



# DANEWS

a publication of the danish american center

*The Danish American Center supports and fosters Danish culture through education and the celebration of traditions, customs and history.*

## DAC SAMVÆR SILENT AUCTION

The silent auction was again a huge success. We met our goal, earning the DAC over \$7,500. Thank you to those who provided so many generous donations. There were some great items this year again.

Many thanks to the committee that made this happen again this year: Janet Ogden-Brackett, Susan Loschenkohl, Tina Paulsen, and Laura Forslev.

## ÆBLESKIVE BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 16: 9:00am and 10:45am

The next æbleskive breakfast will be held on Sunday, April 16 at the Danish American Center. We are offering two scheduled seatings for the breakfast, at 9-10am and 10:45-11:45am. Reservations are required and are on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost for the breakfast is \$12 per adult and \$7 for children ages 5-12. Younger children are free. The menu will include æbleskiver, egg bake, sausage, juice, and coffee. To sign-up, please go to the website: <https://danishamericancenter.org/> and log in to your account. Go to Event Calendar and select the Æbleskive Breakfast seating of your choice. Or call the DAC office at 612-729-3800 to sign up. Reservations will be accepted through April 12 and must be pre-paid.

We have had recent requests for to-go (take out) orders from our breakfast. We will be able to fulfill a limited number of to-go orders. These MUST be ordered in advance (by April 12), the cost is \$10 per meal and pickup time is between 11am and 12pm.

Remaining breakfast schedule for Spring 2023, Sundays with reserved seating: May 14 (Mother's Day Brunch)

If you are interested in volunteering for this event or have questions, please contact Carla & Joel Mortensen at email: [morte007@umn.edu](mailto:morte007@umn.edu), or call 612-724-1814. We hope to see you there!

## DANISH DAY 2023-SAVE THE DATE

Plans for Danish Day 2023 are underway. Danish Day will be held on Sunday, June 4. If you would like to volunteer to help plan or help on that day, please contact the DAC office at 612-729-3800. Look for more details in the May *DANews*.

## APRIL 2023

- Music on the Mississippi
- DACation Winter Blues Special

## NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

This month I would like to talk about some of the "behind the scenes" happenings at DAC. In February we announced a grant we received provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society to establish a Collection Management System and Pilot Inventory. We have begun working on this project and you can see the first few objects on a new web page we have on the MN Collections section of the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums site. Our page can be reached by copying this link in your browser <https://mncollections.org/Detail/entities/42982>. Seeing all the Danish design objects offered for our auction last month, we realized we can offer another opportunity for you to contribute to DAC and share our cultural heritage with a wider audience. This year and last year's auctions had many objects gifted from estates as well as individuals. Some of these household items we will use and others will go into the "collection." Both give us the opportunity to share our heritage and where better to highlight Danish Design than at DAC. If you are downsizing and are looking for homes for Danish art and design objects, consider making a tax-deductible donation to DAC. We will collect objects all year long for the collection or for sale in the spring auction.



## SINGALONG WITH DAN CHOUINARD

Monday, April 3: 7-8:30pm

The monthly sing-along with Dan Chouinard is back! If you have not been to one yet, you should come and experience the joy of singing along with a fun group of people. It is on the first Monday of every month unless you see it noted differently in the *DANews*. Free and open to all, with a free-will donation requested.



## BEGINNING DANISH—SPRING CONVERSATION GROUP

Saturday, April 15: 9:30-11am

Interested in working on your Danish language reading and speaking skills? Attend a monthly gathering this spring. This class is geared at those who completed the Beginning Danish series and want to practice a bit more... without too much homework! We will use magazine and newspaper articles, music lyrics, comic books, children's books, etc., as the springboard to improving reading comprehension and conversation skills.

Dates: Saturdays, April 15 and May 6

Time: 9:30 to 11am

Location: 3rd Floor Classroom at the Danish Center

Please register on the DAC website one week prior to the class date to have time to review the reading material prior to class.

