



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.

MEMBER SOCIAL GATHERINGS

FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH IN THE TIVOLI LOUNGE & LIVING ROOM

Friday, May 2: 4-6pm

Join your member friends for an informal social gathering and enjoy soft drinks, non-alcoholic beer, and snacks. No reservations needed; come join us!

HAPPY HOUR AT HERBST FOR DAC MEMBERS

Friday, May 16 from 4-6 pm at Herbst Eatery & Farm Stand



779 Raymond Avenue St. Paul 55114
Executive Chef Benjamin Moenster in collaboration with the Danish American Center invites you to join him for a series of new special member events, 4-6 pm on the third Friday of the month through August.

Herbst

EATERY & FARM STAND
SOUTH ST. ANTHONY PARK

Moenster, 33, is a native of Denmark, which is where his culinary career began. After a short time in culinary school, Moenster jumped into the kitchen at a small restaurant in his hometown of Aarhus. There he

learned all aspects of the industry and gained the confidence to move to America and continue his culinary career in the Twin Cities. He has been the Executive Chef at Herbst Eatery & Farm Stand since fall of 2024.

\$35 per person (2 drink tickets and light hors d'oeuvres) includes tax and gratuity. Limited tickets available – log in to your member account to register by May 12. Or call the DAC office at 612-729-3800.

Parking - Metered street parking is available on Raymond Avenue. Unmetered street parking is available on Charles Avenue & Territorial Road. There is not a parking lot (meters are NOT enforced after 6pm).

MAY 2025

- ♥ Mother's Day Brunch
- ♥ Dane of the Year Nominations
- ♥ DAC Clean Up Day
- ♥ Save the Date: Sankt Hans Aften

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is finally here. The weather is getting warm, the grass is turning green, and Danish Day is close at hand!

As we often do, we look to make regular improvements to our property, and the building committee has been very active during the past month. We are currently in the process of getting bids and making plans for some welcome improvements to the first floor. Preliminary plans include a reconfiguration of the guest suite on the first floor. This will allow us to add two additional new public bathrooms in close proximity to the Kaffeetue. We will also be installing a new entry control system to the main entrance of the Atrium. This new system will feature a keypad and a door lock with remote accessibility. It is imperative that we keep our property secure, and this new system will allow us to grant access to our groups and guests, and keep the building safe when there are fewer people on the property.

The exterior of our building is benefiting from improvements as well. Thanks to a generous donation of time and funds

from the Jensen family, our landscaping is getting nicely refreshed, with special focus on the east and south side of the property. We will also be installing a new irrigation system to keep the grounds looking lush. We are hoping to get all of these property improvement projects completed by the end of this summer.

Final plans for Danish Day are coming together nicely. Our food and activity committees are working together to prepare for our annual celebration! We took a survey of members and volunteers after last year's event, and we are using the feedback to make this year's event better. We are reconfiguring the food stand locations in an effort to improve foot traffic flow, and we are making some other small changes as well. The goal is to make the celebration fun and enjoyable, and I am grateful for all of our volunteers who are working behind the scenes to make it happen!

Pete Gantriis

MEMORIALS

Donations in memory of **Joseph Mohr** from Ginny Leppart

Donation in memory of **Dick Juhl** from Kristian and Lora Lee Thusholt

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.

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the June issue is May 10

DANE OF THE YEAR 2025

We are looking for nominations for Dane of the Year 2025. If you have a nomination, please submit to the office at dainfo@dac.mn or call the office at 612-729-3800.

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. (We do not accept American Express.)
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

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome New Members:

Jens Christian Morkeberg

Martin Boehme & Ashley Diers

Mark & Nancy Meisel-Youngman

Patricia Nelson

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

Executive Board:

Peter Gantriis, President
EJ Gurley, Vice President
Anders Wolf, Treasurer
Susan Jacobsen, Secretary

Board of Directors:

Dana Bacon, Pippert Berg Madsen, Bill Holmquist,
Lisa Jensen, Ginny Kirkegaard Leppart, Susan Loschenkohl,
Ryan Maki, Tom Peterson, Bruce Simpson,
Scott Thomsen, Karma Walker, and Pernille Whited

DANews Committee:

Pippert Berg Madsen
Bill Holmquist
Betina Kohler
Susan Loschenkohl
Myra Madsen
Michelle Potter-Bacon

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

DANISH DAY

Sunday, June 1: 11am to 3pm

Join us for an afternoon of fellowship and great food. This year's celebration will again feature a beer garden. Please bring chairs with you for seating on the lawn and enjoy the music, food and program.

