



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.

NORDIC SOUNDSCAPES: YOUR WINTER SANCTUARY, MUSIC FESTIVAL AT MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA

January 3-17

Saturday, January 3: 5:30-6:45pm

The focus on opening night January 3 is Denmark. The DAC is presenting Danish paper cutting with Sonja Peterson in addition to a performance of Danish Folk Music by Niels Billund and Rolf Krogstad in the lobby before the concert. Concert tickets are required to enter the lobby.

Saturday, January 3: 7pm

Steve Hackman's Bartók & Björk Concert

Cozy fires, crafted cocktails, and the gentle hum of anticipation illuminate winter nights at the Orchestra Hall where your Nordic musical journey begins. Be moved by music shaped by solitude, long darkness, quiet landscapes and stillness, performed by your Minnesota Orchestra, featuring Music Director Thomas Søndergård and guest artists. Danish composers include Carl Nielsen and Hans Abrahamsen.

Tickets start at \$25, available at www.Nordicsoundscapes.org.

Nordic Organization Partners and their members enjoy "Choose Your Price" option for all concerts in the Nordic Festival Jan 3-17. Fine print: Seating restrictions may apply. Select "Choose Your Price" ticket type on eligible seats. Available while supplies last. Not valid on previous purchases. See Terms & Conditions.

There is also a discounted promotional ticket code for DAC members. After choosing the concert and being taken to the seat selection page, in the upper right-hand corner one can enter the promotional code. Nordic Partner Discount: NORDICPARTNER26

Visit the Nordic Soundscapes Marketplace where you'll enjoy food, beverages, wares and a festive lounge space from Krown Bakery, Ingebretsen's, Vikre Distillery, Danish Teak Classics, Event Lab and more. <https://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/>



JANUARY 2026

- Æbleskive Breakfast
- Free Genealogy Consultation
- 2026 Danebo Reading Circle

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Godt nytår! As I write this, I'm celebrating the holidays with my family, and reflecting on the events of the past year.

We celebrated a wonderful Julefrokost in December. As is



tradition, the food was excellent, and the program was fun and happy. So wonderful to see so many delighted faces enjoying this traditional gathering. Many thanks to the volunteers who prepared the food, organized the program, and performed countless tasks behind the scenes. You are all much appreciated.

We received an unexpected and very welcome gift from the City of Minneapolis last month. Shortly before the Julefrokost, the City of Minneapolis notified us that the city liquor laws have been amended. The new amendment allows nonprofit organizations like ours to apply for temporary liquor permits without needing a sponsoring partner organization to fulfill the insurance requirement.

As it stands now, we are able to apply for our own liquor permits (up to 12 days per year), with some enhanced requirements.

For example, we are required to purchase a temporary liquor liability insurance policy for each event at which we wish to serve alcohol. Among other requirements, we must also use trained serving staff (many of our DAC volunteers already have this service training). This is a very positive step forward for our DAC events where we want to offer alcohol drink service.

So, what does this mean going forward? We are again free to schedule many of the traditional events that involve alcohol service. Danish Day and Julefrokost are among these events. This change in the city's amendments also allows us to consider holding the Aquavit pairing meal again.

I am grateful that the city changed this rule for nonprofits, and I am grateful for all of you for making 2025 a wonderful year of celebration and happiness at DAC.

Pete Gantriis

MEMORIALS

Donations in memory of **Renee Showalter-Hanson** from Diane Greve, and Jon Hove

Donations in memory of **Leif Duus** from Joan Brandt

Donations in memory of **Kirsten Gotzsche** from Keren and Peter Price

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 February issue is January 10

Email submissions to danews@dac.mn

MEMBER SOCIAL GATHERINGS ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH AT DAC!

Friday, January 2: 4-6pm

Join your member friends for an informal social gathering. Soft drinks and non-alcoholic beer available for purchase. No reservations needed; come join us!

