



# 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, April 4: 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!

## DAC ONLINE AUCTION PICK-UP

Saturday, April 12 from 10am-3pm

Winning bidders will receive an invoice by email. You can pay for your items on the auction site (<https://www.32auctions.com/DAC2025>) or pay with credit card or check when you pick up your items at the DAC.

## ÆBLESKIVE BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 13 at 9:00am 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](http://danishamericancenter.org), find April 13 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 April 11. Upcoming breakfasts: May 11 (Mother's Day Brunch) and Saturday, June 28 (outdoor pop-up).

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!

## DANISH DAY 2025—SAVE THE DATE

Plans for Danish Day 2025 are underway. Danish Day will be held on Sunday, June 1. 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 2025

- ♥ Dane of the Year Nominations
- ♥ Danish Song Tradition Concert
- ♥ Music on the Mississippi

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

This month's column is being written from a hotel room in Alabama. This is a part of the United States that I don't travel to often, but my family and I jumped at the chance to visit a new place. As many of you know, travel broadens our horizons and gives us perspective on what we see every day. It also makes us better, more accepting citizens, and gives us a chance to enjoy new experiences. It is easy to get wrapped up in the happenings of the world, and then lose focus on what is right in front of us. After relaxing on the beach for a few days, I intend to return home and focus a bit more of my energy on the Danish American Center. We have many exciting things happening, and I'm proud to be part of such a vibrant organization.

Plans are continuing for many of our annual traditions, including Danish Day, and the fundraising auction. Fundraising will get more of our focus during the next six months, as EJ Gurley has worked with a committee to identify opportunities for us to improve our fundraising methodology and raise funds for some significant organizational goals.

Our annual slate of activities continues, with

Music on the Mississippi concerts, and new exhibits in our Heritage room. In particular, the DAC received a beautiful donation of a carved wooden ship. This donation came from the Palm family, and it was an heirloom that has been handed down for many years within that family. We are very proud to display it in an exhibition that focuses on the seagoing exploits of Danes.

I have also asked our Building Committee to evaluate some improvement opportunities to the first floor of the DAC. We are looking to add restrooms on the first floor, adjacent to the Kaffestue, and we are also evaluating some other options to expand our gathering space in the atrium. More information about these projects will be coming soon. Our building committee has begun preliminary work to examine improvements and to help develop a budget. These are projects that will leave a legacy for many years to come, and we will benefit greatly as an organization from having improved spaces for gatherings and events.

As always, I am grateful to all the volunteers who work tirelessly on our committees and events. As I plan my drive home from Alabama, I anticipate returning to the DAC with a renewed focus and energy to work with our volunteers, and help to guide our exciting new projects.

Pete Gantriis

### Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the May issue is April 10

## DANE OF THE YEAR 2025

We are looking for nominations for Dane of the Year 2025. 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.

## 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 or [dainfo@dac.mn](mailto:dainfo@dac.mn).

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### Welcome New Members:

Ann Toline Nelson • David Stougaard  
Susan Larson • Noah Petersen  
Stephanie Klasi • Elizabeth A Ihrig

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

## 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).

## LEAVES FROM THE LIBRARY

SIGN UP NOW FOR A DAC LIBRARY ACCOUNT!

By DAC Librarian Felicity Hanson

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Icelandic Hekla Club of Minnesota, we present some Icelandic titles from the DAC library that you may enjoy. If you didn't catch my January blog post about voracious Icelandic readers, find it here: <https://danishamericancenter.org/about-us/library/leaves-from-the-library/>.

**Last Rituals** by Yrsa Sigurðardóttir

The spellbinding debut and international sensation published in thirty countries featuring Thóra Gudmundsdóttir, a smart, sexy lawyer and investigator whose hunt for a modern murderer points to a very odd—and evil—chapter in Iceland's past.

