



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.

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 10: 9am / 10:45am

Come and enjoy our all-you-can-eat breakfast and support the DAC!

Reservations are required and are on a first-come, first-served basis. This event is open to both members and non-members. Cost- DAC Members:

\$17/adult and \$11/child ages 5-12. Non-Members: \$19/adult and \$13/child ages 5-12. Children under age 5 are free. The menu will include æbleskiver, egg bake, sausage, juice, rugbrød with cheese and salami, fruit, dessert and coffee. Gluten-free æbleskiver will also be served!



To register, go to <https://danishamericancenter.org/public-calendar/>, find May 10 and select the seating of your choice. We will accept a limited number of take-out orders; please select the 'Take Out' option on the calendar. You may also call the DAC office (612-729-3800) for assistance. Prepayment is required for all breakfast seatings and take-out orders. Upcoming breakfast: June 27 outdoor free æbleskiver fundraiser.

If you are interested in volunteering at one of our breakfasts or have questions, please contact Carla & Joel Mortensen at carla.s.mortensen@gmail.com or 612-594-4925. We hope to see you there!

DANE OF THE YEAR 2026

We are looking for nominations for Dane of the Year 2026. If you have a nomination, please submit to the office at dainfo@dac.mn or call the office at 612-729-3800. Include the member's name and list the reasons you feel they should be honored as Dane of the Year. Deadline for nominations is May 10.

DANISH DAY: SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026

Our full Danish Day schedule is now available! Turn to page 6 for details. We look forward to seeing you!

MAY 2026

- ♥ Danish Day 2026
- ♥ Music on the Mississippi
- ♥ A Brief Visit to Denmark

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was fortunate to attend the Akvavit Tasting Fundraiser a couple weeks ago. The event went very well, and I am grateful to the volunteers for continuing the tradition



of this much loved event. The food was wonderful, and the donations were plentiful! Special thanks to Anders, Ulrich, and Malcolm for their planning, and also for their efforts in securing generous donations from the various distilleries. We all enjoyed a variety of different akvavit and cocktails featuring our favorite spirit.

At the most recent board meeting, we reviewed some of the progress on our building projects. We are expecting our new chairs to be delivered to the DAC by the time you read this. This new seating will be used in the dining room and throughout our event spaces at the DAC. The chairs represent a significant investment, and we received multiple donations to help offset the costs. Thank you to everyone who gave their input on the new furniture. We will be making an effort to dispose of the old stacking chairs appropriately.

The ADA bathroom project is complete on the first floor, and the changes to the

suite have also been finished. We were able to put all that space into service within the past six weeks. The remodeled suite looks terrific, and I am grateful to all the volunteers who helped with that first floor renovation project. Among future improvements, we are evaluating ideas for new flooring throughout the first floor of the DAC. The carpet that has been in use for over 10 years is due for replacement, and we will be choosing a new flooring product that fits our design goals and will be able to withstand heavy foot traffic.

Finally, the board has been working steadily on the Danish Day planning. Our committees are in place, and the food and drinks menu is being finalized. Danish Day is an annual tradition, and we will be looking for volunteers to help with all aspects of the event. If you're interested in helping with Danish Day, please reach out to the office and indicate that you have the time and availability to contribute. We encourage new members to join these committees, as it is a great way to get to know others in the DAC. No experience is necessary!

As always, I am grateful to all of our members and volunteers for making the DAC the wonderful organization that it is now, and will continue to be.

Happy spring!

Pete Gantriis

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the June issue is May 10

Email submissions to danews@dac.mn

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 TUTOR AVAILABLE

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



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:

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

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Paul Jensen, Ginny Kirkegaard Leppart, Susan Loschenkohl,
Ryan Maki, Tom Peterson, Selma Petterson,
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Susan Loschenkohl
Myra Madsen
Michelle Potter-Bacon

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

A BRIEF VISIT TO DENMARK

Thursday, May 21: 6:30-8:30pm

The DAC is proud to offer a new Danish Language Workshop for beginners. Join Annette D. and Pippa, who were both born and raised in Denmark, for some basic language skills and cultural experiences. Take this class as an introduction to the Danish language before a visit to Denmark, to help you search for your ancestors, or for your personal pleasure. Don't miss out on this single two hour class, meeting in the North Classroom. All proceeds go to the DAC.

