



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.

DAC SAMFUNDSSIND SILENT AUCTION

We are excited to announce plans for the first ever Virtual Silent Auction! There are three parts to this event: collecting donated items, bidding online for items received, and finally picking up the items. We will explain the details of the March online Auction in the next newsletter as well as on our DAC website. In this issue, we will focus on how and what to donate!

We will be collecting donations throughout the month of February. If you have something that you would like to donate, you can drop off items at the DAC any Wednesday from 10am to 2pm. We will have you fill out a form asking for a description of the item, estimated value and, if you choose, state a minimum bid. You can also donate by filling out a donation form on the DAC website at danishamericancenter.org. If you are not able to drop off your items at the DAC during this time, you can either state this in your online donation form or contact Lisa Jensen (612-430-2741/lisa_jensen@rdale.org) to make other arrangements.

Wondering about possible items to donate? Here are a few ideas: put together a fun gift basket, artwork, craftwork, gift cards, desirable gently used items (especially if they are Danish!) and memberships. Be creative!

Donation Collecting: February 3, 10, 17, 24 from 10am-2pm at DAC

Online Silent Auction: March 5-March 14 through 32Auctions Website

Outdoor Pick-Up Event (with Treats): Saturday, March 20* at the DAC

* First day of spring! If unable to pick up that day, we will make other arrangements

The title of the auction is "Samfundssind" which means to be community minded. In 1936 it was used in Denmark by then prime minister Thorvald Stauning at the outbreak of World War II. Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen revived the word last spring when announcing the need to shut down Denmark in order to get Covid under control. She presented "samfundssind" to Danes as their collective responsibility and community spirit. We thought this was a great way to think about our DAC auction as well. We have missed our Danish Community at the DAC during this time, knowing it was in the best interest of our members to be closed. This is an opportunity for us to come together in a different way and do something good to support our wonderful organization!

Janet Ogden-Brackett, Jane Carlson & Lisa Jensen (Auction Committee)

FEBRUARY 2021

- DAC Building is Currently Closed

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Good news! We have had some very generous folks among us who have made donations to the DAC, above and beyond their membership dues. Thank you for your generosity. If you are able to make a gift, we encourage you to do so. You may send a check to the DAC office or go online at our new website danishamericancenter.org and use the DONATE button to contribute.

You will also see an article in this issue of the DANews about a Silent Auction that is being planned. Check it out and consider what you may have in your home to donate to this cause. It is a great way to help the DAC while we are limited on events we can hold. We all want to gather again soon.

It is encouraging to see events going back on our calendar, even though some are on Zoom and others are somewhat aspirational. Check the website to see what is happening. The calendar on the home page is for the public and the one in the Membership section is for members only. You will need to login or sign up if you have not created your new account.

How soon can we reopen? What is the plan? How will we know? The DAC Board is revisiting this question at every meeting. It is a hard decision and even when we do start to have some events, each member will be encouraged to decide how safe they feel. Even as our governor has begun allowing restaurants to have limited indoor dining, the pandemic continues to be with us. Outdoor

FROM THE PRESIDENT continued on Page 2

TIPS FROM TINA

Are you wondering if your membership has lapsed? In the past, we've sent notices to members whose renewal dates were approaching. With the new website and membership platform, some members were not notified during this transition. The best way to check your status is to log in on our new website www.danishamericancenter.org and click on the icon on the Member Directory tab to access your account. Scroll down to view your next renewal date. If your membership has expired, you can renew online or mail a check to the office. We are in the process of adding renewal reminders, so you won't have to think about it. While you're in your profile, please take a moment to confirm your information for accuracy. If you have a family membership, consider adding the names of your spouse and children, that way, other members can look up every member listed in your profile.

As the new Office Manager, I look forward to seeing you again, or meeting you for the first time, in the future. Until then, I'd like to thank you for renewing your membership. We appreciate your continued support and are looking forward to the day we can all gather again.

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for the March issue is February 10

events may be possible again when the weather allows. I would encourage you to get your vaccine when you are able. And be cautious in the meantime. I know we will all use our best judgement. See you soon!

Diane Greve

BEGINNING DANISH 3 BEGINS FEBRUARY 25

Join fellow Danish enthusiasts for Beginning Danish 3. This course is for those who have previously completed Danish 1 & 2 at the 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: February 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1

Time: 7 to 8:30pm

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

Please register at <https://www.danishamericancenter.org/membership/event-calendar/#!event/2021/2/25/danish-3>

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome New Members:

Lillian Jensen

Regina Folken & Family

Jill Jordan

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.

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

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Diane Greve, President
Rikke Dierssen-Morice, Vice President
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For submissions, advertising, or any other inquiries, please contact us at danews@dac.mn.

DANEBO READING CIRCLE

Danebo Reading Circle Continues on Zoom.