**I Remember You: A Ghost Story** by Yrsa Sigurðardóttir

In an isolated village in the Icelandic Westfjords, three friends set to work renovating a rundown house. But soon, they realize they are not as alone as they thought. Something wants them to leave, and it's making its presence felt.

**Angels of the Universe** by Einar Már Guðmundsson, won the Nordic Council's Literature Prize in 1995.

In its own surreal, non-linear way, this book tackles larger questions that cannot be answered: what is reality? Who determines what it is? More telling, who determines when you have stumbled outside the boundaries of reality and accepted norms?

*Angels of the Universe* tells the heartbreaking story of Paul, an Icelandic man who slowly loses his footing in reality while giving the reader a glimpse into Icelandic life.

**Miss Iceland** is a 2018 novel by award-winning novelist Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir.

Iceland in the 1960s. Hekla is a budding female novelist who was born in the remote district of Dalir. After packing her few belongings, including James Joyce's *Ulysses* and a Remington typewriter, she heads for Reykjavik with a manuscript buried in her bags. There, she intends to become a writer. Sharing an apartment with her childhood and queer friend Jón John, Hekla comes to learn that she will have to stand alone in a small male-dominated community that would rather see her win a pageant than be a professional artist. As the two friends find themselves increasingly on the outside, their bond shapes and strengthens them artistically in the most moving of ways.

**The Darkness Knows: An Inspector Konrád novel (#1)**

by Arnaldur Indriðason

A frozen body, apparently that of a businessman who disappeared thirty years before is discovered in the icy depths of Langjökull glacier. At the time, an extensive search and police investigation yielded no results—one of the missing man's business associates was briefly held in custody, but there wasn't enough evidence to charge him.

Now the associate is arrested again and Konrád, the retired policeman who originally investigated the disappearance, is called back to reopen the case that has weighed on his mind for decades.

**The Girl by the Bridge: An Inspector Konrád novel (#2)**

by Arnaldur Indriðason

When a young woman known for drug smuggling goes missing, her elderly grandparents have no choice but to call the retired Detective Konrád.

Still looking for his own father's murderer, Konrád agrees to investigate the case.

*NB: Synopses taken from various online sites.*

## SIGN UP NOW FOR A DAC LIBRARY ACCOUNT!

Did you know ... the DAC library has a great selection of titles across many genres? Members, come in and see for yourself! But sign up ahead of your visit for an online account so you can check something out:

1. To complete the Library Account Request form, click here: [bit.ly/3CNtRs3](http://bit.ly/3CNtRs3)
2. Library staff will set up your account and email your Patron ID and password along with basic instructions.
3. Visit the library during open hours (see below) or make an appointment.
4. Or view the catalog here: [bit.ly/412hLDz](http://bit.ly/412hLDz)  
Hope to see you soon!

### APRIL LIBRARY HOURS

Wednesday, April 2 from 9 am-1:30 pm

Saturday, April 5 from 10 am-12 pm

Or by appointment

To ask questions about the library or make an appointment, email [daclibrarymn@gmail.com](mailto:daclibrarymn@gmail.com).

## **CONCERT – BELOVED DANISH MUSIC REPRESENTING THE DANISH SONG TRADITION**

Taylor Ann Grand, Soprano; Lisa Jensen, Piano; Niels Billund, Vocals and Acoustic Guitar  
Sunday, April 26, 2:00 pm in the Atrium

Taylor Ann Grand will sing Danish classical and folk music, with Lisa Jensen on piano reprising the performance they presented at Orchestra Hall January 11, as part of the Minnesota Orchestra's Nordic Soundscape Festival. They will share commentary about some of the most beloved music by Danish composers and be joined by Niels Billund, who will play favorites by Kim Larsen. Combined with a few audience sing-a-longs, the afternoon will be a broad exploration of Danish music.

