



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.

LATE-WINTER SILENT AUCTION

We have some exciting news! The Board is planning a SILENT AUCTION fundraiser!

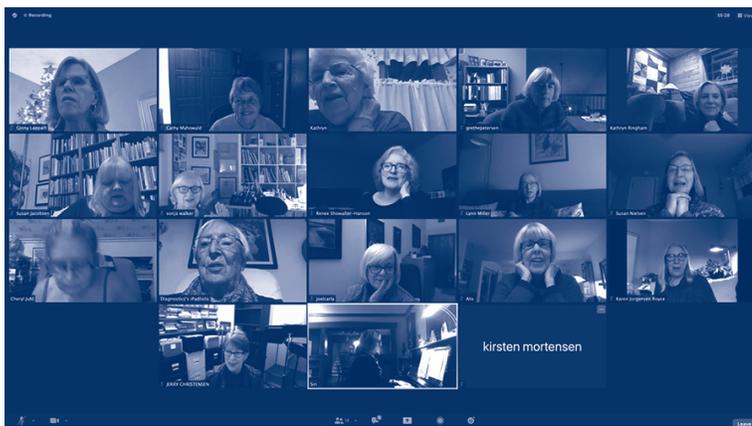
You will be able to log in to the virtual auction site and see the items for sale. This is where you come in. Do you have items to donate such as beautiful handmade items, gift cards or something that is used but in good condition that you no longer need? We are just in the beginning stages of planning this event so make sure to look for details in the next *DANews*.

Contact Lisa Jensen if you have questions at 612-430-2741 or lisa_jensen@rdale.org

VIRKELYST CHRISTMAS ZOOM 2020

The annual Virkelyst Christmas Dinner was scheduled for Wednesday, December 2nd. But this year, of course, is not like any other year. It would have been a lovely evening for our gathering with no fierce weather, but this year we still gathered virtually to greet, and share stories and songs in the traditional Danish Way.

Lis Jorgensen spoke to us about what she experienced in her youth when the German army occupied Denmark. She described the hardships and loss of freedom. She also made some comparisons to our Covid-19



JANUARY 2021

- DAC Building is Currently Closed

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Traditions and Transitions!

Living through the holidays without our usual traditions has not always been easy. I am thinking maybe we will appreciate so many of those events and activities even more next year. Or maybe we are in the process of creating new ones. Or most likely, some of both. Our Sang Aften with Rita Juhl attracted over 60 participants from all over the country. And, the Danish Genealogy webinar led by our own Heather Nelsen had over 50 devices connected with the program. While I miss our in-person time very much, we did have even more people able to join the program and learn about what is happening at the DAC. Maybe we need to consider a hybrid format in the future.

During the December board meeting, we discussed creative possibilities for fund raising and decided to organize a modified Danish Day event. If your group has plans for 2021, contact the DAC office to get the date(s) on the calendar. We are looking into 2021 for new possibilities.

Transitions at the DAC that have been occurring before and during this pandemic are significant. A new generation of leaders is emerging on the Board. And with the contracted position filled by Tina Paulsen, we are making a transition there as well. John Scully has been a bedrock for us in the office and in the oversight of the rentals for

BEGINNING DANISH 2 BEGINS IN JANUARY

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

Please register at <https://bit.ly/Danish2-Winter2021> or contact instructor Michelle Potter-Bacon at danskmn@gmail.com or 612-309-3797.

TRANSLATORS WANTED

The DAC office regularly receives requests for translation services. A majority of the documents are personal letters, postcards and old church records. If you are interested, please contact Tina Paulsen at the office every Wednesday from 10am-2pm or via email at dainfo@dac.mn.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome New Members:

Lacey Frigaard

Charli Donchetz

Georgi Donchetz

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.

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many years. MaryJo Scully knew most of the members and was the glue that kept the membership strong. For some time, we have talked about the need to recruit new folks to take these roles. It is hard to find volunteers to take on the amount of work these two have done for the DAC. Even with Tina learning the office management and membership functions, once the pandemic eases and rentals and events begin again, we will certainly be looking for volunteers to partner with her in conducting the work of the DAC.

Thank you to all who have donated to the DAC throughout the year and as 2020 drew to a close. You have helped to support the development of the new website and to keep the building in operation as we wait for the next season of activities. Continue to keep the DAC in mind and keep your membership current. We need each of us to keep the organization strong. Tusind tak!

Diane Greve

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for the February issue is January 10

Danish American Center

3030 West River Parkway South
Minneapolis MN 55406

612-729-3800

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, Peter Gantriis,
Lars Hesbjerg, Lisa Jensen, Ginny Kirkegaard Leppart,
Erik Kristoffersen, Steen Moeller, Mette Pedersen,
Anette Petersen, Grethe Petersen, and Julie Robbins

DANews Committee:

Laura Forslev
Betina Kohler
Susan Loschenkohl
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.

