



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.

MEMBER SOCIAL GATHERINGS

FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH IN THE TIVOLI

LOUNGE & LIVING ROOM

Friday, January 3: 4-6pm

Join your member friends for an informal social gathering and enjoy soft drinks, non-alcoholic beer, and snacks. No reservations needed; come join us!

NORDIC SOUNDSCAPES FESTIVAL AT MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA: JANUARY 10-18

The Danish American Center is a partner for the Minnesota Orchestra's Nordic Soundscapes Festival! Across three different programs, six concerts and ten days, January 10-18, Music Director Thomas Søndergård and the Minnesota Orchestra will traverse the landscape of Nordic music at Orchestra Hall, exploring two concertos by Nielsen and music by Grieg and Sibelius, as well as a new generation of Nordic composers whose evocative works push the boundaries of what came before.

Concertgoers are invited to arrive early to Orchestra Hall throughout the festival for an immersive sampling of activities that celebrate Nordic culture, cuisine, cocktails and design. Leading into Orchestra Hall, the Cargill Commons will be outfitted with outdoor firepits, seating options and a warming house by 612 Sauna available to tour. The indoor Target Atrium will transform into a cozy hygge lounge and Nordic Bar offering glögg and Vikre Distillery drink specials. Savory and sweet treats will be available from Krown Bakery, while Danish Teak Classics furniture will be on display in the lobby. Throughout the Roberta Mann Grand Foyer, Nordic partner organizations—including the Danish American Center, American Swedish Institute, Finnfest USA, Icelandic Hekla Club, Museum of Danish America, and Norway House—will showcase their organizations and offer free performances of folk and choral music traditions. On Saturday, January 11 Danish American Soprano Taylor Ann Grand accompanied by Lisa Jensen will perform and the Danish American Center will host an information table.

JANUARY 2025

- ♥ New Activity Groups
- ♥ Æbleskive Breakfasts Resume

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

The New Year is here, and we are celebrating the start of our next 100 years at the DAC. 2024 was a year of some significant changes and developments at the DAC. Hiring employees, re-establishing our permit status with the City of Minneapolis, and hosting celebrations of our first century together. Now, it is time to turn our attention forward to 2025. The new year brings new opportunities for us, and it is healthy for our organization to move forward mindfully.

At the annual meeting, we outlined how we would like to add structure to our fund development efforts. Every healthy nonprofit needs to actively plan for the future, and to have a strong future we need to solidify financial planning. To achieve these goals, we have assembled a group of board members and other volunteers to secure donations and funding for our organization and our projects. This is a relatively new endeavor for the DAC. To my knowledge, our organization has never had a dedicated fundraising team. This is not being done because we are in a weak financial position. Rather, we are looking to plan for the future, and make sure that we are strong enough to endure any economic uncertainty. We also have a number of projects within the DAC that we would like to tackle, and this fundraising will

reinforce our organization as we make our future plans.

Another area of improvement that we identified last year was membership. Every organization like ours has a member attrition rate. To balance this out, we are actively working to bring in new members, and host and plan events that will engage prospective members. At the annual meeting, we described how we have a significant population of people in Minnesota and the upper Midwest, who identify as having a Danish heritage. With this in mind, we will be working to attract new members and new member activity groups. Activities and social events are what bring our members together and keep our community strong and thriving.

The DAC is on a very solid financial and organizational footing. I am confident that we will continue to thrive for our next 100 years.

Pete Gantriis

MEMORIALS

Donations in memory of **Dorothy Andersen** from Myra Madsen

Donations in memory of **Gary Joyner** from Sandra Dobossy, Kathryn and Lisa Jensen, Gary Joyner Family, Grethe & Svend Petersen, and Linda Peterson

Donations in memory of **Joseph Mohr** from Margaret Mazzaferro & Hans Mouritzen, Noemi Garcia, Svend & Grethe Petersen, Diane Greve, Mary Claire Wahlberg, Udi Snir & Mary Deaner, and Renee Showalter-Hanson

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.

REGISTERING FOR EVENTS ONLINE

Here are step-by-step instructions on how to register for an event on the DAC website:

1. Go to danishamericancenter.org
2. Login to your account
3. Once you are logged in, click on Go to Event Calendar
4. Select the event for which you wish to register
5. A blue "Register Now!" button will appear toward the bottom of the page. Click on that button.
6. Fill in all the information and credit card number. (We do not accept American Express.)
7. A blue "Register!" button will appear. Click on that button.
8. You will receive an email confirmation of registration. Make sure to check your Junk and/or Spam folders.

