



A Danish meeting place in Portland

Kristin Square II
9498 SW Barbur, Suite 207



Thank you for joining me last Saturday evening for an evening of gløgg, food, and conversation at Danebo.

Forty people attended. Everyone seemed to enjoy the delicious gløgg and Danish food, the hyggelige surroundings, and perhaps most of all the companionship.



The evening ended with remarks from Nils Jensen regarding the history of the Danebo room. Below is a written version of his compelling tale.

— Bodil Muller

History of the Danebo Room

The Beginning

Many years ago, Oregon/SW Washington members of NWDA, including the Sisterhood and the Brotherhood, enjoyed a comfortable meeting room at Kristin Square. We probably used that room for over 10 years. A lot of great events took place there, as many members will recall.

Unfortunately, the NWDA leadership in Seattle fell into financial difficulties due to mismanagement. As a result we were forced to give up our meeting place at Kristin Square.

The financial situation in Seattle has improved since then. During the last two

years we have been working on gaining back a meeting place in Portland. This subject was discussed many times during board meetings in Seattle.

About a year ago, the subject was again considered by the board. An overwhelming majority voted to allocate up to \$2,000 per month to Oregon/SW Washington for renting a new suitable facility.

A New Room

Several facilities were explored, until we found the current one in the Kristin Square II building, near our old building. This meeting place is lovely, practical, and large at 1,783 square feet. It was offered at \$2,000 per month.

However, when we presented this opportunity, the Seattle board informed us that we were permitted to spend only \$1,500 per month.

For that rent, the landlord decided to split the large room into two rooms with a wall and another door. Our part would be reduced significantly to 1,135 square feet. Also we would lose the large windows and the beautiful view of Mount Hood. The flexibility, practicality, and coziness of the larger space would be greatly reduced.

However, the landlord was kind. He permitted us to use the full space temporarily for \$1,500 per month instead of the full price. The condition was that if another tenant was found for the smaller part of the space, the wall would be built.

Another Tenant

This fortunate arrangement continued for six months.

But then another tenant wanted to rent the smaller space, and the landlord planned to build the wall.

We went back to the Seattle NWDA board and asked for the full \$2,000 per month, which was previously approved. Deliberations proceeded for a long time, but eventually they decided that we had to accept the smaller space.

The landlord grew impatient with our procrastination; he had to respond to the other tenant. Finally we received an ultimatum: "Give a final answer within three hours, or we will sign a contract with the other tenant."

A intense three-way negotiation began between the landlord, the Oregon board members, and the Seattle board members.

The New Agreement

Fortunately, the landlord was again kind. We reached a new agreement that lets us stay in the larger space.

This is the new agreement:

- Our rent for the full space will continue at \$1,500/mo.
- The rent will increase to \$1,700/mo starting 1/1/20.
- The rent will increase to \$2,000/mo starting 6/1/20.

If we don't meet these increases, splitting the room will again be considered.

Fortunately, an Oregon NWDA member has pledged to pay these increases until the board authorizes paying the full rent.

Because of the previous hard work and this new planned generosity, we can continue to enjoy and improve our special place with confidence.

Conclusion

My point is that we have come a long way with our relationship with the Seattle board members. Initially they would not give us \$300 per month for the church; now they are giving us \$1,500 per month for our new space.

Gary Korsgaard, the NWDA Vice President, has been instrumental in this arrangement.

I hope that within the next six months the board will allow us the \$2,000 per month that was authorized at the 3/17/19 meeting.

Let's work together to take good care of this special space that we are creating.

— Nils Jensen

Mailed by [Roger Ray](#)

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