You are welcome to bring food. However, we will have a repeat of last year's popular Danish style hot dogs with all the trimmings, small food baskets such as frikadeller, vegetable salad with optional shrimp, cheese, æbleskiver, layer cake, and ice cream for sale as well. To avoid queues to buy tickets, you can purchase tickets online ten days before the event and pick up when you arrive.

No outside alcohol or beer can be brought but you can plan on getting cold beer in our beer garden! Beer, soda, sparkling water, and coffee will be available for purchase. We will have a water dispenser outside and are encouraging people to bring their own water bottles for that!

Vendors include Ingebretsen's Nordic Marketplace, The Hygge Maker, artist Roger Nielsen, and Danish Woodworking by Flemming Petersen. Live demonstrations by the DAC's Viking Guild, and activities for the kids too! New this year is a sale of Danish household goods.

There is no entrance fee, but a goodwill donation is much appreciated. As always, there will also be a dedicated table for you to renew your DAC membership. We hope to see you here!

DANISH DAY PROGRAM

11am	Food & Vendor sales begin
12:15pm	National Anthems - Taylor Ann Grand President's Welcome - Peter Gantriis Dane of the Year announcement
1-3pm	Musical performances on the outdoor stage
2pm	Children's Nisse hunt
2:30pm	Group Photo
3pm	Danish Day Ends

Volunteers: We are looking for volunteers for set up / take down, and helping with activities. If you are interested in helping during this fun day, watch your mailbox for an email sign up in May or call the office and offer your help.

If it looks like bad weather, check the [DAC website](#) or [Facebook page](#) for any changes.

NJÁL'S SAGA TAPESTRY EXHIBITION

August 15-19

DAC and Icelandic

Hekla Club will be exhibiting a traveling



version of The Njál Saga Tapestry modeled after the Bayeux Tapestry, a Viking-themed tapestry from Northern France that tells the story of the Norman Invasion of Britain in 1066. Like the Bayeux "Tapestry," the Njál's Saga Tapestry is not truly a tapestry, since tapestries are woven on looms. The Njál's Saga Tapestry is a long embroidery, entirely hand-stitched in the Bayeux-style on pure woven linen, using Icelandic wool, hand dyed with local plants. The Njál's Saga Tapestry recounts a local story of 10th and 11th century embattled Vikings, created and embroidered in the heart of Njál's Saga country, on the Rang River plain, in the town of Hvolsvöllur, South Iceland. Njál's Saga, or more accurately, The Saga of the Burning of Njál, is considered Iceland's mightiest saga. Its story and characters are woven into the fabric of Icelandic culture and the saga is read every year, on the same day, from start to finish in the schools and libraries of Iceland. Save the dates for this special opportunity to see the tapestry, hear lectures and participate in embroidery workshops. Details will be announced on the DAC website as they develop this summer.

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 11: 9am or 10:45am

Reservations are required for our two scheduled seatings and are on a first-come, first-served basis. This event is open to both members and non-members. The cost for the brunch is \$16 per adult and \$9 for children ages 5-12 (younger children are free). The menu includes æbleskiver, egg bake, sausage, rugbrød with meat & cheese (pålæg), pastry, juice and coffee. To reserve, go to danishamericancenter.org, find May 11 on the calendar, and click the brunch seating of your choice. Or call the DAC office at 612-729-3800. We will accept a limited number of take-out orders; please book in advance online. Upcoming breakfast: Saturday, June 28 outdoors!

If you are interested in volunteering for one of our breakfasts, contact Carla & Joel Mortensen at carla.s.mortensen@gmail.com or call 612-724-1814. We hope to see you there!