Price: \$20 members/\$25 non-members

Register by going to May 21 at <https://danishamericancenter.org/public-calendar/>



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.

LEAVES FROM THE LIBRARY

by DAC Librarian Felicity Hanson

This month I am delighted to tell you about new book donations to the DAC library.

100 Poems from the Medieval Period to the Present Day. Each poem in this book has the original Danish version with the English translation alongside. The majority of poems have not previously been available in English but demonstrate "many qualities to be found in Danish lyric poetry across historical periods." A rare find.

Arts: Women Artists in Denmark 1880-1910 "shines a spotlight on a number of female artists' contributions to the Danish art scene at the end of the 19th Century... They revolutionized art," despite its being a male-dominated discipline at the time, "and their contributions were integral to making art modern." This is a gorgeous book packed with full-color art images. Not to be missed!

Romance: The Little Cafe in Copenhagen. Kate Sinclair's successful life is dealt a blow by a treacherous boyfriend who steals her promotion. A move to Copenhagen offers a fresh start and perhaps a new chance at romance?

Cooking: Classic Recipes of Denmark. I love this small book of 25 authentic recipes. Beautifully presented full-color photos of finished recipes and ingredients. Some ingredients may be hard to find, but the book is worth reading. Leverpostej, frikadeller, rødkål, and agurksalat are high on my list to try.

Genealogy: Harbor to Harvest: The Families of Peter Berg follows the true fortunes of 18-year-old Peter from his 1892 Ellis Island arrival to his life over the decades, culminating in nearly 200 current descendants. Told by his grandson, author Ken Amundson.

GENEALOGY CONSULTATION

Saturday, May 2: 10am-1pm

Free consultations with a DAC genealogist are available on the first Saturday of each month. If you are interested in learning more about your family history and where your ancestors came from, join Bill Holmquist in the library and he will share resources with you so you can find your family history. He doesn't do the research for you but he can point you in the right direction and give you the tools so you can do your own research efficiently. Then, consider joining the Saga Writers and write up your family stories.

DANEBO READING CIRCLE READS A DANISH AUTHOR'S VIEWS ON WOMANHOOD

Sunday, May 17: 1-3pm

This month's Reading Circle novel was written more than 100 years ago: *The Dangerous Age: Letters and Fragments from a Woman's Diary (Den farlige alder)*, by Karin Michaëlis (DK); 1910, c108 pp; translated into English by Beatrice Marshall in 1912 with an introduction by Marcel Prévost; published in digital format by Project Gutenberg in 2004 (gutenberg.org). The book stirred controversy at the beginning of the 20th Century and has a message that still resonates. Its themes of aging and sexuality continue to prompt discussion today.

Discussion leader Katy Lindblad offers this commentary found on FemBio.org: "Karin Michaëlis went too far for some in 1910 by choosing to focus on a taboo subject in her new novel, *The Dangerous Age*, which addresses the topic of female menopause with such emotion and candor that it caused a public outcry after its publication, with middle-class women and frightened men particularly outraged. Michaëlis dared to write about a woman yearning for sexual satisfaction, about a woman who decides to leave her husband, and about the ongoing struggle of a woman to be free. Women in Germany were indignant after the novel was published in German later that same year: 'She has exposed our last remaining intimacies.' Karin Michaëlis was on the threshold of old age – and, in those times, any respectable woman of 40 was supposed to live sedately and without any sexual desires – when she coined the term "dangerous age" for an entire generation. A million copies of the book were sold; her novel launched an open discussion about female sexuality and about women growing older."

