



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.

DANISH DAY

Sunday, June 6: 11am -3pm

Please join us on Sunday, June 6, from 11am-3pm for Danish Day. This year's Danish Day will be limited to members only and their guests. Please bring your own chairs or blankets to sit on. Hot dogs and æbleskiver will be available. You are welcome to bring your own picnic lunch as well. There will be music, vendor booths and fun activities for the kids. Please bring your masks and safely enjoy the company of friends and members, including some new ones. We look forward to seeing you all this summer! If you have had a vendor booth at previous Danish Day celebrations, or know someone that would like to set up a booth this year, please contact the DAC office. Tables will be provided free of charge.

WE'RE OPEN! AND ADHERING TO STATE GUIDELINES

We are happy to announce that the Danish American Center is now available for indoor and outdoor events as well as guest room rentals. Although we aren't quite ready to have 75 people in the Atrium just yet, this beautiful space is available for a maximum of 15 people, as well as other areas in the building.

With ventilation and square footage in mind, maximum capacity for each room varies and will be determined on a case by case basis. The Patio and Grounds are also available to rent, allowing for more people to spread out and enjoy spring and summer. The kitchen and scullery are also available, with limited capacity.

Overnight room rentals are also available. In order to allow proper spacing, we're limiting the number of rooms rented per night and once vacant, thorough cleaning and a 24 hour pause will be placed on rooms before renting again.

The health and safety of our members remains a top priority, and our policies are consistent with Minnesota guidelines. Social distancing continues and masks must be worn unless eating or drinking. Every person entering the building must sign a Covid Waiver, unless your signature is already on file.

MAY 2021

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Liberation Day is coming up on May 5. Last year it was the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Denmark from the German occupation. But even if it is not a big event this year, I would invite each of you to light a candle in your window at sundown on May 4 to remember the courage of the Danish citizens who resisted and endured from April 9, 1940 to May 4, 1945. Some of our members remember those days. As you light your candle in solidarity with Denmark, let us also remember those who still struggle for liberation around this community and throughout the world.

When can the building be reopened for events and gatherings? I am asked this question often. The board addressed this matter during the April 12 meeting. We have agreed to follow the State of Minnesota guidance as we slowly reopen the indoor and outdoor space for use by members, including limited overnight guests. See the article in this issue for more details. If you have an interest in using the space, please contact Tina in the office to determine the feasibility of your rental.

The Board has also agreed to move the DAC office to the North Porch. Once that is completed, a crew of volunteers and contracted workers will renovate the current office space and small room next to it to

REOPENING continued from Page 1

One more thing: Get vaccinated! This can be beneficial when renting spaces at the DAC. Guidelines differ when all individuals have received the vaccine. If you're interested in renting, please contact Tina Paulsen at the office, Wednesdays from 10:00-2:00 or email at dainfo@dac.mn. She will work with you to determine the best options for your meeting, event or overnight stay.

We look forward to seeing everyone! Until then, stay safe and well.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome New Members:

Karla Jennings

Dawn Jensen and Family

Marie Feldtmose

Marie Thorsten

Anne Hanson

Jeannie Inglehart

Ellen Larsen

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.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for the June issue is May 10

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create another space similar to the Kaffestue. We also agreed to repaint the living room. This seems to be a good time to do this while the use of the building is still limited.

We hope to hold an in person annual meeting on September 26. Mark the date on your calendar.

Please get your vaccination, continue to mask, keep a 6-foot distance while limiting your time in large groups. As much as we wish this pandemic was over, it continues to impact us. I hope to see you soon.

Diane Greve

DANISH TRIVIA

Which modern Danish city contains the oldest extant town in Denmark (and Scandinavia)? It dates back to the early eighth century.

Check the June *DANews* for the answer to this month's trivia question!

Last month's trivia question: *One of the major attractions in Copenhagen is Tivoli Gardens. The original name when they opened included another name, based on an area of London. What was it? Vauxhall*

Danish American Center

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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

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

DANEBO READING CIRCLE

Sunday, May 23: 2pm

Sunday, May 23, is the new date for the Danebo Reading Circle's next get-together at 2pm via Zoom. After this meeting, the group will pause for the summer and hope for the easing of the pandemic, allowing the possibility of resuming in person in September.

"Delicate, melancholic and powerful. . . a luminous portrait of a young woman in search of freedom."

