



# 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, February 7: 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!

## MUSIC ON THE MISSISSIPPI CONCERT

SCOTTIE MILLER TRIO, FEAT. JENNIFER GRIMM

Thursday, February 27,

6pm Social Hour, 7pm Concert

Hear Minnesota's own renowned Jazz and Blues musician Scottie Miller and his Trio with guest vocalist Jennifer Grimm, Dan Carpel on Bass and Greg Schutte on Drums.



Scottie will play his own Jazz compositions, Jazz standards and music from his award winning Album and Book *Carnival Cocoon*, which earned him Artist of the Year from Bluebird Reviews in 2023, and it is not to be missed.

Gifted vocalist and performer Jennifer Grimm will be joining the Trio, adding both the spice and excitement that she is known for. Jennifer and husband Joe Cruz performed at DAC in 2023.

Thanks to Scottie's collaboration with blues legend Ruthie Foster, he graced the red carpet at the 2024 Grammy® Awards, where Foster's album "Healing Time" garnered a nomination for "Best Contemporary Blues Album." (Scottie contributed to the title track and other songs on the album and has played with her band for 14 years.) Also Blues Music Awards names their song "What Kind of Fool (am I)" song of the year for 2024, a collaboration between Scottie, Hadden Sayers and Ruthie Foster.

Advance purchase tickets only. To purchase tickets online, visit [danishamericancenter.org](http://danishamericancenter.org).

DAC Members \$30, Non-Members \$35.

## FEBRUARY 2025

- ♥ Fastelavns Party for the Kids
- ♥ Æbleskive Breakfast

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is soon to arrive, and the DAC continues to flourish.

I'm thrilled with how well our partnership has gone with the Minnesota Orchestra. We had volunteers at their Nordic Soundscapes Festival throughout January. Notably, our own Taylor Ann Grand performed with Lisa Jensen at Orchestra Hall as part of the Nordic Soundscapes kick-off weekend, which was recently featured in the *New York Times*. These special events are exciting and fun. It is a chance for us to show off the talent that we have here at the DAC, and also a chance for us to reach out to the community and help people learn about our organization. Hopefully these efforts will bring us rewards in the form of positive engagement with the city and growth in our membership.

Our popular concert series, Music on the Mississippi, will resume for 2025. We have four concerts on the calendar so far and are planning to add more. The success of these events is due to the very active volunteers on this committee. Music on the Mississippi is a high profile series, and I am grateful to all those who volunteer their time to make these special events happen.

Finally, I want to give a shout out to our DAC building committee. Over the past few

months, some significant improvements have been made to our property, and we are reaping the rewards. The new boiler system is working beautifully, and it is far more efficient than the old one that it replaced. Our building committee has also added security cameras and an alarm system to improve our building's security. The Building Committee is actively looking at other improvements to our activity spaces and our building's infrastructure, as well. This work happens behind the scenes, but it is absolutely essential to our operations here at the DAC.

As always, I am grateful to ALL of our DAC volunteers and staff for making the magic happen here at the Danish American Center.

Pete Gantriis

## MEMORIALS

**Donations** in memory of **Gary Joyner** from Paul & Cheryl Juhl

**Donations** in memory of **Joseph Mohr** from Kris Peterson, Kirsten Gotzsche, Bruce & Julia Taber, Kathryn Jensen, Al Kvaal, Tina Paulsen, Myra Madsen, Jane Carlson & Chucks Madhav, and Gerd & James Tuchscherer

**Donations** in memory of **Ron Palm** from Svend & Grethe Petersen

**Donations** in memory of **Vagn Jensen** from Ed Andersen, Lisa Jensen, and Paul Jensen

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](http://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 Members:

Annette R Hansen • Elizabeth Hinz  
Krista & Paul Hanson • Carolyn Cherry  
Marilyn Kunkel • ASI Cloudberrries

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](mailto: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 March issue is February 10

### Danish American Center

3030 West River Parkway South  
Minneapolis MN 55406

612-729-3800

email: [dainfo@dac.mn](mailto:dainfo@dac.mn)

Website: [danishamericancenter.org](http://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, Pippet 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:

Pippet 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](mailto:dainfo@dac.mn).

## **FASTELAVNS PARTY FOR THE KIDS**

Sunday, March 2: 3-5pm in the DAC Dining Room

Fastelavn is the traditional Danish celebration of Lent/ Carnivale, in which kids dress up in costumes and go from door to door 'trick-or-treating'—except in Denmark you ask for pastries (what else?) rather than candy.



Other traditions tied to Fastelavn are 'hitting the cat out of the barrel' and making 'Fastelavnsris'. There is no longer a cat in the barrel. Instead, kids hit at a barrel full of candy until it cracks and opens like a piñata. Fastelavnsris are twigs decorated with streamers, carnival symbols and candy signaling the beginning of Lent and spring.