Please note: Your DAC membership must be current to register for events. If you have any questions, contact the DAC office at 612-729-3800.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome New Member:

Zane Wagner • Rolf Brown • Maggie Leshner
Mary S. Hegge • Peter Johansen • Dr. Noel Larson
Ted Bloomquist • Rowan Matney • Connor McMahon
Whitney Hansen • Mindy Schulke • Nels Larsen
Maridee Debertin • Lynn Dutcher

DAC Directory Information - For further contact information on new and current members, please visit the Members Only portion of the DAC website. Use the email you would have associated with the DAC and create your own password in this new system. If you have trouble, contact the DAC office at dainfo@dac.mn or phone 612-729-3800.

Please note that membership information may be used ONLY by members of DAC for personal, non-business networking purposes. **Use of this information for sales or business solicitations or the like, by or for commercial entities or interests is strictly prohibited.** The DAC Board reserves the right to telephone, mail or e-mail

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the February issue is January 10

Danish American Center

3030 West River Parkway South
Minneapolis MN 55406

612-729-3800

email: dainfo@dac.mn

Website: danishamericancenter.org

Office Hours: Wednesdays: 10am-2pm

Executive Board:

Peter Gantriis, President
EJ Gurley, Vice President
Anders Wolf, Treasurer
Susan Jacobsen, Secretary

Board of Directors:

Dana Bacon, Pippert Berg Madsen, Bill Holmquist,
Lisa Jensen, Ginny Kirkegaard Leppart, Susan Loschenkohl,
Ryan Maki, Tom Peterson, Bruce Simpson,
Scott Thomsen, Karma Walker, and Pernille Whited

DANews Committee:

Pippert Berg Madsen
Bill Holmquist
Betina Kohler
Susan Loschenkohl
Myra Madsen
Michelle Potter-Bacon

For submissions, advertising, or any other inquiries, please contact us at dainfo@dac.mn.

MN ORCHESTRA NORDIC SOUNDSCAPES

The Minnesota Orchestra has offered us "Choose Your Price Tickets" (starting at \$5 per ticket) for these concerts conducted by Thomas Søndergård. Eligible concerts: Nordic Landscapes and Portraits Jan 10-11, Chamber Music in the Hall Jan 12, Nordic Tales and Folklore Jan 16-18. To redeem your discounted tickets:

1. Find the concert you'd like to attend here: <https://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/festivalpartner>
2. Enter promo code NORDICPARTNER before selecting your seats.
3. Use price filter to select "Choose Your Price" to find eligible seats.
4. Select your seats. Choose the price you want to pay per ticket (minimum \$5, suggested price \$25). Please note that all tickets in your order will reflect the same chosen price. Limit 4 tickets for Choose Your Price.
5. Free tickets are available for youth (ages 6-18) through the Hall Pass program. Select the Hall Pass ticket type.
6. Add to cart and check out!

All seating is subject to availability and may vary by performance; the top price section is excluded. Normal service charges apply. Available while supplies last and cannot be combined with any other offer. Not valid on previous purchases. Tickets are non-refundable and nonexchangeable at a discounted price. Again, the Nordic Partners ticket page is <https://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/festivalpartner> and the promo code is NORDICPARTNER.

ONSDAGS FROKOST

Wednesday Lunches start up again in January! Lunches are held twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. We rely on volunteers to cook the meals and would love to have some new cooks added to our wonderful existing slate of cooks. Cooks come up with the menu, shop for ingredients and are completely reimbursed for their expenses. They cook the meals in our DAC kitchen, which we will teach you to use. There are four more dates open for cooks in the first part of the new year. Please contact Cathy Mahowald at cmahowal@hutchtel.net or call her at 612-845-5562 to sign up or ask questions. We would love to have you share your favorite dishes with our membership.

ÆBLESKIVE BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 19 at 9am and 10:45am

Reservations are required for our two scheduled seatings and are on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost for the all-you-can-eat breakfast is \$13 per adult and \$8 per child, ages 5-12. Younger children are free. The menu includes æbleskiver, egg bake, sausage, juice and coffee. To sign up, go to danishamericancenter.org, find January 19 on the calendar, and click the breakfast seating of your choice. Or call the DAC office at 612-729-3800 to sign up. We also accept a limited amount of take-out orders. Pre-payment is required. Reservations will be accepted through January 17. Upcoming breakfasts: February 16, March 16 and April 13.

If you are interested in volunteering for one of our breakfasts or have questions, contact Carla & Joel Mortensen at carla.s.mortensen@gmail.com or call 612-724-1814. We hope to see you there!

DANISH LANGUAGE FOR BEGINNERS

In person classes at DAC: Saturdays 9:30 -11am

January 4, 11, 25;
February 1, 15; March 1, 8, 15; April 5, 12.

Zoom office hours:
Saturdays 9:30-10am,
January 18, February 8,
February 22.