This quote refers to our April choice for the Danebo Reading Circle, *Miss Iceland*. This could also describe our May selection, *Alberta and Freedom*, by Norwegian author Cora Sandel. (243 pp., 1931) Both women leave their home to find freedom and to become writers. In *Miss Iceland* the setting is a time of change for women, the '60s. For Alberta, the setting is an artistic community in Paris around 1912.

Alberta and Freedom is the middle book of a semi-autobiographical trilogy and modern Scandinavian classic. The first, *Alberta and Jacob*, draws on her cold, suffocating provincial life growing up in the Arctic town of Tromsø, Norway. The last book, *Alberta Alone* finds Alberta leaving France with her son and settling in Sweden.

The issues of love and liberation are central to Alberta's existence. Her life in Paris is one of poverty and suffering while trying to provide for herself. She is lonely and searching, a spectator. She roams around soaking in impressions as she goes.

These observations are beautifully written by Sandel, as she can describe poverty and love equally as well as she writes about street life or flowers. One reader commented, "Although not a happy book, it is somehow warm and likeable."

Cora Sandel (1880-1974) is a pseudonym for Sarah Fabricius. When Sarah left Norway, her aim was to become an artist. She lived on the Paris Left Bank and Brittany from 1906 until 1921, when she left with her husband and son to live in Sweden. The English-speaking world did not discover her until the 1960s, when feminist critics reinvented her as a champion of women's emancipation.

Join us to discuss *Alberta and Freedom* on Sunday, May 23, at 2pm via Zoom (or possibly outside, weather permitting).

After the May meeting, three books remain on the schedule. On September 19, Gitte Mohr will lead the discussion of Danish author Christian Jungersen's 2006 novel, *The Exception* (502 pages, translated by Anna Paterson). Julie Robbins will guide the group through Sofia Lundberg's *The Red Address Book* (2017, 290 pages, translated from Swedish by Alice Menzies) on October 17. The 2021 reading year concludes on November 21 with a Danish classic, Johannes V. Jensen's *The Fall of the King* (1901, 273 pages, translated by Alan G. Bower).

FYRAFTEN MEN'S GROUP GOES CURLING

The Fyraften men's group had a fun outing at the end of March at the Chaska Curling Center. Thanks to Tina Paulsen, who works at the center, she and the staff arranged and assisted with two hours of instruction and play for our group. We found out that curling is much more challenging than appears when watching the Olympics on television!



Fyr Aften is open to the men of DAC who are members and 18 years or older. We usually meet at the DAC on the last Friday of every month during the standard nine-month school year. For further information about the group call or email Paul Juhl at 612-437-2430 or Pjuhl727@comcast.net.



DANISH LIBERATION DAY

Story by Diane Greve, Minnesota Local Editor for the Danish Pioneer

Remembering our forebearers can help to deepen our own identity and shape our life's purpose. For people of Danish birth and descent, there is a theme of the Vikings courage, of green energy, of happiness and the story of the resistance movement during the German occupation of Denmark during World War II.

In an effort to thwart the presence of the Germans, Danish citizens resisted in many ways running the risk of being arrested by the German Gestapo and being sentenced to hard labor in a consecration camp or to death. Two members of the Danish American Center (DAC) have described some details of their family members who were involved in the resistance movement.

Merete has shared a Danish newspaper article honoring her grandfather, Aage Hjerrild, dated May 5, 1985. He would have been in his 30's during the German occupation working as a haulage contractor in the Horsens area of Jutland. He was asked by the resistance movement to transport ammunition and weapons. If caught, he could have been put to death. He reflected that he would have been put to death 100 times if he had been caught. Aage had to be very careful and clever to keep from being caught even though there were times when he had to deceive the German soldiers. He was stopped on May 5 with Danish flags on his truck, the day of liberation, as, unbeknownst to him, the local German commander in Odder had refused to surrender. He feared he had been caught red handed and would have to surrender to them. "The Commander rushed over to the truck, tore down the Danish flag, tore off the patriot armlet, and suggested for Hjerrild to get out of there in a hurry unless he wanted to be shot." It seems he did not choose to engage them and left the area.

Niels tells of his father, Anders Ole Billund, who joined the resistance movement in the region along the German border with Denmark. He writes, "My father joined the Danish resistance towards the end of the war, volunteering probably at the age of 18 or 19. He was in

Region 3 which was literally on the German border, so in about the most unsafe area of Denmark. That soon proved to be true as the existence of my dad's group was leaked by an informant to Gestapo. My dad didn't share much about his experience or purpose but my guess is that they were on the receiving end of locating weapons and explosives, flown in and dropped by British aircrafts and then, his group distributed these to cells across the country.