This is a great chance for kids, parents and grandparents alike to gather at the DAC and spend a 'hyggelig' afternoon together across generations. Partake in hitting the barrel, making Fastelavnsris and last but not least, enjoying some delicious Fastelavnsboller (special pastry made for the event).

Cost is \$5 per person (adults & kids). If you would like to buy extra Fastelavnsboller, (\$3 each) you may order when you register. We hope to see you there!

To register, log in to your member account at [danishamericancenter.org](https://danishamericancenter.org), go to the calendar, and click this event on March 2.

## **TRANSLATION SERVICE AT DAC**

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

## **ÆBLESKIVE BREAKFAST**

Sunday, February 16 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](https://danishamericancenter.org), find February 16 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 February 14. Upcoming breakfasts: March 16, April 13, and May 11.

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

## **BEGINNER PLUS DANISH CLASSES**

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, February 15, March 15, April 12. More information and registration available on the DAC website Classes and Events page: <https://danishamericancenter.org/classes-events/>.

## **PAPERLESS PUZZLE CHECKOUT**

It's going to be a long winter, and a great way to pass the time is to work on a jigsaw puzzle! Next time you're at the Danish American Center, feel free to stop by our paperless puzzle checkout, located in the Living Room. We have a large selection of puzzles from 250-1000 pieces with a variety of depictions and levels of difficulty. No need to fill out any forms. Just grab a puzzle, take it home, and bring it back when you're finished!

## **NOTARY PUBLIC**

The Danish American Center offers Notary Public 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; 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.

## LEAVES FROM THE LIBRARY

### OLD BOOKS, POOR CONDITION BOOKS. WHAT DOES THE DAC LIBRARY DO WITH THEM?

By DAC Librarian Felicity Hanson

When I emigrated from England, I brought more books than clothes, shipping over several heavy boxes of them. These were books from childhood and young adulthood, some of my parents' books, stamp collections, and so on. As difficult as it's been, I've had to accept that over the years, my inexpensive ones developed brown and brittle pages, broken spines, or other issues. Sadly, this type of book has little value, despite what the heart feels for them, and they had to go! I imagine many a DAC member has had a similar experience. Is there a home for these books?

While most local libraries and thrift stores will accept books, they are looking for good condition items that will sell. This, from Google: "Do not donate books that are moldy, torn, or otherwise damaged." And Hennepin County states, "Paperback books may be recycled in your recycling program at home. Hardcover books should be put in the garbage. They are not accepted for recycling because their binding makes them difficult to recycle." Please note: the City of Minneapolis does accept hardcover books in curbside recycling. For specific book recycling policies, please check with your waste hauler or local recycling drop-off facility.

In the DAC library as we "weed," or make decisions about what books belong in circulation, the broken, brown-and-brittle-page types of books don't make the cut. Then there are others that are still in acceptable condition, but with not a lot of circulating left in them, or the content is no longer relevant. Plus, we have books that are over 100 years old and hardly appropriate for circulation. What do we do with them? I'm sure you are dying to know!

Well, we separate weeded books into different categories: Withdrawn, Auction, and Archives/Reference. Withdrawn are those in such poor condition or with other defects that they no longer belong in the library. Auction books are those that may sell at the DAC sale. Archived/Reference books are retained for their cultural and historical value, and even just for their charm from a bygone era.

At this time, no books are thrown out, not even the withdrawn, broken-down ones, though that may change

due to storage limitations. For now, we are removing the above categories from the shelves and boxing them up. This will provide shelf space for newer books that appeal to a wider audience. We hope you will be one of them!

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS IN NORTH COMMONS CLASSROOM WITH DAC LIBRARIAN FELICITY HANSON

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

### BOOK REPAIR 101

Saturday, February 8, 1-3:30pm

Bring a few of your cherished, average-sized paperbacks and hardcovers that need some TLC, and we will evaluate them to see which are candidates for repairs.



Examples: Torn or loose pages; cover loose or tearing; spine partially separated or torn; inner hinges wobbly or broken open; dirt or stickers on cover. All supplies included. We use professional archival supplies.

### TEENY TINY BOOK WORKSHOP WITH EARRING OPTION

Saturday, March 22, 1:00 - 3:30pm

What's better than your favorite book? A teeny tiny sized version of it! These little books are super cute and completely adorable!



In this workshop, you will cut out the boards and covers for your book, make some tiny pages to glue inside, and put the whole thing together. This work does require a degree of skill, so the workshop is suitable for teens through adults.

Optional—make a pair of teeny tiny books and turn them into earrings. Fishhook earring findings an additional \$2.50 per pair. They are sterling silver and include latex backs.

\*After registering, email titles for 2-4 books that you love to [daclibrarymn@gmail.com](mailto:daclibrarymn@gmail.com) (by Wed, March 19 at noon), and I will endeavor to provide those covers at the workshop. I will also have a selection of English children's and adult's book covers, and Danish children's covers to choose from.