Minnesota-born Taylor Ann Grand received her Masters in Voice from The Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen in 2020, under the direction of Eva Hess Thaysen and Thomas Darelus. Pianist Lisa Jensen attended Askov Folk School and is a lifelong member of the Danish American Center. When he is not teaching Danish language classes, Danish-born Niels Billund has been playing original acoustic guitar and Danish folk music in the Twin Cities for years.

Free with registration, so we can plan for a reception with refreshments to follow. Login to your member account to sign up, or call the office at 612-729-3800.

## **DANEBO READING CIRCLE VISITS ICELAND VIA A NOVEL IN APRIL**

Sunday, April 13 from 2-4pm

North Commons Classroom and online

Join us to discuss Icelandic author Jón Kalman Stefánsson's novel *Heaven and Hell* (IS: *Bjartur, Himnaríki og helvíti*), 2008, 215 pages; translated by Philip Roughton (London: MacLehose, 2014 and Ontario: Biblioasis, 2025). The newest edition identifies it as "The Trilogy about the Boy, Book 1."

Discussion leader Marie Thorsten plans to explore the boy's journey on sea and land, especially the contrast between the young man and the world he inhabits. She describes the novel as a poetic exploration of friendship and love. The blurb on the library website offers this description: "Set at the turn of the twentieth century, *Heaven and Hell* is a perfectly formed, vivid and timeless story, lyrical in style, and as intense a reading experience

as the forces of the Icelandic landscape themselves. An outstandingly moving novel." A community commentator on that website was very enthusiastic: "The story is simple, but the poetic language and the atmosphere of the book are truly amazing! The words just grab you right from the start and don't let go."

On Sunday, May 18, the group will discuss Danish author Ib Michael's novel *Prince* (DK: *Prins*, Copenhagen: Gyldendal, 1997, 328 pages; translated by Barbara Haveland, New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999, 309 pages). Michael has written several award-winning novels and this is the first of his to be translated into English. His writing style is described as magical realism. *Prince* is an evocative, richly imagined novel about a defining season in the life of a young outcast. In 1912 at a provincial Danish seaside hotel, twelve-year-old Malte roams the beaches and observes the complicated world of the adults around him. Malte's adventurous wanderings around this summer paradise are climaxed by his discovery of a coffin washed ashore containing the body of a sailor. As the summer proceeds, Malte learns and also intuits much more about the adult world and the realities of death and change.

The Danebo Reading Circle welcomes current, former, and new members to meet with the group virtually or at the DAC. 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 virtual link are available by contacting [suzannej41@me.com](mailto:suzannej41@me.com). Come read and discuss with this engaging group! And there are always treats and beverages, too.

## **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 by email. If you have any questions, please contact the DAC office at 612-729-3800.

## MUSIC ON THE MISSISSIPPI

### ROBERT ROBINSON

Thursday, April 3: 6pm Social Hour  
7pm Concert in the atrium

Robert Robinson is absolutely one of Minnesota's & America's finest Gospel singers. Through his songs, he uses his gift to lift the audience with a message of good news, be that gospel or conveying his own first-hand knowledge of overcoming life's struggles.

Ticket sales are final; no refunds or exchanges.

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

### BRUCE A. HENRY AND DEAN MAGRAW

Thursday, May 8: 6pm Social Hour  
7pm Concert in the atrium

Bruce A. Henry is a vocalist, historian, storyteller, composer and performer extraordinaire. A baritone, whose three-and-a-half octave range allows him to also sing tenor, alto and falsetto, Bruce's pure, versatile voice has been heard nationally and taken him to five continents. He performed with and opened for the likes of Doc Severinson, Roberta Flack, Chris Botti, Ramsey Lewis, Stephane Grapelli, Jimmy Jam and The Sounds of Blackness.

Guitarist Dean Magraw's liquid, lyrical and effortless music transports and lifts the soul to a higher level as he weaves every note from his instrument and uses every silent moment to build his stories. Magraw performed in a duo for many years with Peter Ostroshko, and has also performed with Tim Sparks, John Gorka and many other artists.

