



Laugs - Tidende

Christian the Fourth's Guild Newsletter 2017



154 Norwegian Members of the Guild at Anniversary Celebration

There is a tradition for close relations between Danes and Norwegians, and when a number of Norwegians in Oslo, all members of the Guild of Christian the 4th in Aalborg, in 1991 resolved that there ought to be such a Guild in Oslo too, it was soon effectuated. With Jahn Otto Johansen as vice chief bencher a branch of the Guild was established - in close cooperation with the Guild in Aalborg - on the 15th of May 1991. Of course there is only one chief bencher, and it is Niels Voss Hansen in Aalborg, and that is the reason for it being a vice chief bencher that is at the head of the branch in Oslo.

Over the years we have on many enjoyable occasions visited each other, and all the initiations into the Guild in Oslo are performed by Aalborg benchers either in Aalborg or in Oslo, and that is why the board in Oslo decided that the Norwegian Guild's 25th anniversary should be celebrated in Aalborg in connection with the annual visit and initiation of new Norwegian members. It was a popular idea - 154 Norwegians went to Aalborg.

The celebrations started at Stortorvet in Oslo, where the Norwegian vice chief bencher Helge Qvigstad laid a wreath at the statue of King Christian the 4th. The Danish chief bencher Niels Voss Hansen made a speech, (he and the Danish vice chief bencher, Kaj Handberg were visiting Oslo for the occasion).

Actress Berrit Kvorning read a text and then all went - with music and mounted police - down the main street of Oslo, Carl Johan, to Oslo Military Institution and later to the ferry to Denmark. The next morning they all arrived in Aalborg. 26 new brothers and sisters were initiated into the Guild, and the initiation as usual took place in Duus' Vinkjælder where - also as usual - the atmosphere was fine and merry, and those who couldn't find a seat in the cellar could enjoy a glass of beer outside while listening to the jazz-orchestra from Drøbak, which was part of the Norwegian delegation.

After the traditional initiation photos were taken of the group in front of the old City Hall - close to the Guild's tree. The Guild's anniversary present to the Norwegian friends was a great cannonade performed by Aalborg Kanonlaug.

The anniversary celebration in Aalborg ended with a luncheon in Søgaaards Bryghus for the Norwegian guests and the benchers from Aalborg. Berrit Kvorning and the Guild troubadours entertained and the Norwegian vice chief bencher of honor, Jahn Otto Johansen, told anecdotes about King Christian the 4th. The speech of thanks was given by vice chief bencher of honor, Trygve Sødning, who at this occasion was presented with the gold medal of Christian the Fourth's Guild.



New Year Greetings from the Chief bencher of the Guild



Our general assembly was as usual held on the last Wednesday of February – this year, 2016, it was on the 24th of February – and at the general assembly the prizes of the Guild were presented. This year also ten new members were initiated, and just before this initiation our new bencher, Svend Aage Suhr, was dressed in cloak and beret.

The year 2016 has for the Guild been an unusual year; we have only held 15 – 20 initiations instead of normally 20 – 30. From the beginning it looked like being a record year, as we together with VisitAalborg had planned a sequence of initiations of cruise guests, but it was no success - on the contrary, not one initiation was carried out.

But it was a great success when our branch in Oslo had decided to celebrate their 25th anniversary in Aalborg after the chief bencher and vice chief bencher had been in Oslo to participate in the beginning of the celebration.

We have in the Guild had many fine initiations with happy and expectant new members, but this one was really something: the initiation of 19 new sisters from Marialøgen. A crowd of happy sisters, who were initiated on earlier occasions made a very pleasant audience, and when the Guild talked a young couple – who were celebrating their wedding in Duus Vinkjælder - into dancing the bridal waltz, it was a very jolly moment.

We have in the year also had nice initiations with

old friends such as UNMILPOC and the 4th of July initiations.

The work in Christian the Fourth's Foundation is still going fine. This year we were again able to donate more than 100,000 DKK to social and cultural purposes. Cand. jur. Vibeke Gamst has become a new member of the board. She replaces Mette Madsen, who died last year.

For several years we haven't been able to give out our Grant for Triplets, but it seems that we may need it twice in 2017.

The Guild has worked hard in the committees to plan the celebration of the Guild's 75th anniversary on the 16th of December 2017.

It will not be celebrated on that day, but probably later. We will produce an anniversary publication, which should be a sequel to our booklet from the 50th anniversary: "A Light Idea in a Dark Time".

We have a growing number of visitors to our website, there are now more than 41,000 hits.

As in every year I will end this by thanking our partners for their cooperation, and express a special thank you to the Board of Benchers for their work to make it all function.

Niels Voss Hansen

Niels Voss Hansen
Oldermand



Glory and great honor at the annual Guild meeting



At the annual Guild-meeting in 2016 the Guild presented Frank Willquin with the year's Aalborg Prize. Willquin has built an imposing - and worthy of preservation - model of King Christian the Fourth's flagship "Trefoldigheden" (The Trinity). The model is exhibited at the maritime experience center "Springeren" – the former naval museum in Aalborg. The Guild also honored the Bayeux Group for their effort through many years to make a magnificent copy of the famous Bayeux tapestry with motives from the age of the Vikings (1066). The tapestry is exhibited in Børglum Kloster.

