



# 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.*

## SANGAFTEN

Sunday, December 3: 7pm

Sangafthen will be led by Lisa Jensen on the grand piano. Join us to sing many of our favorite Danish and English Christmas songs together with friends and family. The singing begins at 7pm and social time follows with coffee and kringle after the singing. This is a DAC member event.



## JULEFEST MED FLÆSKESTEG

Saturday, December 16:

4:30pm Social Hour, 6pm Dinner

Traditional Danish Christmas food will again be on the dinner table at the Danish American Center. We will start with a social hour including light appetizers in the atrium at 4:30pm. Seating for dinner will be at 6pm. Our waiter-served meal will be a three-course dinner with wine including a starter salad, a traditional roast pork plate, and a dessert course of risalamande. This will all be prepared by our own Svea Ernst! Come prepared for a fun evening of singing, conversation, and dancing around the Christmas tree. The cost is \$60. Only members can register for this event and individual members can invite 2 guests, household members may invite 4 guests. Reservations with payment are required by December 3 and can be made online or by check. Members, sign into your account and then go to the event calendar. Click on the event on December 16 and you can purchase tickets online. You may also mail a check to the DAC. No phone or email reservations will be taken.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 17: 3-6pm

Come and enjoy an afternoon making Christmas decorations with your children and grandchildren, listen to a Christmas story, and dance around the Christmas tree.

If you wish, you can bring a small gift with your child's name on it for Santa's bag.

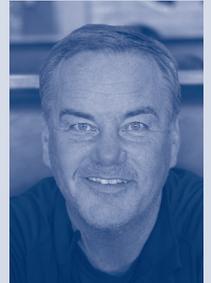
No reservations are needed. Donations appreciated.

## DECEMBER 2023

- Danish for Beginners
- Annual ASI Holiday Exhibit

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this, the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, and I would like to take the time to talk about things for which I am grateful. As I continue into the role of president



of the DAC, I am reminded every day of the commitment and dedication from our members to keep this organization thriving.

Over the past few weeks, a dedicated team of volunteers has worked in the office to help sort out new contracts, organize our workflow processes, and strengthen our relationships with our members and guests. I am grateful for their commitment to improving the operational and unseen side of the DAC. There are others who have stepped forward to take the lead on event planning and volunteer organization for the upcoming year. The willingness and dedication of all these members can make events look surprisingly effortless, but from where I sit, I am overwhelmed by the amount of time and dedication that each of these members bring to our organization. I am grateful for every one of our volunteers as they continue to keep the DAC thriving.

One of the most pressing concerns that the board has been addressing is the DAC's liquor licensing with the city of Minneapolis

and state of Minnesota. Over the past few weeks, we have put together a history of our past liquor usage, and reviewed all past licenses issued to the DAC. I am also working with our attorney who is now completing a study of all Minneapolis liquor and licensing ordinances, Hennepin County requirements, and Minnesota state laws, together with Minnesota court rulings concerning the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages in private clubs that are 501(c)(3) entities. Danebo, Inc. is a unique non-profit corporation, and we have a history of responsible liquor consumption at all of our private and public events. We rent various rooms for private and public events, and currently allow those renting overnight accommodations to consume alcoholic beverages in their overnight rooms. We are obtaining liquor licenses for our coming major social events, just as in the past.

Once our reasoned position concerning alcohol use at the Danish American Center is established, we will apply for required permits and licenses, and I will report to you our progress. I also intend to have an open forum for all members to answer your questions and address your concerns.

In closing, I am grateful to every single member of the Danish American Center. Your support keeps the Danish American Center thriving, and I am humbled by your enthusiasm and generosity.

Peter Gantriis

## REGISTERING FOR DAC EVENTS ONLINE

Here are step-by-step instructions on how to register for an event on the DAC website:

1. Go to [danishamericancenter.org](http://danishamericancenter.org)
2. Login to your account
3. Once you are logged in, click on "Go to Event Calendar"
4. Select the event for which you wish to register
5. A blue "Register Now!" button will appear toward the bottom of the page. Click on that button.
6. Fill in all the information and credit card number.
7. A blue "Register!" button will appear. Click on that button.
8. You will receive an email confirmation of registration. Make sure to check your Junk and/or Spam folders.

