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MARCH 2019



Who's Who on your new Board

Photo - Lyn Voytershark

L-R: Julio Encarnacion III, Patricia Canagata, Francine Lang, Julie Frederiksen, Nina York, Apple Gidley, Susan Wall, Robert Evans

What's What:

- New Board of Directors
- Annual General Meeting
- An Invitation
- March Historical Timeline
- Danish West Indies Festival Guests
- What Would You Like?
- Getting to Know....

We are delighted to welcome our Danish guests for the 2019 Danish West Indies Festival

The St. Croix Friends of Denmark Society is excited for the new board members! Nina York, a journalist, author and community leader has graciously accepted the title of President; Apple Gidley in her role as Vice President, brings organizational skills; Susan Wall, Managing Editor of St. Croix This Week, continues as Treasurer. Julio Frederiksen

will continue as secretary, sharing the position with longtime member and community activist, Francine Lang. Robert Evans and Patricia Canagata continue to serve on the Board and are joined by Julio Encarnacion III, whose passion to protect VI history and culture is ably suited to his role within Community Outreach. Bob Boyton remains in charge of membership and we wish him a speedy recovery and return to St Croix.



Photo - Lyn Voytershark

Past President Hans Lawaetz continues to play a crucial role in strengthening the bridge between Denmark and the United States Virgin Islands.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2019

The AGM held at The Palms at Pelican Cove on 28th January was well attended. After reports delivered by the outgoing Board but before voting for the new Board, attendees were entertained and educated by two guest speakers.



Ernest Morris Esq by day represents clients through his own law practice in Christiansted but, once court is out of session, is equally as comfortable calling the dances for the **We Deh Yah Quadrille Cultural Group**. The men and women dance quadrille regularly for the cruise ships, at events around the Virgin Islands, and were part of a cultural exchange visit to Denmark in 2017 to celebrate the Transfer Centenary.

Dr. Christian W. Vium is a visual artist and Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in social anthropology at the Department of Anthropology, Aarhus University. He primarily works on long-term projects anchored in participatory observation and experimental collaboration, investigating the intersection between art, documentary, and the social sciences across multiple platforms. His three weeks on St Croix were spent interviewing a wide variety of people utilizing old photographs and creating new ones in an effort to gather and document family stories.



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?

Being a member of any organization has to have its rewards, but need not be the same for every member. While the alternating Danish West Indies Festival every two years is appealing to most, we are not just a travel club. Our annual Danish-themed events, such as the St. Hans Aften midsummer bonfire cookout and the festive Christmas Party are enjoyable and will remain on our schedule, but if you have other suggestions for activities in 2019, we'd like to hear from you. Please send your thoughts to our editor, Julio Encarnacion III at: thenativesonusvi@gmail.com

2019
DANISH WEST INDIES FESTIVAL
March 25 - 31

*The St. Croix Friends of Denmark Society
is delighted to invite you to a
Welcome Reception
in celebration of the
2019 Danish West Indies Festival.*

Date: *Tuesday, 26th March*
Time: *5:30pm - 7:00pm*
Location: *Arthur Abel Complex,
315 Prince Street Frederiksted*

RVSP: *Friday, 15th March*

applegidley@gmail.com 832-814-2769

****THIS IS A MEMBER ONLY EVENT****



Please note space is limited for this event to the first 25 members to sign up - not including hosts and their guests.

The **Danish West Indies Festival** promises to be a week filled with activities for the 30 guests arriving on St Croix on March 25th. Events will include a walking tour of Christiansted led by Nina York, one of Mt Washington, Butler Bay and Little La Grange led by Susan Beach, a visit to the CMCA to view the remarkable exhibition of bird paintings by Toni Lance, and of course a taste of Cruzan rum along with dips in the ocean, picnics and much more. The week will culminate in a guided tour and Farewell Dinner at the St George Village Botanical Gardens on Transfer Day.