At the Guild meeting was air force specialist Brian S. Israelsen honored as Soldier of the Year, and according to tradition the occupants of the two rooms in the 4th of May College - that is sponsored by the Guild – got each a modest cheque to sweeten the spring season.

On the photo you see Gitte Pedersen from the Bayeux Group, Frank Willquin, Brian S. Israelsen, The 4th of May College residents Martin Beermann Staal and Arthur Bastrup-Birk Wachmann, chief bencher Niels Voss Hansen and Kamma Jensen from the Bayeux Group.

The Prize of Honor for 2016 was presented to Bo Rosberg for his long standing work for the maritime Aalborg including a gigantic effort to get Tall Ships Race to Aalborg.

Bo Rosberg is the person who in November 1993 struggled to create the first interest in getting the Tall Ships Race to Aalborg. As a skipper on the FDF sea scouts' ship "Jens Krogh" he had experienced the Tall Ships Race and been impressed. Bo Rosberg succeeded in the middle of 1990s to turn the skeptical attitude both among the city and the private sponsors and Aalborg became host for the tall Ships Race for the first time in 1999.

It was a tremendous success both for the ships' crews and for Aalborg. Since then Tall Ships Race has visited Aalborg several times and Aalborg will again in July 2019 be host for the fifth time. Bo Rosberg was not in the country when he was to receive the prize, but it was at a later occasion handed to him during a little ceremony in the Guild.

"It was you who in spite of skepticism and adversity from the beginning raised the city's interest in getting all these marvelous sailing ships to Aalborg. This we in Christian the Fourth's Guild want to give you credit for" said chief bencher Niels Voss Hansen when he – together with some of the benchers – handed the prize to Bo Rosberg who was present together with his wife Kirsten.

Military Police in large numbers in the Guild

United Nations Military Police Course is – as the name implies – a course for military police personnel from all over the world within the framework of United Nations. UNMILPOC is organized usually twice a year in the Aalborg barracks. And the participants are each time initiated into Christian the Fourth's Guild.

They are all dressed in their respective, national uniforms during the initiations and the participants obviously enjoys the interruption in their course. Not least the newly initiated military police persons from more exotic countries are surprised when they – after the initiation – are served with Guild plates and potato juice – which is red sausages, beer and aquavit.



100,000 DKK to joy, benefit and social activities in Aalborg

31 happy representatives for different social, humanitarian and cultural institutions and a few individuals in Aalborg have received a small extra contribution to help their work. Christian the Fourth's Guild's Foundation has at the annual distribution with gløgg and apple dumplings in Duus' Vinkjælder in Aalborg donated almost 100,000 DKK to the many activities with special focus on the "voluntary, unpaid work to benefit the less privileged groups in society" as it is mentioned in the Guild's statutes.

The Foundation's capital comes from Christian the Fourth's Guild and the about 8,000 members from all over the world. It is the yield from this capital that is donated – but due to the actual low level of interest rates the Guild has had to support the Foundation.

"We are only able to donate the 100,000 DKK thanks to a not unsubstantial contribution from the Guild, for which we are very grateful" said the chairman of the Foundation, former mayor Kaj Kjær. The 31 recipients each got between 1,000 and 5,000 DKK. The money is meant as an extra pat on the shoulder to the social, humanitarian and cultural work that is done in our society. The Foundation does not support travels, studies abroad and parties.

"It is the aim of the board to support as many purposes as possible. We want to appreciate the work that is done. As we want to reward many, the grants will be small. We would like to donate more money, if our means would allow it" said Kaj Kjær at the ceremony's end.

There are always many and various receivers: for example Idrætsforeningen for handicappede which among other things arranges athletic school for handicapped youths in Aalborg. Dansk Røde Kors who runs a club for women with special problems. Kamillus is a support group for KamellianerGårdens Hospice. IOGT helps alcohol abusers. Aalborg Pensionistorkester whose members "play instead of eating pills". The Positive which is a club for retired people with physical and mental problems. Aalborg Mandskor whose members - with an average age of 75 years -



entertain gratuitously in rest homes, got a donation. So did the Tobacco Girls from Obel's Tobacco Factory – and they repaid by giving a cigar to the board. And two day care mothers, who have bought an allotment garden where the children grow vegetables to cook and eat them, also got a donation.

The Foundation's board consists – besides Kaj Kjær – of the Guild's chief bencher, Niels Voss Hansen, Aalborghallen's CEO, Ernst Trillingsgaard, the day to day administrator of the Foundation, bencher Per Svensson, and former head of culture in Nordjyllands Amt and present member of Region Nordjylland's board and former member of Aalborg Byråd, cand. jur. Vibeke Gamst. She is new on the foundation's board and succeeds former minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs, Mette Madsen, who died in 2015.



