



# 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.*

## VIRTUAL SANG AFTEN WITH RITA JUHL

Sunday, December 6: 7pm

Please join Rita for her annual Christmas sing-along on Sunday, December 6 at 7pm. Rita will play many of our Danish and English favorites such as "Dejlig er den Himmel Blå," "Højt fra Træets Grønne Top" and "Jingle Bells!" We will sing along muted at home, but virtually together with many old and new friends. An email blast will be sent out a few days before the event that will include a link to the Zoom (run by son Peter Juhl) and an attached copy of the lyrics. If you have questions, or would like a copy of the lyrics delivered to your home, please contact Lisa Jensen at 612-430-2741 or at [lisa\\_jensen@rdale.org](mailto:lisa_jensen@rdale.org). Near or far, we hope to see you at this virtual community gathering!

## DANISH CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Since 2011, DAC member, Pastor Andrés Albertsen, has led a Christmas Eve service at St. Peder's Lutheran Church in South Minneapolis. Because the service has been cancelled due to the pandemic, he is putting together a service that can be made available to Danish communities in many locations. Rita Juhl will play for part of the service and most of it will be recorded at St. Peder's with their technical help. We will be able to view the service through the St. Peder's website at [stpeders.org](http://stpeders.org). This is a great opportunity to celebrate Christmas.

## THE FIR TREE, H.C. ANDERSEN'S FAIRY TALE FEATURED IN IMMERSIVE OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

Pandemic Christmas will be different all around. Hats off to the American Swedish Institute for figuring out how to at least have some sense of normalcy by moving the holiday exhibits outdoors this year. See the decorated Mansion, walk the Story Trail outside in the courtyard and check



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## DECEMBER 2020

- DAC Building is Currently Closed

### NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

The holiday season is upon us once again. This year, the holidays call for us to be extra creative in our celebrations. At the Danish American Center, we want to direct our members to the Zoom sang aften with Rita Juhl on Sunday, December 6 and to the Danish Christmas Eve service led by Pastor Andrés Albertsen that will be available online. The Danebo Reading Circle is announcing its list of books for 2021 and Virkelyst continues to meet on Zoom. Other events will possibly be planned, so watch your email for more. Rather than the usual holiday events, we are trying to be creative and trust you will be as well. I welcome your ideas.

This may be the time to bake old family recipes, teach crafts to our families, and weave some new Danish Christmas hearts. Enjoy some Glogg, æbleskiver, and aquavit. Light some candles. Create your hygge with those you are close to.

While our membership dues have remained strong, our overall income has decreased since March as we have limited rentals. Recently, you will have received a letter or email encouraging you to make a donation to the DAC by December 31 or anytime into the new year. We have set a goal of \$40,000. And, our new website is being introduced as a way to make your donation online.

I am grateful to the team who worked on the new website, giving the DAC a fresh

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out the aptly named holiday exhibition, “An extraordinary Holiday in Extraordinary Times.”

Visitors are invited to step into a story trail, an immersive outdoor experience with a series of storytelling stations created by five Nordic countries winding through ASI’s courtyard and around the Mansion grounds. For Denmark, the story of *The Fir Tree* by famed author Hans Christian Andersen encourages us to live in the moment as we experience a grove of fir trees – one of the most recognized symbols of the holiday season.

It’s been said that the present is a gift. In this day and age it can be difficult to remember that. But it may be hard to imagine that it was also true in 1845 when Hans Christian Andersen wrote *The Fir Tree*. The story is of the “pretty little fir-tree” wanting so desperately to be bigger, taller and to have the adventurous life that comes with it. All the while not enjoying the life it leads day in and day out until, eventually, it achieves its wish only to be again disappointed and to long again for the days in the forest.

and inviting new look. Updates and improvements are ongoing. Please check it out at [danishamericancenter.org](http://danishamericancenter.org). You may also need to create a new password and make some additions and changes to your membership page. See the directions in the letter or email you would have received from the DAC.

Thank you all for your overwhelming support for the cheese and medisterpølse sales. I hope these Danish foods will help make your holidays a bit more festive in the absence of our traditional DAC Jultide events. I wish you all a safe and meaningful season.

Glædelig jul og godt nytår!

Diane Greve

Many of us in the cold Northern climes have learned this lesson as we embrace our surroundings and seasons, extolling the days when the air is cold but the sun still beams down to warm our hearts. Hear Steen Moeller read the classic H.C.Andersen tale in a video. Meander through the Danish display designed by Susan Loschenkohl with modern Danish Christmas heart/bird baskets reimaged into weather-hardy wood ornaments hung on outdoor trees.