For the online publication, the "automatically generated summary" describes the protagonist, Elsie Lindtner, as embarking "on a profound journey of self-discovery... seeking independence.... The themes of aging, emotional conflict, and the expectations placed on women emerge prominently as she questions traditional roles and contemplates her identity in the wake of societal judgements." To access the book, search the title on the Project Gutenberg website (gutenberg.org). It can be read there or downloaded to an e-reader. It is also available on Libby.

The reading group usually takes the three summer months off. However, on Sunday, June 14, they are rescheduling the snowed-out March discussion of Jane Smiley's *The Greenlanders*. The meeting will be in the Danebo Lounge on the Lower Level of the DAC, 1-3pm, and on Zoom.

During the summer hiatus, the group encourages members to prepare nominations for the 2027 book selection process. Preferences are for fiction from any Nordic author translated into English and widely available (stores or libraries) in print or online, but non-fiction related to the Nordic countries may be considered. Nominations are due by Wednesday, September 9.

Please join the reading group in May or June. Bookmarks with the remaining 2026 schedule are on the table outside the DAC Library. For more information, Zoom links, or to request forms and submit nominations for 2027, contact suzannej41@me.com.

UPCOMING VIRKELYST MEETINGS

We look forward to meeting via Zoom or in person each month through June. If you are interested in joining Virkelyst (a friendly and caring group of women) please contact Ginny Leppart for more information, ginny.leppart@gmail.com or 612-532-5750.

May 6: In person meeting at 7pm

Agricultural and arborist enthusiast Dick Haskett will be our presenter. Potential topics include "Getting to Know the Tall Neighbors" walk, "The Woods of Our Lives," "History of This Place" (meaning the DAC plot of land), or "10 Vegetables You Can Grow."

June 3: Annual picnic at the DAC 6pm

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 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.



photo credit: STEVE MOSBERG

MUSIC ON THE MISSISSIPPI: LINDA PETERSON, BILLY PETERSON, JASON PETERSON DELAIRE

Thursday, May 7: 6pm Social Hour / 7pm Concert

This is your chance to hear Linda and Billy Peterson before they go to Denmark to perform at the Copenhagen Jazz Festival. They will treat us to some of their finest tunes accompanied by Linda's son, Jason, on the Saxophone. Spring in full bloom is the perfect time for stories of spring, blossoming love, rekindled love, rejuvenation, and a fresh start.

Billy Peterson is a regular performer at the Copenhagen Jazz Festival. Also a DAC member, he freely shared his talent with us during social hours. He is famously in the Grammy Hall of Fame for his contribution in the band on Bob Dylan's *Blood on the Tracks* album. He has toured extensively with Ben Sidran and the Steve Miller Band, The Righteous Brothers, and Laurence Welk. While working for Gibson Guitars he played with B.B.King, Lenny Breau and Les Paul. At DAC he usually plays double bass but he is a master of electric bass as well.

Linda Peterson, our talented DAC member, will bring her smoky voice and sensitive interpretations to the DAC Atrium. While living in Denmark she performed at MontMartre in Copenhagen, Hotel Scheelsminde in Aalborg, and other venues in Århus and Aalborg as well as Blokhus, Løkken, and Hirtshals. She recorded two CDs while in Denmark which garnered great reviews here in the US. She has played in Sweden, Switzerland, across the United States and regularly returns to Denmark to play in the Copenhagen Jazz Festival.

Jason Peterson DeLaire went to school in Denmark while living there with his mother, Linda, and sister. He still speaks a little Danish. He has played his Saxophone in 102 countries touring the world with artist Michael Bolton. He is a master musician, arranger, bandleader and producer, as well as a great singer with a warm and soulful voice.

EXPLORE OUR DAC COLLECTIONS ONLINE

Are you interested in learning more about the history of our building? Would you like to know more about the people of our Danish American community in the Twin Cities, past and present? Did you know that our building houses hundreds of pieces of art? Explore the treasures of the DAC using the online library.



We began to digitize our original photographs and ephemera with a grant from the MnDigital Library for inclusion in the MnDigital Library website. With a grant from the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society, we are continuing to catalog our art and design objects, photographs and documents in a collection management system. This allows us to better care for our collections and make them available to the public through partnership with MnCollections.org, a project of the Minnesota Alliance for Local History Museums.