Economical “Pat on the Shoulder” to Ten Students



Ten young students in Aalborg colleges and other educational institutions received an extra seasonal greeting, when the Guild for the 27th time gave out this year’s “Grants of Good Spirit”. ”These grants can’t be applied for. It is the educational institutions themselves that nominate the receivers according to the grants’ rules: The receiver should be a student or an apprentice, who by his/hers good spirits, happy disposition and positive outlook has been helping create good vibrations and good fellowship, and thereby inspired teachers and comrades to work in a positive and pleasant way.

“And the receivers should not necessarily be special- ly hardworking or clever, but of course that wouldn’t hurt” as the chief bencher, Niels Voss Hansen, pointed

out, when he and some of the benchers visited Hasseris Gymnasium to donate a grant. The benchers also donated a grant to an apprentice in Salling’s Bakery.

In other educational institutions the grants and cheques are handed out by the schools themselves - often at the final celebration before the Christmas holidays. But everywhere the receivers have been told that the money should be spent in the spirit, they are given: to help the joy flourish in the happy town of Aalborg.

At Hasseris Gymnasium (left) Mads Andreasen got the grant and the cheque. At Salling’s Bakery in Aalborg confectioner apprentice Malene Højris was surprised, when the benchers came by. In the photo is also master baker Henrik Rasmussen.

The main characters from the July 4th festivities in the Guild



The festivities in Rebild Hills are tradition – and so is Christian the Fourth’s Guild in Aalborg. The traditions are united each year on July 4th when the main characters of the Rebild festivities are initiated into Christian the Fourth’s Guild before the festivities in the Rebild Hills begin.

As tradition demands this initiation is performed in Duus’ Vinkælder in Jens Bang’s Stenhus and in 2016 it was the main speaker, former Danish secretary of state, at that time chairman for UN’s general assembly, Mogens Lykketoft, who - together with other future members of Christian the Fourth’s Guild - had to sit with empty glasses while the guild brothers several times called out: “Our thirst first”.

After the initiation and the traditional walk around

Jens Bang’s Stenhus drink and food was served for everybody, namely red sausages, beer and snaps – potato juice as snaps is called in the Guild. Besides Mogens Lykketoft were among others also his wife, Mette Holm, and chief of tourism in the “Danish” town Solvang in California, Jeff Paaske, and the American ambassador’s partner, Stephen DeVincent initiated. The American main speaker, ambassador Rufus Gifford, was initiated two years ago and participated in both 2015 and 2016 as spectator.

During the initiation the chief bencher instructs the future members of the Guild and after the initiation the two main speakers obediently placed themselves for being photographed, Mogens Lykketoft (left), chief bencher Niels Voss Hansen and Rufus Gifford.

New member in the Foundation's board succeeding Mette Madsen



Mette Madsen

Christian the Fourth's Guild's Foundation distributes each year 100,000 DKK to social, humanitarian and cultural activities in Aalborg. The money is the yield from the Foundation's capital plus an annual grant from Christian the Fourth's Guild.

Shortly before Christmas 2015 the Guild and the Foundation received the sad message that member of the Foundation's board, author, former Minister of Ecclesiastic Affairs, Mette Madsen had passed away at the age of 91 years.

Mette had been a member of the board since the Foundation's establishment in 1997 and through all the years been an important voice in the board. Mette argued tirelessly that the Foundation should support "the voluntary, unpaid work to benefit the less privileged groups in society".

Mette Madsen was from 1973 to 1987 member of the Danish Parliament for the liberal party (Venstre). From

1984 to 1988 she was Minister of Ecclesiastic Affairs in the government of Poul Schlüter. Mette was a very artistic person and she has published several collections of poems. Furthermore songs – among those some written to Christian the Fourth's Guild – and essays and memories.

We will – as well in the Guild as in the Foundation – deeply miss the presence of Mette.

In the Foundation's board Mette has been succeeded by Vibeke Gamst. Vibeke is cand.jur. and has been an elected member of Aalborg Town Council and is today member of Northern Jutland County Council. She has also held the position of Head of Culture in the County.

The Foundation's board today consists of (from left) CEO Ernst Trillingsgaard, Chief Bencher Niels Voss Hansen, former mayor Kaj Kjær (chairman), the new member cand jur. Vibeke Gamst and the Foundation's administrator, bencher Per Svensson.



Wednesday, February 22 2017
at 19.00 in Duus' Vinkjælder in
Jens Bangs Stenhus. (Book-
ing of table directly to Duus'
Vinkjælder, telephone +45 98 12
50 56) After the Guild's annual
assembly an initiation is carried
out.

Subscription for 2017:
Annual subscription:
100 DKK, 130 NOK, 130 SEK,

12 GBP, 16 USD or 15 EUR.

Payment for lifelong membership is unaltered:
600 DKK, 750 NOK, 750 SEK, 90 USD,
70 GBP or 90 EUR.

New lifelong members will receive a special Guild letter signed by the Chief Bencher and the Treasurer, and the names of the members are entered in the list of lifelong members.

Guild Meeting 2017

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

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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.