DAC CLEAN UP DAY – CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Saturday, May 10: 9am-4pm

Help clean up the Danish American Center building and grounds. We will paint, clean, and make touch ups around the building and on the grounds. Light lunch provided. Come for a half day if you can't come for the full day. Log in to your member account and register on the calendar or call the office at 612-729-3800. Spend a fun day with fellow members!

SAGA WRITERS

Sunday, May 4: 1:30-3:30pm

North Commons Classroom

Want to do something with those memories and stories you've been carrying around in your head for years? Come join our friendly and supportive group of writers to share your goals, aspirations and accomplishments. Get those writing projects underway! See you there!

THE DANEBØ READING CIRCLE ENCOUNTERS PRINCE IN MAY – NOT THE PURPLE ONE

Sunday, May 18: 2-4pm:

North Commons Classroom and online

All are invited to join the group in discussing Danish author Ib Michael's novel *Prince*, (DK: *Prins*, Copenhagen: Gyldendal, 1997, 208 pages; translated by Barbara Haveland, New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999), available at a library, bookstore, or online. Michael has written several award-winning novels and this is the first of his to be translated into English. He is described as one of Denmark's foremost writers and lives in Copenhagen; he turned 80 in January. His style is described as magical realism. Kirkus Reviews recommended this book to readers who like Peter Høeg's novels and Isak Dinesen's gothic tales.

The May discussion leader, Carol Sime, begins her approach to the book with this observation: "To be let loose in the wonderland of childhood—that is what it means to be born a prince." She continues: What could be more enchanting than the world of a 12-year-old boy, free from parental strictures, spending a summer at a seaside hotel? Here he can explore nature with a secret playmate who takes different magical forms. Over the summer he grows in understanding of the world of adults. He learns to read, watches a lovelorn friend with a broken heart, and witnesses encounters with death. Various characters include a sea captain's ghost, a lighthouse keeper, a

possible scam artist, and a young girl with mutism. His exploits may remind readers of a Hans Christian Andersen fantasy or a Robert Louis Stevenson adventure." From Donna Rifkind's review in the *Baltimore Sun*: "Evocative... Michael's book has a lovely, tinkling quaintness, like a boardwalk calliope, and haunting images of the sea as both a liberator and captor of souls."

Anyone may now propose books for next year by providing genre, title, author, country of origin, translator, publication and translation dates, publisher, page count, a short description, and format and availability information (print, eBook, audiobook; libraries, bookstores, online, etc.). The deadline for submitting nominations is September 8.

Books for September 21, October 19, and November 16 are *Out Stealing Horses* by Per Petterson (NO, 2003, 258 pages; translated 2005 by Anne Born); *The Old Man and His Sons* by Heðin Brú (Faroes, 1940, 166 pages; translated 1970 by John F. West); and *Animal Life* by Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir (IS, 2020, 192 pages; translated 2022 by Brian FitzGibbon).

Contact suzannej41@me.com for more information, a Zoom link, or a book nomination form.

100 YEARS OF OUR HISTORY!

Members and friends of the DAC are encouraged to see it for yourself with MN Collections online: <https://mncollections.org> Once on the site, click on Danish American Center.

This site is part of the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums. Susan Jacobsen, Ginny Leppart and others have added scans and photos with descriptions of historical and current photographs, paintings, sculptures and documents that are found in our DAC building. We will keep adding items so check periodically and you will be amazed at all the objects and archival information that can be found. You may even recognize some of the girls in this photograph, taken in the early 1940s:



VIKINGELAUG/VIKING GUILD

Thursday, May 29: 6pm

Join us to make historical crafts based on archaeological finds of the Viking Age. Members will be able to create their own Viking Age clothing and have the opportunity to take part in a Viking camp at various Midwest Scandinavian cultural events. We will also explore Viking Age cuisine, combat, carving, and other hands-on activities!