DANEBO READING CIRCLE

On Sunday, January 17, the Danebo Reading Circle will launch into a full year of Nordic literature: six novels, one collection of short stories, and a biography. The year begins and ends with Danish authors and also includes works from Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. As usual, the group meets at 2pm on the third Sunday of each month except June, July, August, and December. Meetings will be via Zoom until the group can safely reclaim the south porch at the DAC. Won't that be grand?

One advantage of meeting virtually is that new members have connected from as far away as California. Even those without the internet are able to join in via telephone (a long-distance connection is necessary). All are welcome! The Zoom link arrives from Mary Beth on the Friday before the meeting. To be on the mailing list, please contact Suzanne at suzannej41@me.com or 612-822-0275.

Here is the roster for 2021:

January 17: *Winter's Tales* by Isak Dinesen (DK); 1942, 313 pages; translated by the author. Choose one or more of the 11 stories to read.

February 21: *Isak Dinesen: The Life of a Storyteller* by Judith Thurman (US); 1982, 495 pages.

March 21: *The Library of Shadows* by Mikkel Birkegaard (DK); 2009, 430 pages; translated by Tiina Nunnally.

April 18: *Alberta and Freedom* by Cora Sandel (NO); 1931, 220 pages; translated by Elizabeth Rokkan. This is the middle book of a trilogy.

May 16: *Miss Iceland* by Auður Ava Ólofsdóttir (IS); 2018, 238 pages; translated by Brian FitzGibbon.

September 19: *The Exception* by Christian Jungersen (DK); 2006, 502 pages; translated by Anna Paterson.

October 17: *The Red Address Book* by Sofia Lundberg (SE); 2017, 290 pages; translated by Alice Menzies.

November 21: *The Fall of the King* by Johannes V. Jensen (DK); 1901, 273 pages; translated by Alan G. Bower.

Here's to a good New Year of reading and discussing!
Godt nytår!

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experiences and emphasized how easy we have it today. We have comfortable homes with TV and plenty of food and were even able to vote. We have so much to be grateful for.

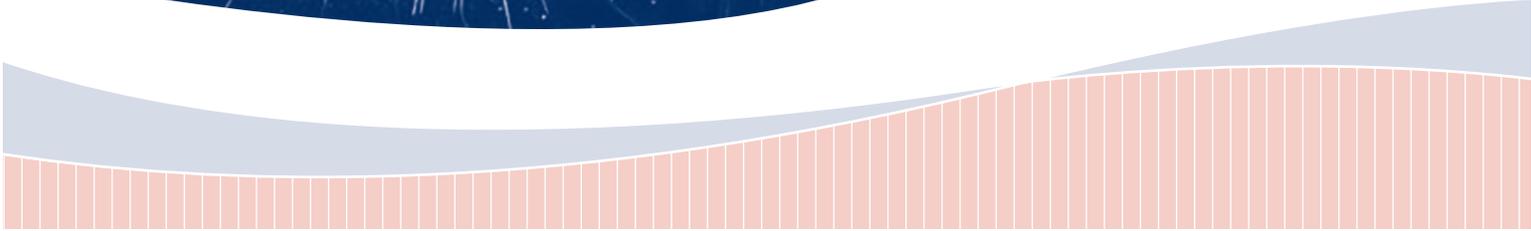
Sonja Walker shared her Advent stories from her childhood in Tyler, MN. Their home was across the street from the parsonage where Enok and Nan Mortensen lived. She described some of the activities including dancing around the tree and through the entire house, including closets. There were many fun memories of Christmas. Lisa Jensen played songs on the piano and we sang along, ending the evening with "Silent Night." It is that time of year for Virkelyst members to pay their dues. This can easily be done by going to the new website at <https://danishamericancenter.org>. Login to the website as a member of the DAC. Select one of the DONATE options, from Support DAC on the top menu or by clicking on a DONATE button in the blog or elsewhere on the website. From the dropdown menu, select Virkelyst Dues which are \$25.00/person and the DAC appreciates your contribution.

NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

DANISH GENEALOGY

Because of the pandemic, the Danish Genealogy Group's annual January off-site meeting will be cancelled for 2021.

However, a Zoom meeting to discuss searching for your Schlesvig-Holstein ancestors will be held in February. Watch for the February *DANews* for details on how to attend this virtual meeting. For any question, call Bill Holmquist at 651-748-5017.



**DANISH
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CENTER**

3030 W RIVER PARKWAY S
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55406