"Miraculously, my dad escaped capture that day, the rest of the group was likely shipped via the Froslev camp to Neungamme workcamp near Hamburg, where less than 50 percent survived hard labour, starvation and disease. My dad was a refuge in his own country, likely for months until the end of the war, hiding mainly on farms in South Jutland."

Both of these men were heroes. Many members of the Danish American Center in Minneapolis remember the valor of their friends, neighbors and relatives during these years. Liberation Day is remembered on May 5 every year in Denmark by lighting candles in windows. At the Danish American Center, we too hope to light candles in the windows around our building to honor the courage of those Danes who resisted and in the hopes that liberation will be possible for other oppressed people in our neighborhoods and around the world

NOTARY PUBLIC

If you are in need of 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.

NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

DANISH GENEALOGY

DANISH PROBATE RECORDS WEBINAR

Monday, May 17: 7pm CST

Learn about the Danish probate process and the types of records to better understand how best to use them. We will look at the sometimes-difficult issue of finding our ancestors in probate records, get tricks to read and understand the language, and briefly look at guardianship records, an important related set of records.

Speaker Bob Johnson is an attorney and holds a Certified Genealogist® credential. As a professional genealogist he has specialized in Scandinavian, U.S., German, and forensic genealogical research for over forty years. He studied in Sweden and is active in many genealogical societies throughout the U.S. and Scandinavia.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84742813888?pwd=dl0b09VOEtqOHYyZTNkaVBveGZOZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 4281 3888

Passcode: 281691

NORWAY ART®

"Steaming Toward America 1899"
original oil painting

Portrait of the SS Hekla of the Scandinavian American Lines, based in Copenhagen (formerly Thingvalla Lines).

By Antonio Jacobsen (1850-1921), Danish-American.
Signed and dated 1899.

Oil on canvas 27.4 x 41" with frame (original).

Condition: very good. Price: available on request.

Offered for sale by NORWAY ART®, Minneapolis.

For more information, call 612.339.7829 or email: mjtmng@gmail.com

The SS Hekla was an important and busy Danish passenger ship that transported thousands of Scandinavian immigrants to America. In 1899 alone, it made six trips to New York City between February and November. Just imagine the huge number of those of us with Scandinavian roots who have connections to this particular ship in the history of our heritage!

For further information please contact Bill Holmquist at (651) 748-5017.

For the June meeting; Virtual Tour of the Museum of Danish America

DANEBOF FOLK MEETING: SAVE THE DATE

August 18-20, 2021

Join us for the 75th jubilee celebration of the founding of the Danebod Folk Meeting! This year's meeting will be a virtual event, including speakers, singing, stories, and community. Tentative Speaker Topics:

- Current Events of 1946;
- History of the Danebod Folk Meeting;
- Climate Change;
- Danish Literature;
- Racism: How to Diminish the Gap;
- Politics of Healing

Registration materials available at:

danebodfolkmeeting.org

For further information, email or call:

Danebod.Folk.Meeting123@gmail.com

(507) 247-3000



I KØKKENET

Citron Fromage (Lemon Mousse)

6 sheets of gelatine
6 eggs, separated
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1 1/2 cups heavy cream
2/3 cup lemon juice
Zest from one lemon

1. Soak the gelatine in cold water for about 5 minutes. Beat the egg yolks and sugar together with a mixer until pale and fluffy. In another bowl, whisk egg whites. In a third bowl whip cream until light and fluffy.
2. Drain the gelatine and place in a small pan to melt. When melted, take off the heat and add the lemon juice and zest. Slowly add the lemon and gelatine mixture to the egg yolk mixture, stirring all the time.
3. Fold in the egg whites and whipped cream.
4. Chill for a few hours or overnight before serving. Serve with whipped cream and zest on top.

Recipe from Scandinavian Comfort Food by Trine Hahnemann

NEWS FROM DENMARK

DANISH FILM WINS OSCAR

The Danish film "Another Round," won the Oscar for Best International Film on April 25th. Making it the 4th Danish film to take home an Oscar. The film stars Mads Mikkelsen. Also noteworthy, Dane Mikkel E.G. Nielsen won the Oscar for Best Editing for the film "Sound of Metal."

Tillykke til Danmark!



**DANISH
AMERICAN
CENTER**

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