CELEBRATE SANKT HANS AFTEN

Saturday, June 21: 5-10 pm

The Walter-Hansen farm in Rosemount will be hopping with Danes and friends from around the world when we gather to celebrate mid-summer. There's something for every age to enjoy: eating, playing, chatting, dancing, and singing together! New-mown



hay bales provide soft seating and an intoxicating herbal fragrance in a cozy red barn where the floorboards have withstood weddings, waltzes, pop/rock bands, and dining events. Children can learn to twist & toast campfire bread (snobrød) over open charcoals. Hayrides transport the brave and curious down winding roads, through forests and thickets, past ponds and lakes, and return them safely to boast tall tales of adventure. If you seek tranquility, sit back with a cool beverage, enjoy catching up with friends you've missed seeing, gaze out to the pond, and breathe in the sweet country air. As the sun sets, we'll gather around a grand bonfire. Come rain or shine!

Remember to bring:

- Meat to grill and a dish to share (appetizer/salad/dessert)
- Your choice of beverages, comfy lawn chairs or blankets, and bug spray
- Donations are appreciated but not expected!

We will provide:

- Gas grills and utensils, tables & chairs
- Plates, napkins, cups & utensils
- Condiments & Seasonings
- Lemonade, water & coffee

The farm's address is 12101 Dodd Blvd, Rosemount, MN 55068. For assistance/questions, call Kurt or Patricia Walter-Hansen at 612-483-3569 or 612-483-3101.

MUSIC ON THE MISSISSIPPI

BRUCE A. HENRY AND DEAN MAGRAW

Thursday, May 8: 6pm SOCIAL HOUR

7pm CONCERT IN THE ATRIUM

Bruce A. Henry is a vocalist, historian, storyteller, composer and performer extraordinaire. A baritone whose three-and-a-half octave range allows him to also sing tenor, alto and falsetto, Bruce's pure, versatile voice has been heard nationally and taken him to five continents. He performed with and opened for the likes of Doc Severinson, Roberta Flack, Chris Botti, Ramsey Lewis, Stephane Grappelli, Jimmy Jam and The Sounds of Blackness.

Guitarist Dean Magraw's liquid, lyrical and effortless music transports and lifts the soul to a higher level as he weaves every note from his instrument and uses every silent moment to build his stories. Magraw performed in a duo for many years with Peter Ostroushko, and has also performed with Tim Sparks, John Gorka and many other artists.

Together the two of them promise to bring us an evening of intimate and soul stirring music that is bound to please.

Ticket sales are final; no refunds or exchanges.

DAC Members \$30, Non-Members \$35.

Visit this concert's web page (<https://danishamericancenter.org/membership/event-calendar/#levent/2025/5/8/music-on-the-mississippi-with-bruce-a-henry-dean-magraw-social-hour-6pm-concert-7pm>) for more information and to purchase tickets.



BOUND FOR A DISTANT SHORE HERITAGE GALLERY ART EXHIBITION

May to October 2025

The DAC was thrilled to receive a very special work of art from member Ruth Palm and the Palm family. The "Amy of Copenhagen," a brigantine, or two masted sailing ship model, serves as the centerpiece of a new exhibition featuring ships from the collection of the DAC, now on view in the Heritage Gallery. This intricately detailed ship was carved with a doctor's scalpel by Ruth's grandfather, Captain Frederik Ernst Funder (1857-1910). Beginning in 1885, Captain Funder carved the model during his free time while serving on a sailing ship. Life as a captain took Captain Funder all over the world, and in Lebanon he conceived the idea and procured a limb of a tree to begin carving the model ship. Named after his daughter Amy who was born in 1881, the model saw completion in 1888. The rigging is made of home spun linen.

The "Amy of Copenhagen" is accompanied by paintings and decorative arts that show how important the sea and ships are to Danish culture. From Viking ships to fishing, from contemporary recreational sailing vessels to container ships for world trade, the sea is central to Danish culture and identity. Denmark's geographic position gives it control of the Danish straits (Skagerrak and Kattegat), linking the Baltic and North Seas.

The 19th century painting "Danish Ship off the Coast of Helsingør" illustrates how this geography gave Denmark historical international stature. Another favorite work of art in the collection is the Tin Advertising Sign for Thingvalla, Scandinavian Lines of the Ocean Liner Fredrik VIII. This steamer, built in 1913, ferried many Scandinavian immigrants to the US. Our exhibit will remain on view through October, so visit the next time you are at DAC.



