – Tech College – had his well-deserved donation presented

Wednesday the 2nd of December Christian the Fourth's Guild's foundation distributed its donations for 2015. It was as usual in a completely filled cellar where recipients as well as onlookers were served mulled wine and Christmas dumplings. This year both Aalborg Pensioner's Orchestra and Aalborg Hunting Club's Hornblowing Group entertained. In spite of the low interest rates it was also this year possible to distribute 100.000 DKK.

Our home page is very popular. In 2015 we have had more than 35.000 visits which we highly appreciate.

Following tradition I want to thank all our different partners. Thank you for a fine and good co-operation in 2015.

I also want to say thank you to the Board for our good and pleasant co-operation which makes it a joy to be chief bencher.

Niels Voss Hansen

Chief Bencher



Christian the Fourth's Guild thanks for the effort



The Aalborg Prize for 2015 was given to the swimmer Mie Østergaard Nielsen as an extra honor for her many victories and championships.

- You have with your many international medals been a fantastic representative for

Aalborg and for Denmark, and we are proud to offer you the Aalborg Prize, said the chief bencher, Niels Voss Hansen. The honor was followed by a check from the Guild. The prize-giving took place at the annual general meeting in February.

There were also checks to the two residents in the 4th of May College in Aalborg, where the Guild sponsors two rooms – the Tolstrup-room and the Church-ill-room. And each year are the changing residents presented with a greeting from the Guild. In 2015

they were Rune W. Larsen and Martin Beerman Staal.

Soldier of the Year is private first class, Aksel Wedel Bang Jensen. He was recommended by Aalborg garrison as a competent, diligent, conscientious and helpful soldier - who has also served abroad.

The Guild's great Prize of Honor was presented to Niels Kaj Strøyberg. He has for decades been an ardent and highly appreciated part of the development of Aalborg – comprising both industry, education and culture. Latest Strøyberg did a great effort in the committee for the building of Aalborg's Music House, and the Guild has chosen to give him the Prize of Honor in connection with the opening of the Music House. N.K. Strøyberg was away at the time and was later given the prize.

Christmas check to young students in Aalborg



Some 8-10 young students in Aalborg has again this year received some extra Christmas pocket money. It is Christian the Fourth's Guild who this year – for the 26th time - distributes its Prize of good Spirit to a student on each of Aalborg's high schools and similar educational institutions. A couple of the places are each year visited by representatives from the Guild – accompanied by the Guild Troubadour. This year it was a student in Aalborg Katedralskole and one in Tech College. On the other educational institutions is the donation presented by the headmasters, usually at the Christmas celebration. The grants can not be applied for, but are presented to a student who is recommended by the school's leadership.

- The joy of life should blossom and Aalborg is a happy city. A small check here at Christmas time contributes to see life from the brighter side, said the Guild's chief bencher, Niels Voss Hansen, when he handed over the diplomas and checks.

Andreas Holmgaard, Aalborg Katedralskole received his check in the school, and Stefan Vilsen, apprentice waiter who is a trainee at restaurant Prinses Juliana in Aalborg, received his check there as he was surprised when the the Guild made their appearance.

- But remember that the money should be spent in the good mood with which it is

given. Not for textbooks or working clothes –but for parties and joy, admonished the chief bencher.

100,000 DKK to cultural and social activities in Aalborg

Christian the Fourth's Guild's Foundation has as its objective to distribute each year 100,000 DKK to social, humanitarian and cultural activities in Aalborg municipality and nearest neighborhood. The principal capital is 2 million DKK and it is the yield from that which is distributed. But the present world economic crisis makes it difficult to reach this objective, and that is why the Guild has made a contribution such that we also this year can donate 100,000 DKK, said the chairman of the Foundation's board, former mayor Kaj Kjær when he in accordance with tradition presented the checks, while glögg and dumplings were served in Duus' Wine Cellar in Jens Bangs Stenhus.

The Guild's Foundation distributed this year donations to 33 recipients. It is organisations, societies and a few individuals. This means relatively modest amounts – but the money is meant as a pat on the shoulder to “the voluntary, unpaid work to benefit the less privileged groups of society” as it is expressed in the Foundation's rules.

A few applicants got their checks earlier in the year because the donation was needed then. The other applicants got their check at the Christmas gathering in Duus' Wine Cellar. This is also the place where Christian the Fourth's Guild has its “headquarters” and the Foundation's capital comes from the Guild's work – and from the many members of the Guild all over the world.



The recipients are - as always – a very different crowd. From a supporting organization for KamillianerGårdens Hospice to Danish Red Cross' visiting service and an organization for families with cancer-sick children to Aalborg Pensioner's Orchestra. And this year there also were money to a song group in Aalborg whose older members have had to realize that their eyesight is not what it used to be. The Foundation helped them to get songbooks with large printed text.

Besides Kaj Kjær the Foundation's board has in 2015 consisted of former minister of ecclesiastical affairs Mette Madsen, CEO Ernst Trillingsgaard, the Guild's chief bencher, Niels Voss Hansen and the Foundations daily administrator, bencher Per Svensson.



Aalborg Winter Revue initiated into Christian the Fourth's Guild



There were lots of laughter and cheerful remarks when the actors from the Winter Revue 2015 were initiated into the Guild, and the chief bencher showed all his charm – especially towards the two female actors, Vicki Berlin and Lise Baastrup (photo right).

The four actors together with others from the staff were initiated on a Saturday morning in December. And even though they had been made to rise early after playing in the revue the previous night in Aalborg

Kongres- og Kulturcenter, they were in a very cheerful mood during the initiation. In the photo above is it Henrik Lykkegaard (left) and on the other side of the chief bencher Vicki Berlin, Lise Baastrup and Rasmus Krogsgaard.

- It is really an act of confidence that there are somebody who has the courage to give me a key to a wine cellar, grinned Lise Baastrup after the initiation.



Guild Meeting 2016

Wednesday the 24th 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 2016:
Annual subscription:
100 DKK, 130 NOK,
130 SEK, 10 GBP, 18 USD or
15 EUR.

Payment for lifelong membership is unaltered: 600 DKK, 750 NOK, 750 SEK, 100 USD, 60 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 19th February 2016 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

Jens Bangs Stenhus
Postboks 1644
DK 9100 Aalborg
Phone: +45 98 16 48

Bank: 9280-1940028473
IBAN: DK 1692801940028473
SWIFT: SPNO DK 22
PayPal: ulla-ib@stofanet.dk

Email: chr4laug@chr4laug.dk
Website: www.chr4laug.dk

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.