More information and registration available on the DAC website: <https://danishamericancenter.org/membership/event-calendar/#!event/2024/9/7/beginning-danish-language-class-9-30-11-am>



BEGINNER PLUS DANISH

In person monthly sessions at DAC designed for those with a little more experience and/or who have completed previous Beginning Danish courses at DAC.

Register for any or all sessions, held 11:15am-12:30pm Saturdays, January 11, February 15, March 15, April 12.

More information and registration available on the DAC website: <https://danishamericancenter.org/membership/event-calendar/#!event/2025/4/12/danish-plus>

LEAVES FROM THE LIBRARY

By DAC Librarian Felicity Hanson

The Library reached an important milestone this month, thanks to help from Susan Jacobsen and Pipper Berg Madsen. It is now officially listed on the DAC website, under the "About" tab, 4th entry down. We are open for business, and now you'll know where to find us!

On the new library page, you'll find a link to the online catalog, as well as a link to request a DAC library account, and other information. Anyone can view the catalog; only members with a library account can check out materials.

Other exciting news: the Book Repair 101 and Teeny Tiny Books+Earrings workshops were well received. Both the book menders and makers of tiny books are keen for follow up sessions... think Spring for those. Why not try one? They're really fun, and you meet such nice people!



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS IN NORTH COMMONS CLASSROOM WITH DAC LIBRARIAN FELICITY HANSON

Workshop Cost: \$15 for DAC members
\$25 for non-members

MAKE A BOOK SNAKE

Saturday, January 18: 1-3pm

Do you know readers who don't always want to hold their book open while reading? Solve the problem of the closing book and keep your books open with a Book Snake!

A book snake is a fabric tube that is weighted. You can spread the weight along the snake's body or slide it all down to one end, wherever it is needed to prevent a book from closing while it's being read.

You will hand-sew or machine sew the fabric tube to make the body, then fill and decorate it with button eyes and a V-tongue if you wish. I will have a variety of fabrics, felt, button eyes, and other decorative options. Basic sewing skills, such as backstitch, needed.



DANEBO READING CIRCLE VISITS '70s DENMARK IN JANUARY

We start out the new year on Sunday, January 19, with *Borderliners*, a novel by Peter Høeg (DK); 1993, 277 pp; translated by Barbara Haveland (NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1995). The meeting begins at 2pm in the third-floor classroom and on Zoom, and ends no later than 4pm.

Peter Høeg is an award-winning, contemporary Danish author who is best known outside Denmark for *Smilla's Sense of Snow* (1992). *Borderliners* is, in a sense, an autobiography combined with a philosophical look at time. The first-person narrative takes place at a private boarding school in Copenhagen where Peter and two other students discover they are part of an experiment. Biehl, the headmaster, is like a god who rules with a strict sense of time. While the novel is only 277 pages, it may take time to savor the poetic and philosophical style. You may find yourself pondering your own experience of time. As the story moves to conclusion, the reader may better understand the reclusive nature of Peter Høeg, the author.

Borderliners is available in print, eBook, and Audiobook formats at local libraries and both local and online booksellers (new and used). You may want to allow yourself enough time to savor, ponder, and complete the book. How do you experience time? Come prepared to share.

On Sunday, February 16, discussion leader Ed Andersen will take us through another short Danish novel: *The Faces* by Tove Ditlevsen (DK); 1968, 130 pp; translated by Tiina Nunnally (NY: Picador, 2022). It is the story of Lise, a children's book author and mother of three, living in Copenhagen in 1968. She is convinced that her unfaithful husband will leave her and scared that she will never write again, becoming increasingly haunted by disembodied faces and voices. One reviewer described Ditlevsen as "a master of slow realization, quick characterization, and concise ironies." (Lauren Oyler in Harper's Magazine)

The Danebo Reading Circle welcomes current, former, and new members. Newcomers may attend the first meeting without commitment, but continuation requires DAC membership. Details about the group are in each issue of DANews; more information and a Zoom link are available by contacting suzannej41@me.com.

NEW DAC MEMBER ACTIVITY GROUPS KICK-OFF

VIKINGELAUGET, THE VIKING GUILD

Thursday, January 23: 7-9pm (Atrium)

Vikingelauget is for any DAC member interested in making historical crafts based on archaeological finds of the Viking Age. Members will be able to create their own Viking Age clothing and have the opportunity to take part in a Viking camp at various Midwest Scandinavian cultural events. We will also explore Viking Age cuisine, combat, carving, and other hands-on activities. Join us if you are interested in living history, crafting, or would simply like to learn more. We will also share what we have learned about living history from Trelleborg, Denmark.