ADVANCED DANISH DISCUSSION AND CULTURE CLASS

Wednesdays, May 14 and 28 from 1:30-3 pm

Each session: \$10 DAC members, \$15 non-members

Come join a group of advanced language and culture learners for a discussion based on Danish author, Susanne V. Knudsen's book, *Grandmother's Universe* (*Farmors verden*). This class is for people with a solid Danish language foundation, who are interested in expanding their knowledge of the language, while diving into the challenging and harsh life of rural Denmark from 1880 to 1940. The class will move slowly through the chapters following student language levels.

Danish-born instructor Niels Billund has been teaching, tutoring and playing music for a number of years in the Twin Cities, including a stint at Skovsøen. He is currently translating *Grandmother's Universe* to English.

NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

DANISH GENEALOGY WEBINAR CYNDI'S LIST IN PRACTICE

Monday May 19: 6:30 pm via Zoom

The National Danish-American Genealogical Society is pleased to present a free genealogy webinar called "Cyndi's List in Practice." Cyndi's List is the ultimate one-stop source for finding just about everything genealogy related on the internet, and we have THE actual Cyndi Ingle, creator of Cyndi's List, speaking for our May program!! This website is absolutely a must for genealogists, but because it is so vast and contains so many resources, it can seem a bit overwhelming to beginners and is sometimes underused by veterans. Cyndi's List is a research tool that is robust with resources helpful in everyone's research. Using specific examples for beginners, as well as more advanced researchers, we will explore the site and point out how to make the most of the categories and the links found within, even ones specific to Danish research. No need to register for this event, simply click on the Zoom link to join the webinar. Zoom link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/81105450871>

For more information on the National Danish-American Genealogical Society, such as upcoming events, and learning about our group and our unique and informative newsletter, please visit www.danishgenealogy.org



Scholarship for Study in Denmark, Fall 2025 & Spring 2026



**Applications Due by
May 9th and October
31st, 2025!**

Instructions, Qualifications & Application Link

Visit www.umrsc.org

*The scholarship is made available by the
Upper Midwest Rebuild Scholarship Corporation.*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

Mondays at 9:30am: Watercolor Group
Wednesdays 10am-2pm: DAC Office Hours
Wednesdays 10am-3pm: Mah Jongg

Friday 02 Member Social Hour 4-6pm
02 Tøseaften 7pm
Saturday 03 Library Open (members only) 10am-12pm
03 Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm
Sunday 04 Saga Writers 1:30-3:30pm
Monday 05 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7pm
Wednesday 07 Virkelyst 7pm
Thursday 08 Concert: Bruce A. Henry & Dean Magraw,
6pm social hour, 7pm concert
Saturday 10 DAC Clean Up Day
Sunday 11 Mother's Day Brunch 9am and 10:45am
Monday 12 Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday 14 Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm
14 Advanced Danish Discussion Class 1:30-3pm
Friday 16 DAC Member Happy Hour at Herbst: 4-6pm
Sunday 18 Danebo Reading Circle 2-4pm
Wednesday 28 Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm
28 Advanced Danish Discussion Class 1:30-3pm
Thursday 29 Vikingelaugget/Viking Guild 7pm
Friday 30 Fyraften 7pm

JUNE

Mondays at 9:30am Watercolor Group
Wednesdays 10am-2pm: DAC Office Hours
Wednesdays 10am-3pm Mah Jong

Sunday 01 DANISH DAY 11am-3pm
Wednesday 04 Virkelyst 6pm
Friday 06 Member Social Hour 4-6pm
06 Tøseaften 7pm
Saturday 07 Library Open (members only) 10am-noon
07 Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm
Monday 09 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7-8:30pm
09 Board Meeting 7pm
Friday 20 DAC Member Happy Hour at Herbst: 4-6pm
Saturday 21 Sankt Hans Aften 5-10pm
Saturday 28 Outdoor Æbleskive Breakfast 9:30-11:30am

May 2025