To visit the site, log in to the DAC website, scroll down and click "Collections". This will give you an overview. Then scroll down and click mncollections.org There you will see everything we have catalogued so far. This is a work in progress, but so far we have archived over 200 items. We have an amazing history, and now it is available for all of us to see and enjoy online.



DANISH DAY 2026

Sunday, June 7: 11am to 3pm

Make sure to put this on your calendar for an afternoon of good food and great fellowship as we celebrate Grundlovsdag! There will be food and drink to purchase including Danish style hot dogs with all the trimmings, frikadeller, shrimp salad, Havarti on rugbrød, herring, æbleskiver, layer cake, cookie bags and ice cream. We will also have beer, wine, akvavit and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages including coffee, soda, and sparkling water available for sale as well. The City of Minneapolis is providing us with an outdoor water dispenser so we are encouraging people to bring their own water bottles for that. You are welcome to bring your own food if you wish. However, no outside alcohol or beer is allowed. To avoid long lines on the day of the event, you can purchase tickets online ten days before the event and pick them up when you arrive.

DANISH DAY SCHEDULE

11am – 3pm: Food booths, Vendors & Loppemarked open, Viking Guild Demonstrations

12:15pm: National Anthems - Taylor Ann Grand
President's Welcome & Dane of the Year announcement - Peter Gantriis

1-3pm: Musical performances on the outdoor stage

2pm: Children's Nisse hunt

3pm: Danish Day Ends

As always, we are looking for volunteers for set up / take down, and helping with food service and sales during the event. Look for an email that will be sent very soon with a volunteer sign up!

SINGALONG WITH DAN CHOUINARD



Monday, May 4 at 7pm in the Atrium

Monthly community singalongs are arranged around a month's birthdays or the season, with lyrics projected on a screen. We

always include a Scandinavian tune or two and leave plenty of time for requests. Free and open to all.

AKVAVIT TASTING FUNDRAISER

The Danish American Center hosted a highly successful Akvavit Tasting Fundraiser on March 21, bringing together community members for an afternoon of exceptional food, spirits, and fellowship—while raising nearly \$5,000 to support DAC programs.

Guests were treated to a thoughtfully curated menu of Danish specialties, including herring on rye, shrimp and egg, gravad laks, liver pâté, frikadeller, and a cheese course. Each dish was paired with distinctive aquavits, offering attendees a guided journey through the flavors and traditions of the Nordic spirit. Feedback from both attendees and volunteers was overwhelmingly positive.

The fundraiser was made possible through the generous support of sponsors, including Tattersall Distilling, 45th Parallel Distillery, Skaalvenn, Norseman Distillery, Vikre Distillery, and Olsen Fish Company. Their contributions elevated the tasting experience and played a key role in the event's success.

In addition to ticket sales, the event featured a lively raffle and silent auction, further boosting fundraising efforts. With strong community support and growing momentum, this cherished tradition continues to celebrate Danish culture while strengthening the DAC's mission.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome New Members:

Patricia Jensen

Nathan Petersen-Kindem

Michele White

Margaret Brown-Sica and Aimee Brown

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.



NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

DANISH GENEALOGY

A BAKER'S DOZEN: EASY WAYS TO BEGIN WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Monday, May 18: 6:30pm via Zoom

Anyone can write! Learn a "baker's dozen" of ways to get your family history in print without a lot of strain. It's not as daunting a task as you might think. We'll cover ways to get family involved without mentioning the word genealogy!

Visuals will demonstrate the "Baker's Dozen" method and other help in both print and online formats. Whether you are already a seasoned writer or you've never written anything at all, this webinar will give great insight and inspiration. Our speaker is Paula Stuart-Warren, Certified Genealogist®, who is an internationally recognized genealogical educator, researcher, and consultant. She will even show us ways she implemented the Baker's Dozen into her own Danish family connection.