*At the time of publication, The American Swedish Institute was closed in compliance with the Governor’s COVID safety orders. In the meantime, visit the ASI website ([asimn.org](http://asimn.org)) to view the exhibition video and photos, read the Tales from the Five Nordic Countries and participate in other virtual experiences.*

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Office Hours: Wednesdays: 10am-2pm

**Affiliate Organizations**

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

[www.dac.mn](http://www.dac.mn)

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For submissions, advertising, or any other inquiries, please contact us at [danews@dac.mn](mailto:danews@dac.mn).

## LEIF 2020

Mange tak!

Many thanks are due to several DAC members for their contributions to LEIF 2020. This year's Leif Eriksson International Festival took place virtually October 2-11. Mary Beth and Leo Lake and Suzanne Jebe served on the planning committee. Grethe Petersen (lector) and Andrés Albertsen (presiding minister and preacher) participated in the October 11 Nordic Worship service. That Sunday was also the day that was dedicated to Danish themes and destinations. In addition, we want to thank Tove Brandt, Executive Director of the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa, for her help with creative ideas and links to their website and YouTube channels. The Nordic Cuisine videos were a highlight on Nordic Connections Day, Saturday, October 3. The Museum is also a member of the DAC.

If you missed the festival in October, you are still in luck. All the events (three concerts, four presentations, and two worship services with lots of music) and 80 "Destinations of the Day" links for adults and children are available on the LEIF website (leifmn.org). We're looking forward to the 34th Annual LEIF in 2021 and working with our Nordic partners from the Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, Sámi, and Swedish communities. Even if we are able to be back for in-person events, we will probably still have some virtual content. If you have ideas for 2021, please contact Leo, Mary Beth, or Suzanne.

## DANEBO READING CIRCLE

Danebo Reading Circle Zooms into 2021

After a good discussion of Danish author Jussi Adler-Olsen's harrowing account of inhabitants of *The Alphabet House* on November 15, the Danebo Reading Circle is taking a break for the holidays. Group members, now including two newcomers, will be back in form on Sunday, January 17, at 2pm. Discussions will be via Zoom for the foreseeable future. The book selection team, Julie Robbins and Mary Beth Lake, presented a slate of 17 nominated titles in late October. After all the votes were

tallied, eight books rose to the top and will become the reading list for 2021. The exact order will appear in the January issue of *DANews*. Bookmarks will be available in January and mailed to members. When the DAC reopens they will be on the Reading Circle shelf in the library.

The Reading Circle is a sponsored group of the DAC and is open to everyone. The first meeting is free. The DAC requests that those who wish to continue become members of the organization. For further information or to request a 2021 bookmark, please send an email message to [suzannej41@me.com](mailto:suzannej41@me.com) or call 612-822-0275.

The book selected for January is Danish author Karen Blixen's *Winter's Tales* (1942, 313pp). In this collection of 11 short stories, Dinesen returns to European settings. One reviewer described the stories as "shimmering and haunting." Participants may choose to read all the stories or as few as they want.

The other seven books coming in the February-May and September-November schedule are, in order of author's homeland: *The Library of Shadows* by Mikkel Birkegaard (Denmark, 2009, 430pp), *The Fall of the King* by Johannes V. Jensen (Denmark, 1901, 271pp), *The Exception* by Christian Jungersen (Denmark, 2008, 512pp), *Miss Iceland* by Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir (Iceland, 2018, 238pp), *Alberta and Freedom* (or another of the three Alberta novels) by Cora Sandel (Norway, 1931, 220pp), *The Red Address Book* by Sofia Lundberg (Sweden, 2017, 290pp), and *Isak Dinesen* by Judith Thurman (USA, 1982, 495pp). These books are available in many libraries and for purchase locally or online. Several are also available as ebooks. The Danebo Reading Circle wishes all members of the DAC merry holidays and good health throughout the months ahead until we can greet each other in the wonderful building on West River Parkway. Happy reading, too!

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for the January issue is December 10

## VIRKELYST

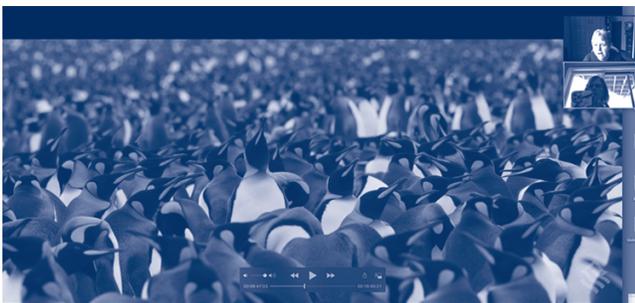
How do members of our DAC organizations keep in touch during a pandemic? Members of Virkelyst are using methods old and new



to figure it out. Starting in early September, eight of the Virkelyst women divided the membership into sections and did things the old-fashioned way. They picked up their phones and called other members to check in and see how they were coping. These updates were then compiled into newsletters, printed out and sent in the mail to the group. The conversations were delightful and sometimes lengthy. It was obvious that people were missing each other and anxious to share and hear about each other's experiences. So far three newsletters have been sent out, featuring a different member each time with their news, and there are more issues to come.