## DOORS OPEN MINNEAPOLIS—SAVE THE DATE

This fun event is back, and the DAC is once again participating on Saturday, May 13. The DAC will be open to the public all day, offering tours and answering questions about the history of Danebo. We are looking for volunteers to greet visitors and give tours of the building. Please contact Tina Paulsen if interested at [dainfo@dac.mn](mailto:dainfo@dac.mn) or 612-729-3800. For information about this event, click here: [www.doorsopenminneapolis.org](http://www.doorsopenminneapolis.org)

## MEMORIALS AND DONATIONS

A donation in memory of **Jens Høj** from Kristian & Lora Lee Thusholt

Thank you to all who have made contributions to DAC. These generous gifts are much appreciated. All donations to DAC are tax deductible. Please contact the DAC Office for more information

## WINTER BLUES-2 NIGHTS \$100 DACATION SPECIAL

Members, are you and your friends craving a weekend or mid-week getaway but don't want to deal with long lines and flight delays? Consider a "DACation" at the Danish American Center. Through April 2022, we are offering a special rental rate of two nights for \$100 for our cozy guestrooms, each with its own separate toilet/sink. There is a common kitchen area for overnight guests' use, the Kaffestue, to hold your foods and drinks fresh, and lots of other shared spaces in which to relax and unwind, such as the newly renovated Tivoli Lounge. The DAC is ideal for excursions, such as family retreats, girls' weekends, writers' retreats, and romantic getaways, you name it! Take advantage of beautiful Mississippi River trails right outside our front door, and a variety of restaurants, within walking distance on Lake Street. Explore all that Minneapolis/St. Paul has to offer. See a play at the Guthrie or a show at the Ordway. Park your car in our lot for the weekend and take a short Uber ride into the cities. Please contact Tina Paulsen for reservations at [dainfo@dac.mn](mailto:dainfo@dac.mn) or call 612-729-3800. Your DACation awaits.

## TRANSLATION SERVICE AT DAC

The DAC frequently receives requests for translators of documents. We are now offering a translation service. To request a translation, you can mail the materials to the DAC, or email [dainfo@dac.mn](mailto:dainfo@dac.mn). Please send a clear copy. Do not send any original documents. DAC cannot be responsible for original documents. Documents can be sent via a picture file, a scanned document, or a word file. The documents will be reviewed, and the translators will determine if it is material that can be translated. Work will be returned by email. The rate is \$30 per hour for members and \$40 per hour for non-members. Payments can be made by check to the Danish American Center. Translated documents will be returned to you by mail. Postage and handling will be added. If you have any questions, please contact the DAC office at 612-729-3800.

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for the May issue is April 10

## MUSIC ON THE MISSISSIPPI

Wednesday, April 19: 6pm Social Hour  
7pm Concert

Music on the Mississippi presents the most inspirational music of the year—An evening with Minnesota's top male vocalist Robert



Robinson. The *Star Tribune* called Robert, "Minnesota's greatest gospel singer." Often referred to as the "Pavarotti of Gospel."

Robert along with his friend and music brother, Timothy Frantzich spent some time traveling down the Mississippi to New Orleans, absorbing all the greatness the mighty river has to offer. It inspired them to create original songs about their journey, from gospel to blues. The project is entitled "Mississippi River Songs."

Robert is reason to believe that the greatest music reaches every name and crosses every boundary, from audiences in the Pontiac Silverdome (Pontiac, Michigan) to troops in South Korea. "God's Canary" possesses the ability to sing any song and yet remain true to his vision. There exists a deep sense of goodness about Robert. At age six, he began singing with his family, and by 15, he was directing the choir at his father's church. In his 30s, Robert began to experiment with his prodigious musical gifts outside of the cocoon of the church community.

