



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

SANGAFTEN

Sunday, December 7: 7pm

Join us to sing many of our favorite Danish and English Christmas songs together with friends and family. The evening will be led by Lisa Jensen on our grand piano beside our beautiful Christmas tree in the Atrium! We will sing for about an hour and then enjoy some æbleskiver and coffee (traditional for the Christmas season in Denmark). Hope to see you at this hyggelige holiday event!



DAC JULEFROKOST IS SOLD OUT, BUT VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

We'd love your help to bring this year's Julefrokost to life! All volunteers working on Saturday are welcome to the Julefrokost food at the end of the event! We are looking for help on these dates:

- Thursday, December 11
- Friday, December 12
- Saturday, December 13

For more information and to sign up to volunteer, visit our Julefrokost Volunteer page on Sign-up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084AAFAE23A5F58-60384833-2025#/>

Tusind tak!



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday December 14, 3-6pm

Come and enjoy æbleskiver, make Christmas crafts, and sing and dance around the tree. We hope Santa will pay us a visit—help fill his bag with a SMALL gift addressed to your child. There will not be a supper this year, but we will have plenty of æbleskiver for all to enjoy. This is a FREE event that does not require reservations. At-will donations will be accepted at the door.

DECEMBER 2025

- ♥ Nordic Soundscapes
- ♥ Danish Christmas Heritage Exhibit
- ♥ 2026 Danebo Reading Circle Picks

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I always enjoy this time of year. Fall is a chance for us to tidy things up, button up and prepare for the cold weather that is soon to be here. I think fall is my favorite season. I love the cool sunny days and cozy nights, and the sound of leaves as we walk through the grass and anticipate how to prepare for the upcoming winter.

Winter brings so many great celebrations at DAC. The December calendar is full of our traditional events, including the Julefrokost, Children's Christmas Party, and so many other fun holiday concerts and gatherings. The holiday season brings excitement, joy, and hygge.

Along with these exciting gatherings, work continues at the DAC. The construction project on the first floor is well underway as I write this. The building committee has been working steadily on the bathroom project, and they have coordinated the work with subcontractors. Lots of headway is being made, and we anticipate that project to be finished within the next couple of months. We also encountered an unexpected but necessary repair to the roof of our building.

I'm grateful to our volunteers who keep such close tabs on maintenance and repair projects around our property. I am also grateful to our financial stewards within the organization who have helped us maintain a solid financial footing that enables us to address these critical repairs and improvements promptly.

I recently attended a 60th birthday party for a close friend. The gathering was hosted at DAC, and as a guest at a function, it gives me a chance to appreciate what we've built at DAC. We have a wonderful community of friends and families working together and celebrating together in a cozy environment. As I looked around the room, I saw four generations of several families who have been involved at DAC. It warms my heart to think of the founders of our organization, who must have hoped that our community would become a long-standing institution that celebrates friends, family, community, and Danish culture. It was a reminder to me that we are stewards of the organization, keeping it strong and vibrant so the foundation remains solid for generations to come.

Pete Gantriis

DANISH TUTOR AVAILABLE

Contact Niels Billund at nielsbillund@gmail.com. In lieu of payment, Niels requests his students donate to the Danish American Center.

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the January issue is December 10

MEMBER SOCIAL GATHERINGS ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE DAC!

Friday, December 5: 4-6pm

Join your member friends for an informal social gathering. Soft drinks and non-alcoholic beer available for purchase. No reservations needed; come join us!

TIPS ON USING OUR WEBSITE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR REGISTER FOR MEMBER EVENTS

• RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

1. Log in to your member account at danishamericancenter.org
2. Click on Go to Account Management.
3. Check your contact info for accuracy. Under that, click on Renew, Upgrade or Update Billing.
4. Membership and payment options will appear. Check that they're accurate, or change to what you want.
5. Complete payment process with credit card.
6. Recurring payment option now available, and American Express now accepted.

• REGISTERING FOR MEMBER EVENTS ONLINE

Your DAC membership must be current to register for member events.

1. Log in to your member account at danishamericancenter.org
2. Click on **Go to Event Calendar**
4. Select the event for which you wish to register
5. Click on the blue "Register Now!" button that will appear toward the bottom of the page.
6. Fill in all the information and credit card number.
7. Click the blue "Register!" button.
8. You will receive an email confirmation of registration. Make sure to check your Junk and/or Spam folders.