TIPS ON USING OUR WEBSITE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR REGISTER FOR MEMBER EVENTS

• RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

1. Log in to your member account at danishamericancenter.org
2. Click on Go to Account Management.
3. Check your contact info for accuracy. Under that, click on Renew, Upgrade or Update Billing.
4. Membership and payment options will appear. Check that they're accurate, or change to what you want.
5. Complete payment process with credit card.
6. Recurring payment option now available, and American Express now accepted.

• REGISTERING FOR MEMBER EVENTS ONLINE

Your DAC membership must be current to register for member events.

1. Log in to your member account at danishamericancenter.org
2. Click on Go to Event Calendar
4. Select the event for which you wish to register
5. Click on the blue "Register Now!" button that will appear toward the bottom of the page.
6. Fill in all the information and credit card number.
7. Click the blue "Register!" button.
8. You will receive an email confirmation of registration. Make sure to check your Junk and/or Spam folders.

If you have any questions on renewing your membership, or registering for member events on our website, contact the DAC office at 612-729-3800 or dainfo@dac.mn.

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:

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

GET INVOLVED IN A DAC ACTIVITY GROUP!

THE SAGA WRITERS!

Sunday, January 4: 1:30-3:30pm, North Commons Classroom

Do something with those memories and stories you've carried around in your head for years! Come join our friendly and supportive group of writers to share your goals, aspirations and accomplishments.

VIKINGELAUGET - THE VIKING GUILD

Thursday, January 8: 7-9:30pm in North Commons Classroom

Join us to make historical crafts based on archaeological finds of the Viking Age. Create your own Viking Age clothing and have the opportunity to take part in a Viking camp at various Midwest Scandinavian events. Explore Viking Age cuisine, combat, carving, and other hands-on activities.

SPILLEFOLK

Tuesday, January 20: 7-9pm in the Atrium

Bring an instrument and join us to play Danish folk music! A list of tunes will be provided, with online sources for sheet music when possible. To be added to the mailing list or to make song suggestions, email Christopher Moeller at moeller612@aol.com.

DANISH DANCING

Sunday, January 25, 6:15-9pm in the Atrium

The event costs just \$5 to dance to live music. This includes beginner-friendly mixers and squares.

GENEALOGY CONSULTATION

Saturday, January 3: 10am-1pm

Free consultations with a DAC genealogist on the first Saturday of each month. If you are interested in learning more about your family history and where your ancestors came from, join Bill Holmquist in the library. He will share resources with you so you can find your family history. He doesn't do the research for you, but he can point you in the right direction and give you the tools, so you can do your own research efficiently. Then, consider joining the Saga Writers and write up your family stories.



ÆBLESKIVE BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 18: 9am / 10:45am

We hope you can join us for this all-you-can-eat breakfast at the DAC. Reservations are required and are on a first-come, first-served basis. The menu offers æbleskiver, egg bake, sausage, juice and coffee. Gluten-free æbleskiver will also be served!

Cost: DAC Members: \$14/adult and \$9/child ages 5-12.

Non-Members: \$16/adult and \$11/child ages 5-12.

Children under age 5 are free.

To register, go to <https://danishamericancenter.org/public-calendar/>, find January 18 and select the Æbleskive Breakfast seating of your choice. Option to order breakfast to go: select the "Take Out - Danish Æbleskiver Breakfast pick up between 9:30-10:00am" choice on the calendar. You can also call the DAC office (612-729-3800) for assistance. Prepayment is required for all breakfast seatings and take-out orders. Upcoming breakfasts in 2026: February 15, March 15.

If you are interested in volunteering at one of our breakfasts or have questions, please contact Carla & Joel Mortensen at carla.s.mortensen@gmail.com or 612-594-4925. We encourage you to attend a breakfast and see if you would like to join our fun volunteer team!