SAGA WRITERS

Sunday, January 5: 1:30-3:30pm (North Commons Classroom)

If you have stories you have been keeping inside for years that you want to put into writing, this new group is for you. Saga Writers provides a welcoming environment where people find encouragement and support to accomplish their writing goals and record their Danish American history and experience. Maybe you have family stories, personal experiences, or reminiscences you would like to commit to paper before they are lost forever. Patricia Jakobsen and Bill Holmquist will lead, and information packets will be available. Register online for this free program, so we know how many packets to prepare.

TRANSLATION SERVICE AT DAC

To request a translation, mail the materials to the DAC, or email 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 email. If you have any questions, please contact the DAC office at 612-729-3800.

DANISH DELICACIES FUNDRAISER 2024

The online shop is closed for 2024 but while it was open, 651 individual sales generated \$7,409.50 in sales plus \$624.90 in additional donations. Profit from the sale doubled from last year's \$1,183 to \$2,165.50. Every item in the shop was sold. The cheeses and delicacies were the same – imported Danish cheeses and made-from-scratch Danish food specialties from the DAC's own Svea Ernst (leverpostej, asier and mahjonger cookies). A change this year from past years' practice included all sales pre-paid in a new online shop. Many reported the online Zeffy shop was easy to use. By processing all sales through Zeffy, DAC paid no credit card processing fees, maximizing our profits, as most credit card processors charge 2 to 6% for conversion. We tried to make it easy for everyone, so paying by check or card through the DAC office was also an option. It was not all smooth sailing for the new committee; a clerical error resulted in an order of more aged havarti than pre-ordered, but that too all sold. Fontina was not available at the time of the first order, but it did come within a week or two so everyone got everything they ordered. Come back next year for another opportunity to get delicious, sometimes hard-to-find Danish cheeses at our discounted prices. And, for those of you who ordered cheese and delicacies, enjoy!

NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

DANISH GENEALOGY

After emigrating from Denmark, many of our ancestors settled in, stayed for awhile, or at least passed through the Chicagoland area. With this in mind, the National Danish-American Genealogical Society is presenting a "virtual field trip" to explore the genealogical resources at the Newberry Library of Chicago. We welcome you to join us via Zoom for this free webinar titled "135 Years of Genealogy Gems - Chicago's Newberry Library" on Monday January 27, 2025 at 6:30pm CST via this link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88930504990>

For more information and to learn of other upcoming Zoom events, visit our website: danishgenealogy.org If you have questions, email us: ndagsmembers@gmail.com.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Mondays at 9:30am: Watercolor Group
 Wednesdays 10am -2pm: DAC Office Hours
 Wednesdays 10am -3pm: Mah Jong
 Thursdays 9am-1pm: Library Hours (no Jan 2)

Friday 03 Member Social Gathering 4-6pm
 03 Tøseften 7pm

Saturday 04 Danish Language for Beginners 9:30-11am
 04 Library Open 10am-12pm
 04 Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm

Sunday 05 Saga Writers Kick-off 1:30-3:30pm

Monday 06 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7pm

Wednesday 08 Onsdags Frokost 11:30am

Saturday 11 Danish Language for Beginners 9:30-11am
 11 Beginners Plus Danish Class 11:15am

Monday 13 Executive Committee Meeting 7pm

Saturday 18 Make a Book Snake Workshop 1-3pm

Sunday 19 Æbleskive Breakfast 9am and 10:45am
 19 Danebo Reading Circle 2-4pm

Wednesday 22 Library Open 10am-1pm
 22 Onsdags Frokost 11:30am

Thursday 23 Viking Guild-New Group Kick-off 7-9pm

Saturday 25 Danish Language for Beginners 9:30-11am

Sunday 26 Danish Dancing 6:30pm

FEBRUARY

Mondays at 9:30am Watercolor Group
 Wednesdays 10am-2pm: DAC office Hours
 Wednesdays 10am-3pm Mah Jong
 Thursdays 9am-1pm: Library Hours

Saturday 01 Danish Language for Beginners 9:30-11am
 01 Library Open Hours for members only
 10am-12pm
 01 Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm

Sunday 02 Saga Writers 1:30-3:30pm

Monday 03 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7pm

Wednesday 05 Virkelyst 7pm

Friday 07 Member Social Hour 4-6pm
 07 Tøseften 7pm

Monday 10 Board Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 12 Onsdags Frokost 11:30

Saturday 15 Danish Language for Beginners 9:30-11am
 15 Beginners Plus Danish Class: 11:15am

Sunday 16 Æbleskive Breakfast 9am & 10:45am
 16 Danebo Reading Circle 2-4pm

Sunday 23 Danish Dancing 6:30pm

Wednesday 26 Library Open for members only 10am-1pm
 26 Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm

Thursday 27 Viking Guild 7pm

Friday 28 Fyraften 7pm

January 2025