If you have any questions on renewing your membership, or registering for member events on our website, contact the DAC office at 612-729-3800 or dainfo@dac.mn.

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, Pipper Berg Madsen, Charli Donchetz,
Paul Jensen, Ginny Kirkegaard Leppart, Susan Loschenkohl,
Ryan Maki, Tom Peterson, Selma Petterson,
Bruce Simpson, Karma Walker, and Pernille Whited

DANews Committee:

Pipper Berg Madsen
Betina Kohler
Susan Loschenkohl
Myra Madsen
Michelle Potter-Bacon

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

VISIT A MID-CENTURY MODERN CHRISTMAS IN THE DAC HERITAGE ROOM

Drink in a mid-century Danish Christmas in the DAC Heritage Room this December where a sitting room has been decked out with all the trappings of a traditional Danish Christmas. Aftenkaffe complete with traditional julesmåkager is set with 1959's Jens Quistgaard-



designed "Relief" stonewear while Frederik Bramming's kravlensisser look on. Special thanks to our exhibit partner, [Danish Teak Classics](#) for lending us the exquisite hutch desk and sofa.

NORDIC SOUNDSCAPES: YOUR WINTER SANCTUARY, MUSIC FESTIVAL AT MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA

January 3-17

Cozy fires, crafted cocktails, and the gentle hum of anticipation illuminate winter nights at Orchestra Hall — where your Nordic musical journey begins. Be moved by music shaped by solitude, long darkness, quiet landscapes and stillness, performed by your Minnesota Orchestra, featuring Music Director Thomas Søndergård and guest artists. Danish composers include Carl Nielsen and Hans Abrahamsen. Get your tickets now to the ultimate winter music festival! Hear sounds to warm your winter and pieces bound to inspire. Come early for performances and experiences from Nordic partner organizations. Tickets start at \$25. www.Nordicsoundscapes.org

Visit the Nordic Soundscapes Marketplace where you'll enjoy food, beverages, wares and a festive lounge space from Krown Bakery, Ingebretsen's, Vikre Distillery, Danish Teak, Event Lab and more.

January 3: 6:30-7:45pm: Danish papercutting with Sonja Peterson presented in partnership with the Danish American Center, Minneapolis.



DANISH BEGINNERS 2

Prerequisite Danish Beginners 1, a language course using the textbook *Colloquial Danish* for adult learners. We cover core basic language skills in everyday scenarios with plenty of grammar lessons and opportunities to practice with audio and written assignments in the textbook, and hands-on group work in class.

The course meets for ten sessions at the Danish American Center with optional Zoom 'office hour' sessions where students may check in with questions about the lesson or homework assignment. Google Classroom is used for communication and classwork.

In person sessions at DAC

Saturdays from 9:30 to 11am

January 10, 17, 24; February 7, 14, 21; March 7, 14, 21

Year-end wrap-up celebration April 11, 10:30am - 12:30pm

Zoom Office Hours (optional)

Saturdays from 9:30 to 10am

January 31, February 28, March 28

Location: North Commons Classroom

Cost \$125 for members / \$175 for non-members

*Register by going to January 10 at <https://danishamericancenter.org/public-calendar/>

DANISH BEGINNERS PLUS 2

Beginner Plus is a bi-monthly mini-class designed for those with a little more language experience and/or those who have completed previous Beginning Danish courses at DAC. The participants work collaboratively to choose Danish games, stories, films, and more to delve a little deeper into their language learning.

Spring classes will be held on Saturdays from 11:15am to 12:30pm in the North Commons Classroom.

We'll kick off our spring sessions on January 10, with additional sessions on January 24, February 7 & 21, March 7 & 21 and the year-end wrap up celebration with the Beginner 2 cohort on April 11, from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

Cost per class: \$12 for members / \$17 for non-members

*Register separately for any or all of the classes offered, at <https://danishamericancenter.org/public-calendar/>.

GET INVOLVED IN A DAC ACTIVITY GROUP!

THE SAGA WRITERS!

Sunday, December 7, 1:30-3:30pm, N Commons Classroom
Do something with those memories and stories you've carried around in your head for years! Come join our friendly and supportive group of writers to share your goals, aspirations and accomplishments.

SPILLEFOLK

Tuesday, December 16, 7-9pm in the Atrium
Bring an instrument and join us to play Danish folk music! A list of tunes will be provided, with online sources for sheet music when possible. To be added to the mailing list or to make song suggestions, email Christopher Moeller at moeller612@aol.com.