Although Robert points to Mahalia Jackson, Tramaine Hawkins, and Vanessa Bell Armstrong (with whom he has performed) and his mother (Nellie Robinson) as inspiration, Robert works and lives in his own genre. Since 2005 he has forged a new path, combining his ministry of gospel with a vast experience rooted in soul. After 15 years in Lorie Line's Christmas tour, he broke away as a solo performer

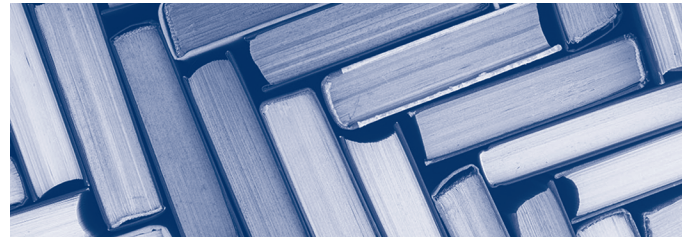


to instant accolades. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* describes Robert as a "a volcanic talent." The

Salt Lake City *Deseret News* describes him as "glorious." Minneapolis *Star Tribune* proclaimed Robert to be "a soaring presence." More importantly, Minnesota's *Insight News* distinguished Robert as "a beloved institution," a nod to both his service to the community and his sterling life's work.

Robert will be performing with his longtime pianist Sam Reeves. Join us for an evening of fellowship and wonderful music. You don't want to miss this one!

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased on the website or by calling the office at 612-729-3800. To purchase online, go to the website: <https://danishamericancenter.org/> and log in to your account. Go to Event Calendar and select Music on the Mississippi.



## LIBRARY HOURS

*The library is now open on the first Saturday of the month from 10 am to 12 pm or by appointment only.*

You may make an advance reservation for appointments offered on Wednesdays and Sundays by calling 612-296-5193. We will do our best to accommodate your needs, but please allow a week or so notice so we can find a volunteer to staff the library for your appointment.

Saturday open hours are staffed by a volunteer from the National Danish-American Genealogy Society, and they can help with genealogy research as well as the DAC library collection.

The Steenberg Lounge on Floor 2 has free Danish books for members to read/retain. The Lounge is open every day.

Please remember that any borrowed books can be returned at any time to the library by placing in the box outside the library. If the book has been signed out, it can be returned by appointment, or during library office hours so that we can check it back in.

## DANE OF THE YEAR 2023

We are looking for nominations for Dane of the Year 2023. If you have a nomination, please submit to the office at [dainfo@dac.mn](mailto:dainfo@dac.mn) or call the office at 612-729-3800.



## DANEBO READING CIRCLE CLOSES OUT THE SPRING WITH TWO TRIPS TO ICELAND

Sunday, April 16: 2pm

In April the reading group will be able to enjoy another Nobel Prize-winning historical novel. *Iceland's Bell*, by Halldór Laxness was translated into English in 2003 by Philip Roughton and as a result, Laxness is enjoying a "rediscovery" of his body of work.

The meeting will be another hybrid opportunity on Sunday, April 16, with some members gathering in the third-floor North Commons and others joining via Zoom. Discussion, led by Carol Sime, begins at 2pm and lasts as long as the ideas flow, but no later than 4pm. To receive a Zoom link, send a message to [suzannej41@me.com](mailto:suzannej41@me.com).

*Iceland's Bell* was written in three parts during 1943, 1944, and 1946 in a style of classic sagas with a modern take. It takes place in the late 17th to early 18th centuries when Iceland was a miserable place striving under Danish rule.

The first part of the novel focuses on a farmer, Jón Hreggviðsson, who is given the task of cutting down a courthouse bell. The bell is said to be Iceland's only treasure and will be sold to help pay the bills for the King of Denmark. This act becomes the driving force of the entire novel and eventually draws in the whole nation. Hreggviðsson becomes a pawn of the powerful just as Iceland is subject to injustices from the King of Denmark.

The second part intertwines Hreggviðsson's story with a different narrative, the romance between Lady Snæfríur and a collector of manuscripts, Arnas Arnaeus. The collector is modeled after Árni Magnússon, who was devoted to preserving Iceland's literary heritage. Some group members may remember reading about this scholar and collector in *How Iceland Saved the World* in February 2022.