Please note: *Your DAC membership must be current to register for events.*

If you have any questions, contact the DAC office at (612) 729-3800.

## ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR OUR ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION & ART COLLECTION

We are gearing up for our 4th annual silent auction. The last three have been a huge success, and we are hoping this year will be as well. We need your help! We are looking for donations for the DAC art collection and for the auction. Do you have something you can donate? Maybe a handcrafted item? Do you have something with Danish history that you would like to donate for the collection or auction? We are also looking for gift cards and themed gift baskets. Get creative! We will accept gently used items in good working order as well. Items can be dropped off at the DAC office during Wednesday office hours. We are asking you to complete a brief form for each donation so we can process your gift.

### Danish American Center

3030 West River Parkway South  
Minneapolis MN 55406

612-729-3800

email: [dainfo@dac.mn](mailto:dainfo@dac.mn)

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

Office Hours: Wednesdays: 10am-2pm

### Affiliate Organizations

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

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

### Executive Board:

Peter Gaantris, President  
EJ Gurley, Vice President  
Anders Wolf, Treasurer  
Susan Jacobsen, Secretary  
Bill Holmquist, at Large  
Scott Thomsen, at Large

### Board of Directors:

Poul Bertelsen, Pippert Berg Madsen, Lisa Jensen,  
Ginny Kirkegaard Leppart, Mari Larsen,  
Susan Loschenkohl, Tom Peterson, Bruce Simpson,  
Karma Walker, and Pernille Whited

### DANews Committee:

Laura Forslev  
Bill Holmquist  
Betina Kohler  
Susan Loschenkohl  
Myra Madsen  
Michelle Potter-Bacon  
Robert Rasmussen  
Becky Wifstrand

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

## ATTENTION VIRKELYST MEMBERS! JULEFROKOST

Saturday, December 9: Social Hour 11am Lunch 12pm

Please mark your calendars and plan to register soon for our Julefrokost event on December 9 starting at 11am at the DAC.



This Christmas-time multi-course luncheon is for Virkelyst members only and we cannot admit guests. However, if your potential guest would like to join Virkelyst in the meantime, we would love to have her! We are delighted that Svea Ernst has agreed to cook for us again.

Registration is now open for the luncheon. The cost is \$29 per person. Important note: all registrations/payments will be due by December 4. We cannot accept payment at the door. See *Registering for Events* in this newsletter on how to register.

## DONATIONS NEEDED FOR VIRKELYST ENDEAVOR

Virkelyst would like to invite DAC members and friends to join us in our latest philanthropic endeavor. You may remember three years ago the DAC collected three van loads of household goods. Items collected for that event sponsored by the Minneapolis Council of Churches help set up apartments to be ready for Afghan families resettling in Minneapolis.

This year we are collecting feminine products for the same Refugee Resettlement program. We recently learned that very few people donate feminine products so there is always a need for them. Culturally, Muslim women do not use tampons so please donate pads only. Newer DAC members may not know about Virkelyst's history of donating to progressive causes that benefit women and children. For their first service project in 1938 Virkelyst members made and donated layettes for unwed mothers.

You may donate money and feminine pads until our Christmas Luncheon on December 9, 2023. There is a drop-off box for collections just outside the DAC library. If you write a check, please make it out to *MCC Refugee Services*. We will deliver collected items and checks shortly after the luncheon.

## BEGINNING DANISH CLASS STARTS JANUARY 20

A new Danish course for beginners will start in late January. This is a slower-paced course for true beginner-level students. We will use a short textbook created for adult learners covering core basic language skills in everyday scenarios.



The course meets for ten sessions at the Danish American Center and five optional Zoom 'office hour' sessions where students may check in with questions about the lesson or homework assignment.



A wrap up meeting will take place in May featuring a year-end potluck for all who participated in language courses throughout the 2023-2024 year.

### Tentative Schedule:

*In person sessions at DAC*

**Saturdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m.**

January 20, 27; February 10, 17; March 2, 9, 30; April 6, 20, 27

*Zoom Office Hours*

**Saturdays (time to be determined)**

February 3, 24; March 23; April 23; May 4

*Year-end potluck in May*

Time and date to be determined.

Please check out the complete details for Beginning Danish in the January issue of *DANews*.