LEAVES FROM THE LIBRARY

by DAC Librarian Felicity Hanson

Who was Tove Ditlevsen?

Tove Ditlevsen has been "rediscovered" following the English translation of her three-volume memoir, *The Copenhagen Trilogy: Childhood, Youth, Dependency*, which was named one of the *NYTimes* 10 best books of 2021.



Ditlevsen was born on December 14, 1917, in Copenhagen, and grew up in the poor, working-class district of Vesterbro. Her father told her, "Girls can't be poets." She was unable to continue her education past age 14 and had to work. Yet by her early 20s, her poems were published, and she was a renowned poet.

Ditlevsen's tumultuous life: four marriages, an illegal abortion, three children plus one adopted. Husband #3 nearly killed her with increasing doses of Demerol: he liked passive women. She became addicted and struggled with this and depression for the rest of her life. She died by suicide in 1976.

Ditlevsen was enormously popular during her lifetime, and her books sold well. They were in the reading curriculum of many Danish schools, [yet] her work was often disregarded by the literary establishment, being

considered "women's books." Her work was not included in the official Danish literary canon until 2014.

Most literary critics agree: Ditlevsen was a brilliant writer. Below are attributes gleaned from just a few critics' published reviews of Ditlevsen's work.

Nina Siegal, *New York Times* Jan 7, 2023: concise, terse, energy, vulnerability, courage, stunning clarity, humor, candidness, raw, way ahead of the curve, unflinching honesty, artistic transformation of pain into hope.

Megan O'Grady, *New York Times Book Review*, Jan 26, 2021: immediacy, vitality, rueful honesty, bracing lack of vanity, tenderly wrapped horror, extraordinary clarity, imperfect feminist, diffident, funny.

Marie Solis, *The Nation* May 6, 2021: taut, lucid, composed, resists the conventions, beautiful Danish literature translator Michael Favala Goldman: "...after reading the last page [of volume 3 in Danish] ...it occurred to me that I had just read a masterpiece." Goldman subsequently translated the book, *Dependency*, and the Trilogy came together.

The DAC library has several Danish and English versions of Ditlevsen's books. I encourage you to rediscover Tove Ditlevsen for yourself.

To search the DAC online catalog, go to bit.ly/41zhLDz

To find a book: Enter your search terms in the box. Anyone can search; checkout is available to DAC members with a library account. Members can request an account here: bit.ly/3CnTRs3 or email daclibrarymn@gmail.com

SINGALONG WITH DAN CHOUINARD

Monday, December 8: 7pm in the Atrium



Monthly community singalongs are arranged around a month's birthdays or the season, with lyrics projected on a screen. There is always a Scandinavian tune or two and plenty of time for requests. Free and open to all.



DANEBO READING CIRCLE HAS PLANS FOR 2026

During the DAC reading group's brief winter break and in addition to all the festivities of December and early January, members are looking forward to eight new books for the coming year. The Danebo Reading Circle usually meets on the third Sunday of eight months, taking June-August and December off. Meetings in 2026 will begin at 1pm and end by 3pm. There will always be a Zoom option in addition to the on-site meeting in the North Commons at the DAC.

Thanks to nominations by members, the work of Michelle Potter-Bacon, and the votes of many members, the Reading Circle is pleased with its schedule of meetings and books for 2026, featuring three Danish authors:

January 18 *Njáls Saga (Brennu-Njáls Saga)* by an unknown author (IS); 1270, 418 pp; translated into English by Robert Cook for Penguin Classics, 1960.

February 15 *The Fish Can Sing (Brekukotsannáll)*, a novel by Halldór Laxness (IS); 1957, 288 pages; translated into English by Magnús Magnússon (ä1966) for Havrill Press, 2000.

March 15 *The Greenlanders*, an historical fiction novel by Jane Smiley (US); 1988, 558 pages.

April 19 *On the Calculation of Volume (Om Udregning af Rumfang)*, a novel by Solvej Balle (DK); 2020, 161 pages; translated by Barbara Haveland for publication in English in 2024.

May 17 *The Dangerous Age (Den farlige Adler)*, a novel by Karin Michelaëlis (DK); 1910, 104 pages; translated into English by Beatrice Marshall in 1912; published in digital format by Project Gutenberg in 2004.