After a lively discussion of the short stories in *Winter's Tales* by Isak Dinesen in January, the Reading Circle will turn to the definitive biography of the writer at their February meeting, again via Zoom. *Isak Dinesen: The Life of a Storyteller* was published in 1982 by American author Judith Thurman (New York: St. Martin's Press, 495 pages). Ms. Thurman is a staff writer at *The New Yorker*. Her biography of the Danish author won the 1983 National Book Award for nonfiction. She has also won the Rungstedlund Prize of the Danish Royal Academy.

In the Acknowledgments section at the beginning of the book, Ms. Thurman wrote that it "is the first biography of Isak Dinesen to make use of the large number of letters, unpublished manuscripts, and family documents in her archives." She also acknowledged that it is "not in any way an 'authorized' biography." But reviewers characterized it as "brilliant," "compelling," "splendid," "scrupulous and elegant." *Newsweek* magazine's review stated: "Isak Dinesen led one of the most exotic lives of the 20th century. ... She endowed every aspect of her life and work with high drama, intense fatalism and mythic size, and Judith Thurman's biography does great justice to her grand, sad brilliance."

Organized in four "books" that carry the names Karen Blixen (1885-1962) identified with through stages of her life (Tanne, Tania, Isak Dinesen, Pellegrina), the text also includes photographs showing the Danish author from childhood to an older age and genealogy charts for both maternal and paternal families. As one reviewer noted in *The New Criterion*: "This biography is as readable as a good novel; indeed, few novelists nowadays would have the imagination or courage to invent so fantastic a life and personality as Isak Dinesen's." The book served as the basis for the Academy Award-winning film *Out of Africa*, for which Ms. Thurman was an Associate Producer. Discussion of this illuminating book will occur via Zoom, starting at 2pm on Sunday, February 21. The Zoom link will be sent to all interested readers on Friday, February 19.

To join the group, email Suzanne at suzannej41@me.com 612-822-0275.

Participants may connect via computer, tablet, smartphone, or through a long-distance telephone connection.

In March, the Danebo Reading Circle will visit *The Library of Shadows* by Danish author Mikkel Birkegaard (2007, 430 pages). This work of fantasy fiction was published in English in 2009, translated by the talented Tiina Nunnally. It's original title, *Libri di Luca*, is the name of the second-hand bookstore in Copenhagen owned by Luca Campbell and inherited by his son, Jon. It was a national bestseller in Denmark and has been published in 17 languages. This promises to be an intriguing read.

NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

DANISH GENEALOGY

In the early 1900s the German authorities in North Frisia forbade the Danish residents



from flying the Danish flag. The Danes, not willing to stand for this, came up with what must be one of the funniest and most clever ways to annoy the local German authorities.

Since Danes are experts at pork production, they came up with a creative way to display their Danish flag. The Danish farmers in North Frisia figured out how to cross breed pigs that were colored like the Dannebrog...the Danish flag.

This new breed of pig was red in color and had white stripes going down their back and down their front legs. Viewed from above, a herd of these pigs looked like a bunch of Danish flags running around. The German authorities were infuriated, but what could they do?

To learn more interesting factoids like this about Schleswig-Holstein including how to research your Schleswig-Holstein ancestry (which can be a bit of a challenge) be sure to participate in the Danish Genealogy Group's Zoom meeting on Sunday, February 21, 2021, at 2pm, when Bill Holmquist will lead the discussion on delving into Schleswig-Holstein history and genealogy. And, just for fun, let's see how many participants are able to wear red and white at the Zoom meeting!

For any questions call Bill Holmquist at 651-748-5017.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82744999617>

Meeting ID: 827 4499 9617.

TAKE A JOURNEY TO DENMARK THIS WINTER VIA ZOOM

Story was in the Danish Pioneer, December, 2020 Issue #26

From now until March 16, 2021, the National Foundation for Danish America and The Danish Pioneer Newspaper along with Danish Tour Guide Benedikte

Ehlers Olesen continue their free weekly series of "Virtual Photo Tours" of Denmark at 11 am Chicago time each Tuesday. In case you miss the live shows, recordings will be available following each show.

Benedikte, who is well-known for her many years leading group tours across Denmark and her involvement in many Danish-American organizations, will present the virtual guided



tours each week through the winter. These photo tours will help us dream of the days ahead when we can travel back to Denmark. In each program, Benedikte will present a different area of Denmark via ZOOM webinar live from her home in Denmark, including a few minutes at the end for Q&A. The official 2021 photo tours will take visitors to Læsø, Samsø, Bornholm and the Frederiksø and Christiansø Islands. Subsequent weeks will take viewers to fascinating locations all over Denmark. All shows are free, but registration is required. After you register at the website: www.danishamerica.org, you will receive a link for the free ZOOM webinar virtual tour.



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CENTER**

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