



DA NEWS

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.

ÆBLESKIVE BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 11: 9am and 10:45am

The next æbleskive breakfast will be held on Sunday, January 21 at the Danish American Center. We are offering two scheduled seatings for breakfast, at 9-10am and 10:45-11:45am. Reservations are required and are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost for the all-you-can-eat breakfast is \$13 per adult and \$8 for children ages 5-12. Younger children are free. The menu will include æbleskiver, egg bake, sausage, juice, and coffee. To sign up, please go to the website: <https://danishamericancenter.org/> and log in to your account, or scroll down to the upcoming events list. On the Event Calendar, select the Æbleskive Breakfast seating of your choice. Or call the DAC office at 612-729-3800 to sign up. Pre-payment is required. Reservations will be accepted through November 15. Note that we will accept a limited number of take-out orders (please book in advance).



Upcoming 2024 breakfasts, Sundays with reserved seating:

February 18, March 17, April 21, and May 12.

If you are interested in volunteering for one of our breakfasts or have questions, please contact Carla & Joel Mortensen at email: morte007@umn.edu, or call 612-724-1814. We hope to see you there!

SILENT AUCTION-STILL ACCEPTING DONATIONS

We are gearing up for our 4th annual silent auction. The last three have been a huge success; we are hoping this year will be a success 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. It may be helpful for you to bring along an itemized list describing your donations. We will ask that you complete a brief form for each donation so we may process your gift.

JANUARY 2024

- Danish for Beginners
- Save the Date: Aquavit Event

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings everyone! As I write this, I'm reflecting on the wonderful Julefest evening we enjoyed last night. Once again, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to have such a terrific community and so many generous volunteers. Thanks to all who contributed and joined us for a fabulous meal and celebration!

At the November DAC Board meeting, the Board voted to move forward with a staffing plan recommended by the DAC Personnel Committee. This plan provides for two salaried positions: Administrative Manager and Guest Services Manager. The Administrative Manager will manage membership enrollment and services, rental contracts, and general office duties. The Guest Services Manager is a live-in position that supports DAC-sponsored events, outside rental events, and provides support to guests using our room rental services. Tina Paulsen has accepted the position of Guest Services Manager, and will start in her new role on January 1. We are in the process of advertising for an Administrative Manager, and we will fill this role as soon as an appropriate hire can be made. Please welcome Tina into her new role and share information about the open Administrative Manager position with anyone that may be interested in submitting an application. We believe that the move to professionalize our staffing at

FROM THE PRESIDENT continued on Page 2

DAC will allow for better service for our members and for outside organizations that rent our facilities. It will also provide consistency in meeting documentation and reporting requirements and help to support the DAC as our organization continues to grow.

Regarding the consumption of alcoholic beverages on our premises, we are actively pursuing every avenue we can to allow members greater flexibility with regard to consuming alcohol at the Danish American Center. Our DAC facility is unusual, in that we have private membership, a building licensed to accommodate overnight stays, a full kitchen, and private meeting and dining rooms. We have 700+ members who can rent rooms to stay overnight, have parties, and private meetings. We are neither a bar, nor a restaurant. Therefore, the laws and ordinances governing our use of alcoholic beverages vary depending upon what the event is, how many special licenses and permits we have been issued in the year, and what permits are needed or reserved for future events. It is important that we are knowledgeable concerning exactly what we are allowed to do in each separate situation. I am overseeing the preparation of exact written guidance for each of us to use. That guidance will be approved by the City of Minneapolis, and the State of Minnesota, and will be accompanied by copies of applicable statutes, ordinances, and policies. Thank you for your patience as we proceed with developing the guidance to be followed. I will keep you informed!

Peter Gantriis

REGISTERING FOR EVENTS ONLINE

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

1. Go to 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.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome New Members:

Kaia Hansen • Janet Dahlman • Peggy Rouleau
Emily Helgerson • Sue Mannino • Diane Glorvigen
Kristin Midelfort • Camilla G. Toksig • Chris Winberg
Rikke Hansen • Angela Nielsen • Susan Spreiter
Michael E. Miller • Meg Erke • Elisabeth Aurand
Lilulu Hansen

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

Danish American Center

3030 West River Parkway South
Minneapolis MN 55406

612-729-3800

email: dainfo@dac.mn

Website: 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

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.