## LOOKING FOR A DANISH TUTOR?

Contact Ingela Haaland for more information at 651-261-3602 or [Ingela\\_eilert@yahoo.com](mailto:Ingela_eilert@yahoo.com) or Niels Billund at [nielsbillund@gmail.com](mailto:nielsbillund@gmail.com)

In lieu of payment, Niels requests his students donate to the Danish American Center.

### Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the January issue is December 10

## ONCE UPON A MANSION: ASI'S 73RD HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE

November 11, 2023  
– January 7, 2024

Step into the fairytale at the American Swedish Institute's most enchanting holiday experience ever that brings the magic of winter, traditions, myths, and tales to life for visitors of all

ages. Explore the festive rooms of the Turnblad Mansion and immerse yourself in experiences co-created by local community contributors representing Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Finland, and the Sami Cultural Center. Whether it's your first ASI Holiday Experience, or your 73rd, this is one you won't want to miss.

Are you a fan of vintage Danish glass from Holmegaard? When you visit, keep an eye out for a frosty northern lights themed, glass-filled tablescape inspired by HC Andersen's "The Snow Queen" crafted by DAC community curators Susan Loschenkohl and Mari Larsen.

One of Minnesota's top winter traditions, ASI's Nordic-inspired holiday experience brings communities and people of all ages together to celebrate the season. From November to January, the museum and cultural center partners with local organizations designers, artists, makers, and performers, to produce an immersive holiday experience within the historic Turnblad Mansion—Minnesota's only castle—and to present an array of top holiday events, holiday handcraft, food, language classes, and more.



## SINGALONG WITH DAN CHOUINARD

Monday, December 4: 7pm

The monthly sing-along with Dan Chouinard is back! If you have not been to one yet, you

should come and experience the joy of singing along with a fun group of people. It is on the first Monday of every month unless you see it differently in the *DANews*. Free and open to all, with a free-will donation..

## MUSIC ON THE MISSISSIPPI

In October, Patty Peterson, one of the region's most notable jazz vocalists and a host on Jazz 88 radio, and three members of the Jazz Women's All-Stars group treated the audience to another terrific concert. With her were Mary Louise Knutson on piano, Joan Griffith on bass and guitar, and Sheila Earley on drums.

Ginger Commodore, another area vocalist who sometimes sings with the All-Stars group was in the audience and joined Patty on vocals for the final tune.

The seven 2023 concerts were very successful. All had a strong attendance and five sold out. Many positive comments have been made by both the attendees and the musicians, who like the atmosphere in the Atrium. Plans are in the works for 2024 but no dates or musicians have been lined up yet.

Many members and their guests have been to all or most of the concerts this year and last. We especially thank them and all who have attended for their support of live music and the DAC. We also thank the many volunteers who helped in various roles to make the concerts a success.



## DANEBO READING CIRCLE WINDS UP 2023 WITH NEW CHOICES FOR 2024

At their last meeting in 2023 on Sunday, November 19, the DAC's reading group planned to finalize the schedule for 2024. The slick, online voting process determined eight titles for the new year, leaving only two decisions to make: which month and which leader(s). Look for the results in the January issue of DANews and on bookmarks available this month on the table outside the first-floor library. Please contact Suzanne Jebe (suzannej41@me.com) for more information about the schedule or the group.

The list of books for 2024 includes these titles (in alphabetical order of author's last name):

*The Far Traveler: Voyages of a Viking Woman* by British author Nancy Marie Brown (2007: Harcourt, 306 pages)

*The Murder of Halland* by Danish author Pia Juul (2009, translated 2012 by Martin Aitken; 2015: Coach House Books, 147 pages)

*Stolen: A Novel* by Swedish Indigenous author Ann-Helén Laestadius (2021, translated 2023 by Minnesotan Rachel Willson-Broyles: Scribner, 389 pages)

*Swede Hollow: A Novel* by Swedish author Ola Larsmo (2016, translated 2019 by Tiina Nunnally: University of Minnesota Press, 312 pages)

*Lucky Per* (Part II: Books 5-8), the Danish classic novel by Henrik Pontoppidan (1898, translated 2010 by Naomi Lebowitz; 2019: Knopf, 328 pages)