ONSDAG FROKOST COOKS NEEDED

We need volunteer cooks for Wednesday Lunches this winter and spring. These lunches are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. There are a few openings for anyone who loves to cook and would love to share their talents with our eager members. The cooks plan the menu, decide how many guests they wish to serve (we normally limit to 40), shop for ingredients, and prepare the meal. The DAC will reimburse them for expenses, and they will be honored with a song for their work. For those who would like to try this for the first time, we can provide tours of the kitchen and simple rules to follow for health reasons. Please contact Cathy Mahowald at 612-845-5562 or cmahowal@hutchtel.net with any questions or to volunteer.

DANISH TUTOR AVAILABLE

Contact Niels Billund at nielsbillund@gmail.com. In lieu of payment, Niels requests his students donate to the Danish American Center.

DANEBO READING CIRCLE BEGINS 2026 BY ISLAND HOPPING

Sunday, January 18: 1-3pm

The first two books for 2026 take Reading Circle participants to two iconic islands with deep ties to Denmark: Iceland and Greenland. Everyone is welcome to join the journeys.

The Danebo Reading Circle convenes 1-3pm on the third Sunday of meeting months, which is typically an Æbleskive Breakfast day. There will always be a Zoom option in addition to the onsite meeting in the third-floor North Commons at the DAC. The list of the eight 2026 books appeared in the December DANews. Bookmarks with the full schedule are available at meetings and on the table outside the DAC Library.

On Sunday, January 18, the group will discuss a well-known Icelandic saga about Njál (Burnt-Njál): *Njál's Saga (Brennu-Njáls Saga)* by an unknown author (IS); 1270, 418pp; translated into English by Robert Cook for Penguin Classics, 1960. The book is available in print at Magers & Quinn bookstore in Minneapolis, and also in print, eBook, and audio formats online. Two titles are the same book: *Njál's Saga* and *The Story/Saga of Burnt Njál*.

Discussion leaders in January are Suzanne Jebe and Michelle Potter-Bacon. Invited guests include members of the Icelandic Hekla Club, who meet at the DAC and sponsored the stunning Njál's Saga Tapestry Exhibit last August. Photos of the exhibit will be part of the discussion.

From one bookseller comes this description of Njál's Saga: "Written in the 13th century, it is a story that explores perennial human problems – from failed marriages to divided loyalties, from the law's inability to curb human passions to the terrible consequences when decent men and women are swept up in a tide of violence beyond their control. It is populated by memorable and complex characters like Gunnar of Hlidarendi, a powerful warrior with an aversion to killing, and the not-so-villainous Mord Valgardsson. Full of dreams, strange prophecies, violent power struggles, and fragile peace agreements, Njál's Saga tells the compelling story of a fifty-year blood feud that, despite its distance from us in time and place, is driven by passions familiar to us all." – Amazon.com

For the February 15, 2026 meeting, the selection is The

Fish Can Sing by Halldór Laxness (*Brekkukotsannáll*), (IS); 1957, 288 pages; translated into English by Magnus Magnusson, 2000, Harvill Press. The story, set at the start of the 20th century, is about orphaned Álfgrímur, his adoptive grandparents, and the small, tolerant community of misfits and eccentrics on the outskirts of Reykjavík. As a coming-of-age tale, it is Laxness's most beloved novel. The orphan Álfgrímur wants to become a lumpfisherman in his fishing village, but he becomes enthralled by its most famous citizen, an opera singer named Gardar Holm. Álfgrímur has to find his own path without turning his back on where he came from.

Current, former, and new members are always welcome to meet with the group at the DAC or via Zoom. Newcomers may attend the first meeting without commitment, but continuation requires DAC membership. For details about the group or locating 2026 books and to receive a Zoom meeting link contact suzannej41@me.com.

LEAVES FROM THE LIBRARY

by DAC Librarian Felicity Hanson

With some days seeming endlessly dark and cold, it's a great time to find a new hobby with books from the DAC library. Check out one of our whittling books, or get cozy making Nordic-patterned mittens or a sweater. Sharpen the scissors and test your skill with one of our "how-to" paper-cut books (English or Danish language).