In the third part, attention turns to Arnas Arnaeus and the fate of his collection of manuscripts in Copenhagen. But the 404-page novel, richly supplemented by 19 pages of notes, concludes back in Iceland.

Discussion leader for the May 20 meeting, Myra Madsen, provides this introduction to another famous Icelandic novel: In *Summer Light, and Then Comes the Night*, Jón Kalman Stefánsson explores the lives of inhabitants in a village some distance from Reykjavik. Originally published in 2005, this 246-page collection of eight interlinking stories

was translated from the Icelandic by Philip Roughton in 2020. Written in first-person narration, this omniscient voice speaks for the village itself. Vignette titles such as "Should We Admit to Being Idiots" and "Tears Shaped Like Rowing Boats" suggest the tone and style of *Summer Light, and Then Comes the Night*. One reviewer writes that the stories illustrate the conflict between destiny and desire. Stefánsson's book was made into an Icelandic movie in 2022; maybe an English version will follow.

## CELEBRATE SANKT HANS AFTEN-SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, June 24: 5-10pm

The Walter-Hansen farm in Rosemount will be hopping with Danes and friends from around the world when we gather to celebrate mid-summer. There's something for every age to enjoy: eating, playing, chatting, dancing, and singing together! New-mown hay bales provide soft seating and an intoxicating herbal fragrance in a cozy red barn where the floorboards have withstood weddings, waltzes, pop/rock bands, and dining events. Children can learn to twist & toast campfire bread (snobrød) over open charcoals. Hayrides transport the brave and curious down winding roads, through forests and thickets, past ponds and lakes, and return them safely to boast tall tales of adventure. If you seek tranquility, sit back with a cool beverage, enjoy catching up with friends you've missed seeing, gaze out to the pond, and breathe in the sweet country air. As the sun sets we'll gather around a grand bonfire. Come rain or shine!

### Remember to bring:

- Meat to grill and a dish to share (appetizer/salad/dessert)
- Your choice of beverages, comfy lawn chairs or blankets, bug spray
- Donations are appreciated but not expected!

### We will provide:

- Gas grills and utensils, tables & chairs,
- Plates, napkins, cups & utensils
- Condiments & Seasonings
- Lemonade, water & coffee

### Farm Address:

12101 Dodd Boulevard Rosemount, MN 55068

For assistance/questions call Kurt or Patricia Walter-Hansen 612-483-3569, 612-483-3101

## NOTARY PUBLIC

If you need a Notary Public, the Danish American Center offers this service for members in the Twin Cities Metro Area. Please contact DAC member Ardis Wexler at [judgeardis@aol.com](mailto:judgeardis@aol.com) to make arrangements to meet at a mutually agreed-upon time and location. Rates are \$10 per document, and all proceeds go to the Danish American Center. This service is a convenient way to get your documents notarized and support the Danish American Center at the same time.

## LOOKING FOR A DANISH TUTOR?

Contact Ingela Haaland for more information at 651-261-3602 or [Ingela\\_eilert@yahoo.com](mailto:Ingela_eilert@yahoo.com)

## NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS



## RØDSPÆTTE KLUBBEN

Saturday, April 22: 6-7pm Social Hour  
7pm Dinner, 8:30pm Live Band with Dancing  
Rødspætte Klubben is open to all who wish to come, eat, sing, dance and have fun. Rødspætte Klubben will be held at the Danish America Center on April 22. There is a social hour, followed by a sit-down dinner. Festive singing and dancing to a live band in the lounge area will begin at 8:30. The meal is your choice of fish or schnitzel, with an expanded menu of gluten-free and vegetarian. The evening begins at 6pm. This is absolutely the best fun and best deal for dinner and dancing in town. The cost is \$45 per person and reservations are required. Contact Annette at (651) 269-4903 or email at [jaggerted@msn.com](mailto:jaggerted@msn.com).