Elizabeth Tyler, "Båd på is" (Boat on Ice), acrylic, 1990

BOAT ON ICE – NEW PAINTING ON VIEW IN THE ATRIUM

A new addition to the art collection at DAC went on view in December. "Båd på is" (Boat on Ice) by Elizabeth Tyler was painted in 1990. It features a boat on the water near Nykøbing Falster just as the ice is breaking up in the springtime. The painting came from the collection of Signe Betsinger, a long-time resident of Minneapolis and faculty member at the University of Minnesota.

Signe was active in many Danish American organizations including the Danish Museum of America and the Danish American Heritage Society. Signe died on November 2, 2023, and she bequeathed the painting to the Danish American Center. The painting has found a new home in the Atrium at DAC on the wall behind the grand piano.

The artist, Elizabeth Tyler, though now a resident of Sweden, was born in England and educated at art college in the UK and Denmark. She has been a professional artist for five decades and exhibits her artworks regularly at galleries and art museums in Sweden, Denmark and Finland. In recent years she has participated in international art exhibitions worldwide.

She is the author of "Colours of the Sea" published in 2019. "Akvarelbogen" (The watercolour book) was published by Gyldendals Publishing House in Copenhagen, in 2005. The eBook "Watercolour in detail" published in 2012 is also written and illustrated by her. Her affinity for water and the sea, often subjects of her art may come from the fact that she lives and paints on a boat. Elizabeth Tyler says that she often finds her subject matter in a small area of a stony beach and the borderline between the sea and the shore is a symbolic and important source of inspiration for her.

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.

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 from 9:30-10am

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

Register on the DAC calendar starting January 1, 2024.

LOOKING FOR A DANISH TUTOR?

Contact Ingela Haaland for more information at 651-261-3602 or Ingela_eilert@yahoo.com or Niels Billund at nielsbillund@gmail.com

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

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the February issue is January 10

DANEBO READING CIRCLE ANNOUNCES 2024 SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 21: 2-4pm

The 2024 reading schedule is complete. The eight books cover three centuries and the work of authors and translators from seven countries. As usual, the group will meet on the third Sunday from 2-4 PM. Meetings will continue in hybrid form (DAC and Zoom) as long as interest in this option continues. The group invites everyone to join in person or through cyberspace. Please contact Suzanne Jebe (suzannej41@me.com) for more information about the schedule or the group.

Here's the list of dates, books, and discussion leaders

January 21: *Lucky Per (Part II: Books 5-8)*, the Danish classic novel by Henrik Pontoppidan (1898, translated 2010 by Naomi Lebowitz; 2019: Knopf, 328 pages), discussion led by Marie Thorsten

February 18: *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), discussion led by Michelle Potter-Bacon

March 17: *Stolen: A Novel* by Swedish indigenous author Ann-Helén Laestadius (2021, translated 2023 by Minnesotan Rachel Willson-Broyles: Scribner, 389 pages), discussion led by Roger McKnight and Rachel Willson-Broyles

April 21: *Swede Hollow: A Novel* by Swedish author Ola Larsmo (2016, translated 2019 by Tiina Nunnally: University of Minnesota Press, 312 pages), discussion led by Bill Holmquist

May 19: *The Murder of Halland* by Danish author Pia Juul (2009, translated 2012 by Martin Aitken; 2015: Coach House Books, 147 pages), discussion led by Diane Greve

September 15: *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), discussion led by Carol Sime

October 20: *The Far Traveler: Voyages of a Viking Woman* by British author Nancy Marie Brown (2007: Harcourt, 306 pages), discussion led by Barbara Andersen

November 17: *Olav Audunssøn (Part III, Crossroads)* by Norwegian author Sigrid Undset (1925, translated 2022 by Tiina Nunnally: University of Minnesota Press, 242 pages), discussion led by Mary Beth Lake

Marie Thorsten leads off the year with a discussion of the second half of *Lucky Per* (Books 5-8) on January 21. People interested in this important Danish work are invited whether they have read the first half or not. The group will also discuss 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 February, Michelle Potter-Bacon will lead the group in discussing a celebrated Norwegian "krimi," *The Land of Dreams*,... a sweeping chronicle from one of Norway's leading crime writers--a portrait of an extraordinary landscape, an exploration of hidden traumas and paths of silence that trouble history, and a haunting study in guilt and the bonds of blood." "Winner of the Riverton Prize for best Norwegian crime novel and named by Dagbladet as one of the top twenty-five Norwegian crime novels of all time, *The Land of Dreams* is the chilling first installment in Vidar Sundstøl's critically acclaimed Minnesota Trilogy, set on the rugged north shore of Lake Superior and in the region's small towns and deep forests" [quotations from https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/the-land-of-dreams_vidar-sundstl/1017941/#edition=8206122&ridiq=10009070] Come meet Norwegian-American U.S. Forest Service officer Lance Hansen, FBI agent Bob Lecuyer, and Norwegian detective Eirik Nyland as they collaborate in the investigation.