Festive Joy Despite the Rain!



All photos - Susan Wall

The annual **Christmas Party** on December 8th was held in the pavilion at Gentle Winds, and made available at no cost thanks to the hospitality of Board member Robert Evans and his wife, Maresa. Despite the rain, there was ample indoor space for members to dance to Christmas music around the decorated tree, a Danish tradition. Delicious food by Lori of Blue Water Terrace, with a sip of Danish Glögg, added to the festivities. Showers did not dispel the happy mood for the 60 attendees. Whilst the change of date was due to a conflict, December 8 proved a happy alternative as it coincided the 99th birthday of our treasured honorary Life Member, and former President, Jennie Lawaetz, who was presented with flowers from the Friends of Denmark.

You may be interested to know that *St Croix This Week* publishes a monthly *Velkommen!* (Welcome) and *Godt at Vide!* (Good to Know) information in Danish. Also our President, Nina York, writes articles about our Danish connection each month on Page 38. Pick up a copy on island or read the online magazine here:

<http://www.stcroixthisweek.com>

Getting to Know:

Our Editor, Julio Encarnacion III aka The Native Son was born and raised on St Croix and where he returned after graduating from Lynn University at Boca Raton, Florida. His passion for history and cultures was awakened by his grandfather who encouraged him to start his collection of artifacts relating to the heritage of the Virgin Islands.

Julio, in his role as historian and cultural activist, enjoys taking this fascinating collection to schools and events in order to stimulate an interest, and an honest discussion, about our history.



Our Danish Guests and their Hosts!

Pernille Frahm & Villo Sigurdsson - Candia Atwater

Birgit Rothmann & Soren Stridsland - Ed & Susan Beach

Karen-Lisbeth & Asger Dirksen - Robert & Gail Boyton

Gunilla & Christian Heick - John & Cathy Booth

Ane-Lise Jacobsen - François & Julia Dominique

Lene Baden - Julie & Lynn Frederiksen

Jens Villumsen - John & Apple Gidley

Peter & Karen Rastrup - Richard & Rita Grant

Gurli Skourup Kofoed-Olsen & Jonna Skourup - Ivan & Eleanor Latimer

Jonna & Neils-Erik Villadsen - Hans & Barbara Lawaetz

Birgith & Knud Larsen - Michelle Moore

Anne Walbom & Dorte Paaske - Betsy Rezende

Anna Lykke Jensen & Marianne Gall - John & Mona Roberts

Poul Bjergager - Mirza Saldaña-Lampe

Maj-Britt & Anders Anthony-Sparholt - Lyn Voytershark & Dan Kinney

Hans Jørgen Petersen - Gayle Washburn

Torben Jerø - staying on his own

The Board of the St Croix Friends of Denmark truly appreciate the generosity of those members who volunteered to welcome our Danish guests into their homes.

MARCH HISTORICAL TIMELINE

March 8th, 1908 – Queen Louise Home in Christiansted opens

March 11th, 1671 – The Danish West India and Guinea Company receives a royal charter from Christian V, granting the power to select governors and Lutheran ministers for the Danish West Indies

March 16th, 1792 – Abolition of the importation and exportation of slaves to and from the Danish West Indies is decreed, effective December 31, 1802

March 29th, 1814 – a Danish royal ordinance decrees protection and liberation of Jews (the first such edict in history)

March 31, 1917 – the Danish West Indies becomes the Virgin Islands of the United States of America

HAPPY 102nd BIRTHDAY

VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

- I/We wish to join the St. Croix Friends of Denmark Society.
 I/We wish to renew membership. Year 20__

Name(s) _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone _____ (home) Individual \$40
_____ (office) Couple \$60 Life \$500 pp
_____ (cell) Youth \$15 Corporate \$100

Email _____ @ _____

Email _____ @ _____

Checks made payable please to:
St Croix Friends of Denmark Society
P O Box 682, Christiansted, VI 00821