## SAVE THE DATE—77TH ANNUAL DANEBOD FOLK MEETING

August 16-20

Using the Danish-American Folk School as its model, the Danebod Folk Meeting is held annually in Tyler, Minnesota. Gathering together to live in community for four days, we practice our belief in life-long learning. We listen

to lectures together, we learn from each other, we sing together, we eat together, we visit with old friends and make new ones, all of which fosters a more enriched life for ourselves and others. The meeting will be held August 16-20. Look in the May *DANews* for more information. For more information, you can email [danebod.folk.meeting.123@gmail.com](mailto:danebod.folk.meeting.123@gmail.com) or visit the website at [www.danebodfolkmeeting.org](http://www.danebodfolkmeeting.org).

## DANISH GENEALOGY

Monday, April 24: 6:30pm CST

Join us to learn the traditional and beautiful art of Danish open-face sandwich making. A demonstration will be given by our own NDAGS President Barbara Heenan Andersen.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88448842945>

Webinar ID: 884 4884 2945

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88448842945>

## OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

### NORDIC REVIEW—MUSIC & FOLK DRESS PARADE: CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

We are reaching out to invite your organization to be included in our "Nordic Review—Music and Folk Dress Parade" program which will be held Sunday, May 21, 2023, at 2:30 pm at First Covenant Church, 2101 W. 2nd St., Duluth, Minnesota.

We are encouraging each Nordic group to be represented with 1-3 musical selections which could be a vocal or instrumental selection (solo or group) or dance. We invite representative dress from your country. The folk dress will be narrated during the parade. Please submit the name of the person and 1-2 sentences describing/history of what each is wearing.

There is no charge to attend this community program and all local participants are asked to volunteer their talents. Because the Danes are located out of our area, we offer a \$100 honorarium to your organization. Our goal is to provide an interesting, informative program that is inclusive of all Nordic countries.

A Silent Auction will precede the program beginning at

1:15 pm. A wonderful feree-will fika will be available after the program for participants and the audience to visit.

Please feel free to contact Jenn Conboy with any questions you might have.

Jenn Conboy, President and Swedish Cultural Social Board  
jenniferconboy@hotmail.com (218) 340-8216

## AI WEIWEI USES 650,000 LEGO BRICKS FOR RECREATION OF MONET'S MONUMENTAL 'WATER LILIES'

Art fans can already build Lego sets of Andy Warhol's *Marilyn Monroe* screen prints, Vincent van Gogh's *Starry Night*, and Hokusai's *The Great Wave*. Chinese artist Ai Weiwei recently took that combination of notable artworks and the popular Danish toy to another level, with a 50-foot-long iteration of one of Claude Monet's most famous images. It is the largest Lego artwork Ai Weiwei has ever made.

Titled *Water Lilies #1*, the work is over 15m in length and will span the entire length of one of the walls in the Design Museum gallery. It is made from nearly 650,000 studs of Lego bricks, in 22 colours.

This vast new work will be seen in public for the very first time when the exhibition *Ai Weiwei: Making Sense* opens on Friday, April 7. It is his biggest UK show in eight years.

*Water Lilies #1* recreates Monet's famous painting, *Water Lilies* (1914-26), a monumental triptych which is currently in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

In the original painting, Monet depicts one of the lily ponds in the gardens of his home in Giverny near Paris. It is an image that has become world-famous for its depiction of nature's tranquil beauty. However, the pond and gardens were a man-made construct, designed and created by Monet himself at the turn of the 20th century. He had the nearby river Epte partially diverted in order to create this idealised landscape.

By recreating this famous scene, Ai Weiwei challenges our ideas of reality and beauty. The new image has been constructed out of Lego bricks to strip away Monet's brushstrokes in favour of a depersonalised language of industrial parts and colours. These pixel-like blocks suggest contemporary digital technologies which are central to modern life, and in reference to how art is often disseminated in the contemporary world. Challenging viewers further, included on the right-hand side of Ai's version is a dark portal, which is the door to the underground dugout in Xinjiang province where Ai and his father, Ai Qing, lived in forced exile in the 1960s. Their hellish desert home punctures the watery paradise.