The Danebo Reading Circle wishes everyone a memorable, book-filled New Year!

TRANSLATION SERVICE AT DAC

The DAC frequently receives requests for translators of documents. We are now offering a translation service. To request a translation, you can mail the materials to the DAC, or email dainfo@dac.mn. Please send a clear copy. Do not send any original documents. DAC cannot be responsible for original documents. Documents can be sent via a picture file, a scanned document, or a Word file. The documents will be reviewed, and the translators will determine if it is material that can be translated. Work will be returned by email. The rate is \$30 per hour for members and \$40 per hour for non-members. Payments can be made by check to the Danish American Center. Translated documents will be returned to you by mail. Postage and handling will be added. If you have any questions, please contact the DAC office at 612-729-3800.

FOOD AND AQUAVIT PAIRING EVENT

Saturday, March 9: 12:30 pm

It is time for our 12th annual food and aquavit pairing event. As in years past, we will be featuring a variety of selected food dishes and pairing them with aquavits to enhance the experience. Some of the dishes will be new and some will be old favorites.

Each year we try to learn a little more about both locally produced and celebrated Danish aquavits, and discuss cocktail options with them. Last time we had both Gamle Ode (<http://www.gamleode.com/>) and Vikre Distillery (<http://www.vikredistillery.com/>) in attendance. We are working with them again, and also with local representatives from Carver Distillery (<https://www.jcarverdistillery.com/>).

Registration for this event will start on January 15th via the DAC website. For questions contact Steen Moeller at moellersteen@gmail.com

ASI IS PLEASED TO WELCOME DANISH FELTMAKER

ASI is pleased to welcome Danish felt maker Mette Østman in March 2024 to Minneapolis.

Mette Østman has been felting since 1980, first as a hobby and also in the classroom, where she worked as a social pedagogue and preschool teacher.

Nearly twenty years later, Mette moved from felting with local wool (mostly grey) to colorful Merino wool, which increased the playfulness, joy, and types of projects she created. Mette started her own business in 2005 to make felt and teach felt making and has since traveled for felt making to many other countries. Her work has also led to the publication of several books on making felted objects, and the creation in 2018 of Filtværket, a communal felting studio in Odense, Denmark.

Mette says: "Learning from talented teachers and the exchange with fellow felt makers from other cultures has added to my skills and offered inspiration concerning materials, textures, and colours."

Mette's website is <https://www.metteoestman.dk/> or follow her on Instagram @mette.oestman. Please visit asimn.org for information on classes.



DAC MEMBERSHIP AND WEBSITE UPDATES

We have made some changes to our website to make it easier for you to renew your membership at the level that you find fits you best and we have added a new category of senior household. When you renew your membership on the website after signing into your account, you will have the option of renewing at the current level or choosing a new level. Although we raised our membership rates slightly over a year ago, not everyone understands the new rate structure. The current rates are Household memberships (2 adults and children living at one address) \$75; Senior Households (2 adults over age 65) \$60; Individual memberships \$45 and Senior Individual memberships and students \$35.

Other updates include a more robust calendar. We are adding photos and more descriptions to DAC Member events. When you click on the event on the calendar, a photo and description will come up. For member events that do not require registration, you will just see an expanded description. If the event requires registration, you may click through and register for the event online from the event page. All events requiring registration are now handled by online reservation and payment. You may also send a check to the office to register for an event, and no reservations are held without payment. We no longer accept cash or payment at the door at any event. If you are not comfortable using the website, you may ask a family member or friend to help you or call the office on Wednesdays from 10 am to 2 pm and we can take payment for events over the phone with a credit card.

MEMORIALS

Donations in memory of **Ruth Thomsen** from Rita Peterson, Svend & Grethe Petersen, and Lis Jorgensen

Thank you to all who have made contributions to DAC. These generous gifts are much appreciated. All donations to DAC are tax deductible. Please contact the DAC Office for more information.

SINGALONG WITH DAN CHOUINARD

Monday, January 8: 7pm

The first Monday singalong starts up again at 7pm Monday, January 8 at the Danish American Center in Minneapolis. Dan Chouinard hosts from the piano with lyrics on the big screen to help us through a few seasonal songs, some old favorites, and your requests. Free will offering.