In order to make use of the technology now available to us, the group will also participate in forthcoming Zoom calls. The first Zoom call was held on November 4 and featured a presentation on travel to Antarctica by Cathy Mahowald. This was originally scheduled for earlier in the year at the DAC but had to be postponed due to Covid.

Virkelyst is an organization of women who volunteer to support the DAC and charities that primarily benefit women and children. Its 80th birthday was celebrated two years ago at the DAC.



## BEGINNING DANISH 2 STARTS IN JANUARY

Beginner Danish 2, Winter 2021

Join fellow Danish enthusiasts for Beginning Danish 2. This course is for those who have previously completed Danish 1 at DAC or have some Danish language experience. We meet via Zoom and use Google Classroom and other online sites and tools for assignments.

Dates: Thursdays: January 7, 14, 21, 28; February 4, 11

Time: 7 to 8:30pm

Cost: Members: \$90 / Nonmembers: \$120

Online payment now available! Please register at <https://bit.ly/Danish2-Winter2021>

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome New Members:

Liv Paulson Norderhaug

Ryan Gosche

Hannah Paulson

Amanda Beilke

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 solicitations that are deemed necessary for the operation of the DAC.

## DEAR MEMBERS – WE WANT YOUR HELP!

It has been a strange and challenging year. In some ways, we are glad that our fiscal year starts July 1, so that over the next months, until June 2021, we can find ways to make up some ground that we have lost.

Although in-person programming stopped way back in March, you will be happy to learn that the Board has used this time well. We have upgraded our membership software, we have moved our accounting system online, and we have a beautiful new website, which we have the pleasure of officially introducing to you here:

[www.danishamericancenter.org](http://www.danishamericancenter.org)

Please visit our new website, sign into your member profile, fill in additional member information, view our pages and photos, and take a virtual tour of our beautiful building.

Because of Covid-19, we will not generate much income again until spring. The combination of nearly no income-generating activity, no fundraising events and the expenses of needed new systems and operating costs for the building has left us with an income deficit. We have financial reserves to carry us through these times and we are diligent with our resources. We hope you can help such that we are ready to restart all our activities and plans that keep the DAC strong, vibrant and viable.

Our ask to all of our members and friends:

Please consider donating to the DAC before December 31, 2020, to preserve the financial strength of the DAC. And the great news is that with your donation, all of us can enjoy an above-the-line deduction this year. Donations can be made by credit or debit card on the new website, [www.danishamericancenter.org](http://www.danishamericancenter.org), or by mailing a check to the "Danish American Center" at 3030 West River Parkway S., Minneapolis, MN 55406.

Use the above-the-line charitable deduction. Everyone is entitled to a charitable deduction this year. The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) doubled the standard deduction while repealing or limiting many itemized deductions, leaving millions fewer taxpayers claiming actual itemized deductions. Typically, there is no tax benefit for giving to

charity unless you itemize deductions. However, the CARES Act created an above-the-line deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions from taxpayers who don't itemize. If you would like to take advantage of this provision, make sure to donate before the end of the year.

Tusind tak from our Danish American Center organization! We look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you virtually and hopefully in person again soon.

## NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

### WEBINAR: USING DANISH FAMILY SEARCH

Monday, December 7: 6:30pm

Are you interested in exploring your Danish ancestry?

Have you done some research but hit dead ends?

Danishfamilysearch.com is an amazing website for accessing Danish vital records, maps, military rolls, images of original documents and much more, but many people aren't familiar with it. (Not to be confused with the LDS FamilySearch.com; these are completely different websites)

Join us as NDAGS Vice President Heather Nelsen-Mullen explains the features of the website, tips for navigating it, and even time for live search demos. This event is free and open to the public thanks to the National Danish-American Genealogical Society. The webinar will be a Zoom event and registration is required. Link for registration coming soon at our website <http://www.danishgenealogy.org> under Events section.

To register, log into Zoom, click Join, and enter either of these codes:

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83849823302>

Meeting ID: 838 4982 3302

For more information, contact the National Danish-American Genealogical Society at [ndagsmembers@gmail.com](mailto:ndagsmembers@gmail.com)



## **JULEVELSIGNELSER FROM NORWAY ART®**

“The Annunciation”

17th C. Italian, from Denmark to Minnesota.

Owned by Werner Jacobsen 1914-1979

National Museum of Denmark,

Head of Ethnography

More information: Mary Jo Thorsheim

[mjtmng@gmail.com](mailto:mjtmng@gmail.com)



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