Together the two of them promise to bring us an evening of intimate and soul stirring music that is bound to please.

Ticket sales are final; no refunds or exchanges.

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

Visit this concert's web page (<https://danishamericancenter.org/membership/event-calendar/#!event/2025/5/8/music-on-the-mississippi-with-bruce-a-henry-dean-magraw-social-hour-6pm-concert-7pm>) for more information and to purchase tickets.

## DANISH CLASSES

### INTERMEDIATE-ADVANCED DANISH DISCUSSION AND CULTURAL CLASS

Wednesdays, 1:30 pm: April 9 and 23; May 14 and 28  
Each session: \$10 DAC members, \$15 non-members

Come join a group of advanced language and culture learners for a discussion based on Danish author, Susanne V. Knudsen's book, *Grandmother's Universe (Farmors Verden)*. This class is for people with a solid Danish language foundation, who are interested in expanding their knowledge of the language, while diving into the challenging and harsh life of rural Denmark from 1880 to 1940. The class will move slowly through the chapters following student language levels.

Danish-born instructor Niels Billund has been teaching, tutoring and playing music for a number of years in the Twin Cities, including a stint at Skovsøen. He is currently translating *Grandmother's Universe* to English.

Register on the DAC website Classes and Events page: <https://danishamericancenter.org/classes-events/> or call the office at 612-729-3800.

### 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. Our last session



will be held 11:15am - 12:30pm Saturday, April 12. More information and registration available on the: <https://danishamericancenter.org/classes-events/>.

### 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.

## MEMORIALS

**Donations** in memory of **Joseph Mohr** from Kathleen Shannon Dorcy, Erik Bruun & Jytte Svarre, Glen & Martha Olsen, Ed Andersen, Kristian & Lora Lee Thusholt, Lisa Jensen & Reynold Vossen, Dennis & Turid Ormseth, Susan Jacobsen, Julie Robbins, Karla Theilen, Norma Theilen, and Lis Jorgensen

**Donation** in memory of **Dick Juhl** from Erik Bruun & Jytte Svarre, and Svea Ernst

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.

## NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

### LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT AT THE DANEBOF FOLK MEETING AUGUST 20-24, 2025

A quick reminder to mark your calendar for the Danebod Folk Meeting in Tyler!

New friends are made, old friends reunited. Teachers and students learn from each other.

These are some of the foundational tenets of the Danish folk school tradition and the annual Danebod Folk Meeting. At the 2025 Folk Meeting, Aug. 20-24, professionals and participants will come together for three and a half days of mutual hands-on learning.

This is your opportunity not only to hear from experts on topics like voting rights and the ethics of the environment and judicial system, but to let your voice, questions, and curiosity be heard! All events, from lectures to leisure, are designed for maximum interaction and engagement.

Don't let another season go by! Mark your calendars today and join us in Tyler for three days of lively discussions and experiential learning!

Visit [danebodfolkmeeting.org](http://danebodfolkmeeting.org). Registration materials will be available in early May.



## DANISH GENEALOGY

### LIVE GENEALOGICAL PROBLEM SOLVING ADVICE

Monday April 28, 2025 at 6:30 pm via Zoom

No matter how seasoned of a genealogist you are, sometimes there is a certain problem that stumps you and you need some help. Join us for an informal meeting of fellow Danish-American genealogists for an evening of problem solving, advice, networking and sharing what strategies may have worked for you. While time may not allow to actually solve individual problems, advice will be given to those asking on where to guide their next research steps. No need to register; simply click on the Zoom link below shortly before the meeting starts. This event is provided free of charge from the National Danish-American Genealogical Society. For more information on our group, including about our world class newsletter, membership, and upcoming events, please visit [www.danishgenealogy.org](http://www.danishgenealogy.org)

Zoom link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/82982590307?pwd=d52R8pb4bNI6sRblCdjO16Jkl77NLu.1>

### THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION HAS ANNOUNCED THE WINNERS OF ITS SCANDINAVIAN FOLK ARTS AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS PROGRAM, INCLUDING SONJA PETERSON OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

Introduced in 2017, this program helps to nurture the rich Scandinavian folk art traditions in the Upper Midwest (North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan) by deepening the skills of master artists, fostering long-term relationships among masters and apprentices, and enhancing the traditions' visibility through public programs and community projects.

