



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.

NEW DAC WEBSITE!

Although our building is quiet, the DAC continues to operate, albeit in a different manner. For example, Danish 1 is now a virtual classroom and the Reading Circle will discuss their latest novel via Zoom. But if you miss roaming the halls and gathering with friends in the sunny Atrium, check out our brand new website at danishamericancenter.org and take a 3D tour of all your favorite areas! And while you're there, catch up on the latest news, learn about our various groups and affiliates and create your own login and password to update your member profile. You can now add family members, photos and a short bio to let fellow members know a little bit more about you. Logging in also allows you to pay membership dues, view member events on our calendar and check room availability once we reopen. Please keep in mind this new website is a work in progress and news and information will be added as we ease back into re-opening. For now, enjoy the photos and a variety of links to other organizations such as Skovsøen, The Rebild Society, Danish Sisterhood of America and many more. The current DANews is also available to read online, along with archived editions. The Board and Website Committee is very excited about this new website, because it is a visually appealing representation of our organization and a wonderful first impression for those who want to learn more about the DAC. We hope you agree!

DANISH AMERICAN ARCHIVE AND LIBRARY

We were recently contacted by a history student intern at the Danish American Archive and Library who was working on a virtual exhibit about a Dana College Theater Troupe Tour in 1942. The exhibit includes a short description of the troupe's stop in Minneapolis with mention of the DAC as a center for Danish life in the city today. The tour also includes several Midwest cities with Danish organizations. Thank you Catrine Kyster Giery for your research and fascinating account of this troupe's travels!

<https://www.dana1942theword.org>

NOVEMBER 2020

- DAC Building is Currently Closed

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Season of change.

Some of you may have heard that the Kenosha Danish Brotherhood Lodge #14 was destroyed during the unrest and fires following the shooting of Jacob Blake on August 23. A request for funding to allow them to rebuild was sent out to the larger Danish community. During the member Æbleskiver event on September 6, part of the contributions from the breakfast was designated to go to this cause and from your generosity, we sent \$250. We then received a note from Bob Ibsen, president of the Lodge: "On behalf of Danish Brotherhood Lodge #14, we sincerely thank you for your generous donation in rebuilding our beloved lodge. Great to hear from another Danish organization!!"

Nothing will be quite the same as it was before the pandemic. Unlike the Kenosha Danish Brotherhood Lodge, our building still stands proudly along West River Road. We are not starting over from ruins. Still, we will want to be creative in rebuilding our future. Our new website has been launched. Our new membership system is being completed to serve us better. Tina Paulsen is learning her way around the inner workings of the DAC office.

DANEBO READING CIRCLE UPDATE

The interrupted 2019-2020 schedule resumed in October and will conclude in November via Zoom. Work is underway to select eight titles for 2021, which may see a return to in-person discussions at the Danish American Center. But whatever the future brings, the book group is looking forward with eager anticipation and invites any- and everyone to join in the fun.

In November we will be reading and discussing a lesser known book by a contemporary Danish author. Celebrated more for the eight crime thrillers in the Department Q series, Jussi Adler-Olsen's debut novel, *The Alphabet House* (1997), takes place, not in Denmark, but in World War II Germany (1944-5) and 27 years later in England and Munich. Born of the author's fascination with the treatment of the mentally ill (his father was a successful psychiatrist) and the war, it is the story of two downed British pilots who end up in a mental hospital behind enemy lines, where more than the pair of RAF airmen are feigning insanity. Part I ends with one pilot's escape and return to England. Part II involves Bryan's renewed search for his mate, James, and all that this quest uncovers. In the introduction, the author states "This book is not a war novel." Instead he describes it as "an elementary story about breaches that can arise in all types of personal relationships..." A podcast reviewer quoted on goodreads.com emphasized its focus on "the nature of friendship, war, loyalty, guilt and love told via a brilliant thriller."

A psychological character study, *The Alphabet House* (461 pages, published in 2014 in English translation by Steve Schein), has had mixed reviews. Praised as "a roaring thriller" in the *Adresseavisen* (Norway) and "as complex

During the October DAC Board meeting, we received three new board members: Niels Billund, Jane Carlson and Julie Robbins. We elected Laura Forslev to be the Board secretary and re-elected the other members of the Executive Committee. Sadly, we learned that the 2021 Festival of Nations will not be able to take place. Our own beloved holiday events will need to wait another year. Also, we discussed how to take "baby steps" to reopen our building for limited use and to consider other outdoor winter activities.

Indeed, we are in a season of change. By being creative and supporting each other, we hope to stay and remain connected to each other during these days of change.