## DANEBO READING CIRCLE FACES QUESTIONS OF REALITY IN FEBRUARY

On Sunday, February 16 (2-4 pm), the DAC's reading group will have a hybrid meeting to discuss *The Faces* by Tove Ditlevsen (DK, *Ansigterne*); 1968, 130 pp; translated by Tiina Nunnally (NY: Picador, 2022). It is available in print and eBook formats at libraries, bookstores, and online.

One library reader commented, "This novel about mental breakdown is description, not imagination. The author transforms psychosis into art. Remarkable."

Discussion leader Ed Andersen quotes from this review by John Self in *The Guardian* (January 2021): "The central character, Lise Mundus, is a writer of children's books, struggling with arbitrary success; she has won an award for a book she 'considered no better or worse than her other books' ... . Fame has 'brutally ripped away the veil that always separated her from reality' and now she 'clings to that fragile sense of security which was nothing more than the absence of change'. Despite the horror it depicts, Ditlevsen's writing is deeply humane and understanding.

You can tell from the number of quotations in that paragraph that Ditlevsen's writing is at all points the perfect expression of its ideas, impossible to improve upon. This precision is important because *The Faces* seeks to portray 'madness' from within, with all the unreliability that entails."

On Sunday, March 16, the group will convene to discuss Danish author Lisbeth Zornig Andersen's memoir *Anger Is My Middle Name* (DK: Gyldendal A/S, *Zornig - vrede er mit mellemlavn*), 2011, 203 pp; translated by Mark Mussari (Seattle: Amazon Crossing, 2020). In German "zornig" means "angry" and the author examines all that that emotion contains in this "heart-wrenching" (*Kristeligt Dagblad*) book that "is ultimately life-affirming, as it illustrates that it is possible to reject one's negative background and have a good life." (*Literatursiden*).

The Danebo Reading Circle welcomes current, former, and new members to meet with the group at the DAC or via Zoom. 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](mailto:suzannej41@me.com).

## NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

### DANISH GENEALOGY

#### CREATING AN AFTERLIFE FILE FOR GENEALOGY

Monday, February 24 at 6:30pm via Zoom

As genealogists, we spend countless hours researching, compiling, and organizing our research with the hope of passing it on to future generations. But in this digital age, ensuring access to this information involves much more than just handing over a family history book.

Ensure your genealogical legacy is preserved and accessible with an "afterlife file." This session is designed to help you organize and safeguard your valuable research, logs, and documents for future generations. You will learn what an afterlife file is, why it is so important, how to gather key information, organize it, and then safeguard it so others can access it when needed, as well as see practical examples for inspiration.

Our speaker is Bert Jones, longtime genealogist, event planner, graphic designer, photographer and host of several podcasts. He is sure to both inform and entertain! Join us via Zoom at: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87945684509>

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

### ST. PEDER'S ANNUAL COD FISH DINNER

Friday, March 7 - Seatings at 5pm and 6:30pm

St. Peder's wildly popular Cod Fish Dinner is back!

The dinner includes boiled potatoes, their famous mustard gravy, peas and carrots, Havarti cheese on pumpernickel, cupcakes, and beverages. Meatballs are available for your main entrée if you prefer them to fish. Cost is \$15.00 for adults, and kids under high school age eat free! To make reservations, call St. Peder's church at 612-722-8000 or email [office@stpeders.org](mailto:office@stpeders.org). Provide your name, number of people in your party, which seating time you prefer, phone number or email address, and number of cod dinners, meatball dinners, OR cod/meatball combos your party would like. All are welcome!



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 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 Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm  
 01 Library Open (members only) 11am-12pm

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

Wednesday 05 Virkelyst 7pm

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

Saturday 08 Book Repair 101, 1-3:30pm

Monday 10 Board Meeting 7pm  
 10 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 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 and 10:45am  
 16 Danebo Reading Circle 2-4pm

Sunday 23 Danish Dancing 6:30pm

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

Thursday 27 Vikingelauget/Viking Guild 7pm  
 27 Scottie Miller with Jennifer Grimm -  
 Music on the Mississippi 6-9pm

Friday 28 Fyraften 7pm

## MARCH

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 Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm  
 01 Library Open (members only) 11am-12pm

Sunday 02 Saga Writers 1:30-3:30pm  
 02 Fastelavns Party for the Kids 3-5pm

Monday 03 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7pm

Wednesday 05 Virkelyst 7pm

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

Saturday 08 Danish Language for Beginners 9:30-11am

Monday 10 Executive Committee Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 12 Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm

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

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

Saturday 22 Teeny Tiny Book Workshop 1-3:30pm

Sunday 23 Danish Dancing 6:30pm

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

Thursday 27 Vikingelauget/Viking Guild 7pm

Friday 28 Fyraften 7pm

February 2025