September 20 *The Sisters (Systarna)*, a novel by Jonas Hassen Khemiri (SE); 2023, 638 pages; translated by the author for publication in English in 2025.

October 18 *Wolf Hour (Minnesota)*, a mystery novel by Jo Nesbø (NO); 2025, 400 pages; translated by Robert Ferguson for publication in English in February 2026.

November 15 *The Keeper of Lost Causes (Kvinden i Buret)*, the first Department Q mystery by Jussi Adler-Olsen (DK); 2007, 417 pages; translated into English by Lisa Hartford for publication in the UK (Mercy) in 2011; current paperback edition, 2012.

Bookmarks with the full schedule are available on the table outside the DAC Library. More details about the group and 2026 are available by contacting suzannej41@me.com and in the January issue of *DANews*. Until then, Glædelig jul og godt nytår!

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

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome New Members:

Deloris (Nielsen) Ross • Dorothy Doring
Laura Hanson and Joe Walker • Lisa Nielsen
Carolina and Daniel Li • Erik Hammerdahl
Sharon Seifert • Karen Pedersen • Lars Kuehnow
Gail Weyerhaeuser • Deborah Utoft • Steven Adams

DAC Directory Information - For further contact information on new and current members, please visit the Members Only portion of the DAC website by visiting danishamericancenter.org and logging into your account. For questions, or assistance accessing your account please 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 email.

MEMORIALS AND DONATIONS

Donations in memory of **Leif Duus** from Karen Jorgensen Royce

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.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

JULEAFTENSGUDSTJENESTE

Wednesday, December 24: 3:15pm - St Peder's Church
Pastor Andres Albertsen will once again be leading a Danish language Christmas Eve service at St. Peder's Lutheran Church. All are welcome! We will sing many of our favorite Danish Christmas hymns in St. Peder's beautiful sanctuary with lighted Christmas trees at the altar. St. Peder's Church is located at 4600 East 42nd Street in South Minneapolis. Call St. Peder's Church office at 612-722-8000 or email office@stpeders.org with questions.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

Mondays 9:30am: Watercolor Group
 Wednesdays 9am-1:30pm Library-Members Only (Except Dec 24 & 31)
 Wednesdays 10am-2pm: DAC Office Hours (Except Dec 24 & 31)
 Wednesdays 10am-3pm: Mah-Jongg (Except Dec 24 & 31)

Friday	05	Member Social Hour 4-6pm
	05	Tøseften 7pm
Saturday	06	Danish Language Beginners 1 10:30-12:30pm
	06	Danish Language Beginners Plus 1 10:30am-12:30pm
	06	Library Open Hours for members only 10am-12pm
	06	Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm
	06	Virkelyst Julefrokost 12-4pm
Sunday	07	Saga Writers 2:30-4:30pm
	07	Sangften 7pm
Monday	08	Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7-8:30pm
	08	Board Meeting 7-9pm
Saturday	13	Julefrokost Doors Open 11:30am
Sunday	14	Children's Christmas Party 3pm
Tuesday	16	Spillefolk 7-9pm
Friday	19	Fyraften 6pm
Wednesday	24	GLÆDELIG JUL!
Thursday	25	MERRY CHRISTMAS!

JANUARY

Mondays 9:30am: Watercolor Group
 Wednesdays 9am-1:30pm Library - Members Only
 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 Hours for members only 10am-12pm
	03	Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm
Sunday	04	Saga Writers 2:30-4:30pm
Monday	05	Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7-8:30pm
Wednesday	07	Virkelyst 7-9pm
Thursday	08	Vikingelaugget - The Viking Guild 7-9:30pm
Saturday	10	Danish Language Beginners 2 9:30-11am
	10	Danish Language Beginners Plus 2 11:15am-12:30pm
Monday	12	DAC Board Executive Committee Meeting 7pm
Wednesday	14	Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm
Saturday	17	Danish Language Beginners 2 9:30-11am
Sunday	18	Æbleskive Breakfast 9am and 10:45am
	18	Danebo Reading Circle 1pm
Tuesday	20	Spillefolk 7-9pm
Saturday	24	Danish Language Beginners 2 9:30-11am
	24	Danish Beginners Plus 2 11:15am-12:30pm
Sunday	25	Danish Dancing 6:15-9pm
Wednesday	28	Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm
Friday	30	Fyraften 6pm
Saturday	31	Tøsegruppen 5pm

December 2025