In August 2025, Sonja Peterson will travel to Denmark to enhance her expertise in psaligraphy—the Danish tradition of papercutting. While in Denmark, Ms. Peterson will attend workshops on small-scale psaligraphy in the Gækkebrev tradition and visit exhibitions on traditional and contemporary papercutting techniques at the Odense Museum and the Papir Kunst Museum. Upon her return, Ms. Peterson will lead workshops on psaligraphy and showcase her work in exhibitions across the Midwest, sharing the art of traditional and modern papercutting.



# Scholarship for Study in Denmark, Fall 2025 & Spring 2026



**Applications Due by  
May 9th and October  
31st, 2025!**

**Instructions, Qualifications & Application Link**

Visit [www.umrsc.org](http://www.umrsc.org)

*The scholarship is made available by the  
Upper Midwest Rebuild Scholarship Corporation.*



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## APRIL

Mondays at 9:30am: Watercolor Group  
 Wednesdays 10am-2pm: DAC office Hours  
 Wednesdays 10am-3pm: Mah Jongg  
 Wednesday 02 Virkelyst 7pm  
 02 Library Open (members only) 9am-1:30pm  
 Thursday 03 Robert Robinson | 6pm Social, 7pm Concert  
 Friday 04 Member Social Hour 4-6pm  
 04 Tøseften 7pm  
 Saturday 05 Danish Language for Beginners 9:30-11am  
 05 Library Open (members only) 10am-12pm  
 05 Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm  
 Sunday 06 Saga Writers 1:30-3:30pm  
 Monday 07 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7pm  
 Wednesday 09 Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm  
 09 Advanced Danish Class 1:30-3pm  
 Saturday 12 Danish Language for Beginners 9:30-11am  
 12 Auction Item Pick Up 10am-3pm  
 12 Beginners Plus Danish 11:15am-12:30pm  
 Sunday 13 Æbleskive Breakfast 9am and 10:45am  
 13 Danebo Reading Circle 2-4pm  
 Monday 14 Board Meeting 7pm  
 Wednesday 23 Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm  
 23 Advanced Danish Class 1:30-3pm  
 Thursday 24 Vikingelauget/Viking Guild 7pm  
 Friday 25 Fyraften 7pm  
 Saturday 26 DAC Concert: Taylor Ann Grand,  
 Lisa Jensen & Niels Billund 2pm  
 Sunday 27 Danish Dancing 6:30pm

## MAY

Mondays at 9:30am Watercolor Group  
 Wednesdays 10am-2pm: DAC office Hours  
 Wednesdays 10am-3pm Mah Jongg  
 Friday 02 Member Social Hour 4-6pm  
 02 Tøseften 7pm  
 Saturday 03 Library Open (members only) 10am-12pm  
 03 Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm  
 Sunday 04 Saga Writers 1:30-3:30pm  
 Monday 05 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7pm  
 Wednesday 07 Virkelyst 7pm  
 Thursday 08 Music on the Mississippi – Bruce Henry,  
 6pm Social, 7pm Concert  
 Sunday 11 Æbleskive Breakfast 9am and 10:45am  
 Monday 12 Executive Committee Meeting  
 Wednesday 14 Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm  
 14 Advanced Danish Class 1:30-3pm  
 Sunday 18 Danebo Reading Circle 2-4pm  
 Wednesday 28 Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm  
 28 Advanced Danish Class 1:30-3pm  
 Thursday 29 Vikingelauget/Viking Guild 7pm  
 Friday 30 Fyraften 7pm

April 2025