This event is provided free of charge by the National Danish-American Genealogical Society and is open to the public. No need to register, simply click on the Zoom link at the start of the program. For more information on our Danish genealogy group, to learn about our unique newsletter-journal, and to see other upcoming events, please visit our website at: <https://danishgenealogy.org>

Zoom link:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88268432625>

LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT AT THE DANEBOF FOLK MEETING

Another 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 2026 Folk Meeting, August 19-23rd, 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 such as economics, political campaigns, and

new methods for learning with Legos, 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 for more information.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

EUROPEAN FRIENDSHIP RIDE

Saturday, May 9: 10am-4pm including social time.

Enjoy part or all of a circular bike route between 3 organizations (32 miles total), with stops at each.

Alliance Française Mpls/St Paul

Germanic American Institute

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

The purpose of this ride is to:

- Meet others who enjoy both biking and European culture
- Acknowledge the shared values and peaceful cooperation that unites the nations of Europe, as recognized by the observance of Europe Day in many countries in Europe
- Increase communication and familiarity between the European cultural organizations in the Twin Cities area

Visit the information and registration page at www.sokolmn.org/eurobike26

FIKA SUPPER CLUB CONCERT SERIES: KRISTIAN BUGGE

Sunday, May 17: 7-8pm

See Danish fiddling

phenom Kristian Bugge

at the American Swedish

Institute for a special

evening of music! As one

of the most decorated Danish folk musicians, Kristian has made a name for himself with his virtuosic fiddling and charming stage presence. Come hear a master at work!

Don't forget to make your dinner reservation with FIKA Café. Call (612) 524-5108 or email fika@asimn.org.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

Mondays 9:30am: Watercolor Group
 Wednesdays 10am-12pm Library-Members Only
 Wednesdays 10am-2pm: DAC Office Hours
 Wednesdays 10am-3pm: Mah-Jongg

Friday 01 Tøseften 7pm
 Saturday 02 Library Open Hours for members only 10am-12pm
 02 Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm
 02 Danish Language for Beginners 3,
 10:30am-12:30pm
 02 Danish Beginners Plus 2, 10:30am-12:30pm
 Sunday 03 The Saga Writers 1:30-3:30pm
 Monday 04 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7-8:30pm
 Wednesday 06 Virkelyst 7pm
 Thursday 07 Music on the Mississippi; Linda Peterson, Billy
 Peterson, Jason Peterson DeLaire: Social Hour 6pm,
 Concert 7-9pm

Sunday 10 Mother's Day Brunch 9am and 10:45am
 Monday 11 DAC Executive Committee Board Meeting 7-9pm
 Wednesday 13 Onsdagsfrokost 11:30am-1pm
 Thursday 14 Vikingelauget - The Viking Guild 7-9:30pm
 Sunday 17 Danebo Reading Circle 1-3pm
 Tuesday 19 Spillefolk 7-9pm
 Thursday 21 "A Brief Visit to Denmark" Danish Workshop for
 Beginners 6:30-8:30pm
 Wednesday 27 Onsdagsfrokost 11:30am-1pm
 Friday 29 Fyraften 6pm

JUNE

Mondays 9:30am: Watercolor Group
 Wednesdays 10am-12pm Library - Members Only
 Wednesdays 10am-2pm: DAC office Hours
 Wednesdays 10am-3pm: Mah Jongg

Monday 01 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7-8:30pm
 Wednesday 03 Virkelyst 7-9pm
 Friday 05 Tøseften 7pm
 Saturday 06 Library Open Hours for members only 10am-12pm
 06 Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm

Sunday 07 Danish Day 11am-3pm

Monday 08 Board Meeting 7-9pm
 Thursday 11 Music on the Mississippi: Connie Evingson with
 BluLuna: Social Hour 6pm, Concert 7-9pm

Sunday 14 Danebo Reading Circle 1-3pm
 Saturday 27 Æbleskive Event Outdoors -
 Drop in between 9:30am & 11:30am

May 2026