*The End of Drum-Time: A Novel*, a finalist for a 2023 National Book award and set in 1850s Sweden above the Arctic Circle by US author Hanna Pylväinen (2023: Holt, 349 pages)

*The Land of Dreams*, the first book in the "Minnesota Trilogy" by Norwegian author Vidar Sundstøl (2008, translated 2013 by Tiina Nunnally: University of Minnesota Press, 284 pages)

*Olav Audunssøn (Part III, Crossroads)* by Norwegian author Sigrid Undset (1925, translated 2022 by Tiina Nunnally: University of Minnesota Press, 242 pages)

Three months of the schedule are known: January (*Lucky Per*), March (*Stolen*), and November (*Olav Audunssøn III*). The group usually meets on the third Sunday of the month from 2-4 PM.

Marie Thorsten will lead off the year on Sunday, January 21, with discussion of the second half of *Lucky Per*. People interested in this important Danish work are invited whether they have read the first half or not. The group will also consider plans to bring the Danish movie based on the novel to the DAC later in the year as an event for all members and friends.

In March, Roger McKnight will co-lead the discussion of *Stolen: A Novel*. His co-leader will be Rachel Willson-Broyles, who is the translator of the book and was Roger's student at Gustavus. Rachel lives in Saint Paul. What an honor to have Rachel visit the Reading Circle – this may be the first time a translator has been at a meeting!

And on Sunday, November 17, the group will return to the medieval world of Sigrid Undset's tetralogy about Olav Audunssøn and his countrymen – and women. Book III is titled *Crossroads* and will certainly precede the January 2025 selection of Book IV: *Winter*. Fans of the Norwegian Nobelists will want to put both dates on their calendar.

All the members of the Danebo Reading Circle wish their DAC friends enjoyable December holidays and a good beginning to the new year. See you in 2024!

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### Welcome New Members:

Susan Farnham

Mary Jensen

Margaret Kuusisto

Judith McLaughlin

Sonja Sutter

Mary True

Stephen Smith and family

Jason Kirsch and family

Terri Ann Flynn

Margareta Beyer

Tamara Pfantz

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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## DECEMBER 2023

Friday	01	Tøsegruppen 7-10pm
Saturday	02	Library Open Hours 10am-12pm
Sunday	03	Sangaften 7pm
Monday	04	Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7-8:30pm
Wednesday	06	Office Hours 10am-2pm
	06	Mah-jongg 10am-3pm
Friday	08	Fyraften 6pm
Saturday	09	Danish for Beginners 9:30-11am
	09	Virkelyst Julefrokost 11am
Monday	11	Finance Committee Meeting 6pm
	11	Board Meeting 7pm
Wednesday	13	Office Hours 10am-2pm
	13	Mah-jongg 10am-3pm
Saturday	16	Danish for Beginners 9:30-11am
	16	Julefest 4:30pm Social Hour 6pm Dinner
Sunday	17	Children's Christmas Party 3-6pm
Wednesday	20	Office Hours 10am-2pm
	20	Mah-jongg 10am-3pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>GLÆDELIG JUL!</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b>
Wednesday	27	Office Hours 10am-2pm
	27	Mah-jongg 10am-3pm

## JANUARY 2024

<b>Monday</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>Happy New Year!</b>
Wednesday	03	Office Hours 10am-2pm
	03	Mah-jongg 10am-3pm
Friday	05	Tøsegruppen 7-10pm
Saturday	06	Library Open Hours 10am-12pm
Monday	08	Board Meeting 7pm
Wednesday	10	Office Hours 10am-2pm
	10	Mah-jongg 10am-3pm
	10	Onsdag Frokost 11:30am
Wednesday	17	Office Hours 10am-2pm
	17	Mah-jongg 10am-3pm
Saturday	20	Danish Language Class 9:30-11am
Sunday	21	Æbleskive Breakfast 9am and 10:45am
Wednesday	24	Office Hours 10am-2pm
	24	Mah-jongg 10am-3pm
	24	Onsdag Frokost 11:30am
Saturday	27	Danish Language Class 9:30-11am
	27	Fyraften 6pm
Wednesday	31	Office Hours 10am-2pm
	31	Mah-jongg 10am-3pm



**Danish  
American  
Center**

3030 W River Parkway S  
Minneapolis MN 55406