Diane Greve

as his later bestselling crime stories ... just as gripping" in *Der Standard* (Austria). Online reviews range from "a unique and creatively thought out plot," "the characters are beautifully developed," and "highly recommend this book" to "very disturbing and intense, "not a perfect book," and "a tough book to complete." Most commentators agreed it offers clues to the writer Adler-Olsen and that it would make a good movie.

Grab a copy and decide for yourself. Join discussion leader Bill Holmquist and the Danebo Reading Circle for a Zoom meeting at 2pm on Sunday, November 15. Newcomers are always welcome. Send an email message before November 11 to suzannej41@me.com to receive the Zoom link and ask any questions about the group.

Danish American Center

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email: dainfo@dac.mn

Website: www.dac.mn

Office Hours: Wednesdays: 10am-2pm

Affiliate Organizations

Contact information for all of our affiliate organizations can be found on our website:

www.dac.mn

Executive Board:

Diane Greve, President
Rikke Dierssen-Morice, Vice President
Janet Ogden-Bracket, Treasurer
Laura Forslev, Secretary
Ron Grand, at Large
Catherine Mahowald, at Large

Board of Directors:

Niels Billund, Jane Carlson, Laura Forslev,
Peter Gantriis, Lars Hesbjerg, Lisa Jensen,
Ginny Kirkegaard Leppart, Erik Kristoffersen,
Steen Moeller, Mette Pedersen, Anette Petersen,
Grethe Petersen, and Julie Robbins

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Myra Madsen
Michelle Potter-Bacon
Robert Rasmussen
John Scully
Becky Wifstrand
Steffen Wifstrand

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

MANY THANKS!

Tusind tak to John and MaryJo Scully for all their faithful volunteer hours with the Danish American Center. They joined the DAC in 2006 and soon after that, John was asked to create a DAC website. He began to volunteer with the office management and organized our rentals. MaryJo has been the membership guru. Many new and renewing members have had phone conversations with her regarding membership matters and welcoming new members to the organization. And she has been a regular face at Wednesday lunches and the Danish Day membership table.

They are pictured here at the Aquavit Pairing event just before the pandemic caused us to close the building. Tina and the website committee are creating the new website and membership section. The hope is to relieve John and MaryJo from the responsibilities related to all of this so they can continue to volunteer in other ways at the DAC and to enjoy their retirement. These transitions can be unsettling now and we are all on a learning curve. We need to be grace filled with each other. By all means, feel free to extend your thanks for their years of service. When we are all together again, we hope to thank them in person!



GET YOUR FLU VACCINE

Getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during 2020-2021 to protect yourself, your family and your community from flu. A flu vaccine this season can also help reduce the burden on our healthcare systems responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and save medical resources for care of COVID-19 patients. For more information on flu vaccines, please go to [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

DANISH HANDMADE FELTED ORNAMENTS

For more information, please contact
Susanne Hohlen at shohlen@uslink.net



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome New Members:

Danielle Donchetz

Kate Goodrich

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

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

NORDIC AMERICAN BREAKFAST

Due to continued health and safety concerns surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic, our event sponsor, the Sons of Norway Foundation, has made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Nordic American Thanksgiving Breakfast. In light of the current executive orders from Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and the Minnesota Department of Health with regards to large gatherings, our NATB event would not be a safe environment for our guests. While we are saddened to have to cancel this annual event that we all look forward to, we believe this is the safest decision for all of you and our Nordic community.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for the December issue is November 10

NEW OFFICIAL GALA PORTRAIT OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

*From The Danish Monarchy official website:
September, 21, 2020.*

"Today, a new official gala portrait of Her Majesty The Queen is released. The portrait was taken in connection with The Queen's 80th birthday in April this year and replaces the most recent official portrait from 2012. There is a tradition that the portrait of the sovereign is changed at intervals, often in connection with special events, anniversaries or round birthdays. The portraits are therefore also part of the narrative about the Danish head of state's life and activities.

The new photo portrait of The Queen in the Dome Hall at Fredensborg Palace was taken by photographer Per Morten Abrahamsen in the summer of 2020 and shows The Majesty in regalia with the Order of the Elephant in riband with accompanying

breast star, Frederik 9's portrait with diamonds and Grand Commander's cross of the Order of Dannebrog. In addition, The Queen wears her Perlepoire set consisting of diadem, necklace, earrings and brooch with precious stones. The Majesty has worn the set in several official gala portraits through the years.

The portrait, which is mounted in a newly designed frame of Danish oak with the Royal Crown at the top, will henceforth be seen hanging in, among other places, state institutions, including embassies and consulates, as well as on Danish vessels."

To view the new portrait, please visit <https://kongehuset.dk/en/news/new-official-gala-portrait-of-her-majesty-the-queen>.



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