Ai Weiwei has been using Lego bricks in his work since 2014, when he used them to produce portraits of political prisoners. But *Water Lilies #1* is his largest ever creation in this medium.

"I like its basic quality," he told the *Washington Post*. "Anyone can play with it."

*Water Lilies #1* will be seen alongside another major new Lego artwork by Ai Weiwei, which is also making its international debut at the Design Museum. First announced in January, *Untitled (Lego Incident)* is part of a series of five expansive 'fields' where hundreds of thousands of objects will be laid out on the gallery floor. In this field, visitors will see thousands of Lego blocks which were all donated to the artist by members of public from around the world, in response to Lego briefly refusing to sell their products to him in 2014. These donated bricks are presented at the Design Museum for the first time as a fully-formed artwork.

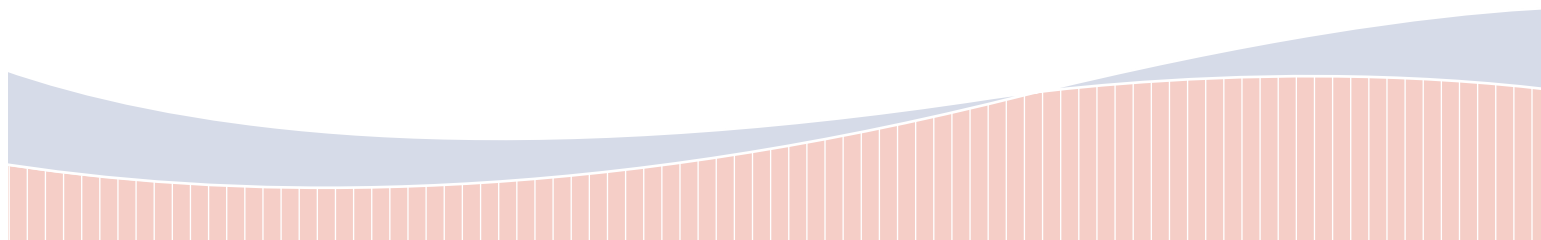
*Ai Weiwei: Making Sense* will be the artist's very first exhibition to focus on design and architecture. It sees Ai using design and the history of making as a lens through which to consider what we value.

*from ARTnews by Karen K. Ho*



## APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	02	Hans Christian Andersen Party 2-5pm	Wednesday	19	Office Hours 10am-2pm
Monday	03	Sing-along with Dan Chouinard 7pm		19	Mah-jongg 10am-3pm
Wednesday	05	Mah-jongg 10am-3pm		19	Music on the Mississippi 6 Social Hour 7 Show
	05	Office Hours 10am-2pm	Friday	21	President's Happy Hour 4pm
	05	Virkelyst 6:30-9pm	Saturday	22	Rødspætte Klubben 6pm
Friday	07	President's Happy Hour 4pm	Monday	24	NDAGS Meeting 6:30-8:00
	07	Toseaften 7:30pm	Wednesday	26	Office Hours 10am-2pm
Sunday	09	Scandinavian Social Dance 7-9pm		26	Mah-jongg 10am-3pm
Monday	10	Board Meeting 7pm		26	Onsdag Frokost 11:30am
Wednesday	12	Office Hours 10am-2pm	Friday	28	President's Happy Hour 4pm
	12	Mah-jongg 10am-3pm		28	Fyraften 6pm
	12	Onsdag Frokost 11:30am	Sunday	30	Danish Folk Dancing: Doors open at 6:15 Dancing begins 6:30pm
Friday	14	President's Happy Hour 4pm			
Saturday	15	Conversational Danish 3 9:30-11am			
Sunday	16	Reading Circle 2pm			
	16	Æbleskive Breakfast 9am and 10:45am			



**DANISH  
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CENTER**

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