VIEWS FROM DAC'S JULEFEST



JULEFEST 2023

Members and their guests gathered at the Danish American Center on Saturday, December 16 for one of the highlights of our social calendar, a right proper Danish Christmas dinner. As with all of our events, we couldn't have done it without the support of our community. Ole Gram provided appetizers. Todd Vandecar and Grethe Petersen helped with table decor. Beer served at the dinner was donated by the Wooden Ship Brewing Company. Special thanks go out to Julefest coordinators Lisa Jensen and Pete Gantrris, their merry band of volunteers, and especially our own Svea Ernst who brought the delicious dinner to life.

LIBRARY HOURS

The library is now open on the first Saturday of the month from 11 am to 1 pm or by appointment only.

You may make a reservation for appointments offered on Wednesdays and Sundays by calling 612-296-5193. We will do our best to accommodate your needs, but please allow a week or so notice so we can find a volunteer to staff the library for your appointment.

Saturday open hours are staffed by a volunteer from the National Danish-American Genealogy Society, and they can help with genealogy research as well as the DAC library collection.

The Steenberg Lounge on floor 2 has free Danish books for members to read/retain. The Lounge is open every day.

Please remember that any borrowed books can be returned at any time to the library by placing them in the box outside the library. If the book has been signed out, it can be returned by appointment, or during library office hours so that we can check it back in.



NOTARY PUBLIC

If you need 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

NATIONAL DANISH AMERICAN GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The National Danish-American Genealogy Society (NDAGS) is dedicated to research of Danish immigrant roots. One of the nation's oldest and largest Danish-American genealogy groups meets regularly via Zoom and occasionally at the Danish American Center.

Topics of discussion include research in Denmark, preserving old photographs and documents, using research facilities in the Twin Cities, writing query letters, locating ancestral villages and farms, etc.

Everyone is welcome. For more information on the National Danish-American Genealogical Society, please visit our website at <https://www.danishgenealogy.org> or contact us at ndagsmembers@gmail.com

The first Saturday of every month, a genealogist hosts drop-in consultations in the DAC library from 10am to noon. Make an appointment by emailing the office or drop in.

DANISH GENEALOGY

Saturday, January 27: 1pm

Join us for a virtual tour of the genealogical resources at the Denver Public Library in Denver, Colorado. The DPL has a great collection of genealogical books and resources, including books on Danish genealogy and history. This tour will highlight these, as well as how to conduct general genealogical research there and the wealth of resources housed there. Our tour will be presented by Jaymie Middendorf, the Librarian of the Genealogy and Special Collections at the Denver Public Library and Vice President-elect of the National Danish-American Genealogical Society.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2024

Mondays from 9am-12pm: Watercolor
Wednesdays from 10am -2pm: DAC Office Hours
Wednesdays from 10am -3pm: Mah Jong

Monday 01 Happy New Year!

Friday 05 Tøsegruppen 7-10pm

Saturday 06 Library Open Hours 11am-1pm
06 NDAGS Consultation 10am-12pm

Monday 08 Executive Committee Meeting 7pm
08 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7pm

Wednesday 10 Onsdag Frokost 11:30am

Saturday 20 Danish Language Class 9:30-11am

Sunday 21 Æbleskive Breakfast 9am and 10:45am
21 Danebo Reading Circle 2-4pm

Wednesday 24 Onsdag Frokost 11:30am

Friday 26 Fyraften 6pm

Saturday 27 Danish Language Class 9:30-11am
27 Danish Genealogy Virtual Tour 1pm

FEBRUARY 2024

Mondays from 9am-12pm: Watercolor
Wednesdays from 10am -2pm: DAC Office Hours
Wednesdays from 10am -3pm: Mah Jong

Friday 02 Tøsegruppen 7-10pm

Saturday 03 Library Open Hours 11am-1pm
03 NDAGS Consultation 10am-12pm

Monday 05 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7pm

Wednesday 07 Virkelyst Meeting 7pm

Saturday 10 Danish Language Class 9:30-11am

Monday 12 Finance Committee Meeting 6-7pm
12 Board Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 14 Onsdag Frokost 11:30am

Saturday 17 Danish Language Class 9:30-11am

Sunday 18 Æbleskive Breakfast 9am and 10:45am

Friday 23 Fyraften 6pm

Wednesday 28 Onsdag Frokost 11:30am

January 2024