Or, for a cosy read, I recommend Amulya Malladi's books. *The Sound of Language* (an Afghani widow navigates Denmark's refugee system), and books 1 and 2 in her Gabriel Præst, Copenhagen private eye, series. We also have new books by Icelandic author Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir; two in a developing series by Satu Rämö, and several books by Norwegian Lars Mytting, including his historical fiction mysteries, the Sister Bells Trilogy.

Please note, when you search the library catalog (bit.ly/412hLDz), for more information or a description of a book, just click on the title.

To search the DAC online catalog, go to bit.ly/412hLDz

Find a book: Enter your search terms in the box.

Anyone can search; checkout is available to DAC members with a library account.

Members can request an account here: bit.ly/3CNtRs3 or email daclibrarymn@gmail.com

DANISH BEGINNERS 2

Prerequisite Danish Beginners 1, a language course using the textbook *Colloquial Danish* for adult learners. We cover core basic language skills in everyday scenarios with plenty of grammar lessons and opportunities to practice with audio and written assignments in the textbook, and hands-on group work in class.

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

In person sessions at DAC

Location: North Commons Classroom

Saturdays from 9:30 to 11am

January 10, 17, 24; February 7, 14, 21; March 7, 14, 21

Year-end wrap-up celebration April 11, 10:30am - 12:30pm

Zoom Office Hours (optional)

9:30 to 10am: January 31, February 28, March 28

Cost \$125 for members / \$175 for non-members

*Register by January 10 at <https://danishamericancenter.org/public-calendar/>

DANISH BEGINNERS PLUS 2

Beginner Plus is a bi-monthly mini-class designed for those with a little more language experience and/or those who have completed previous Beginning Danish courses at DAC. The participants work collaboratively to choose Danish games, stories, films, and more to delve a little deeper into their language learning.

Classes will be held on Saturdays from 11:15am to 12:30pm in the North Commons Classroom.

We'll kick off our session on January 10, with additional classes on January 24, February 7 & 21, March 7 & 21 and the year-end wrap up celebration with the Beginner 2 cohort on April 11, from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

Cost per class: \$12 for members / \$17 for non-members

*Register separately for any or all of the classes offered, by going to <https://danishamericancenter.org/public-calendar/> and finding the dates you want.



SINGALONG WITH DAN CHOUINARD

Monday, January 5 at 7pm in the Atrium

Monthly community singalongs are arranged around a month's birthdays or the season,

with lyrics projected on a screen. We always include a Scandinavian tune or two and leave plenty of time for requests. Free and open to all.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome New Members:

Lora Oberle • Karen Jorstad • Nancy Smith

Patricia Mack • Joe & Annalise Munnich

Kirsten Mortensen & Nate Johannes • Anna McCallum

Kennard and Mary Margaret Lehmann

Bryan & Lisamarie Odeen • Karen Ida Voth

DAC Directory Information - For further contact information on new and current members, please visit the Members Only portion of the DAC website by visiting danishamericancenter.org and logging into your account. For questions, or assistance accessing your account please 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 email.

NEWS FROM OUR

ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

DANISH GENEALOGY

HISTORY OF TIVOLI GARDENS

Monday January 26, 2026 at 6:30pm via Zoom

Few places can bring such wonder and delight for people of all ages as Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens! Since the park first opened in 1843, it has had a long and rich history, which many of our ancestors got to experience first hand. Our friends from the Danish Sisterhood Tivoli Lodge will take us on a journey through the history of the magical place that is Tivoli Gardens. This program is presented free of charge by the National Danish-American Genealogical Society (NDAGS) and is free and open to the public. No need to register, simply click on the Zoom link at the program time. For more information on other upcoming NDAGS events, to learn about our newsletter and research guide, or for membership information, please visit our website at <https://danishgenealogy.org/> Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87258222632>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Mondays	9:30am: Watercolor Group
Wednesdays	9am-1:30pm Library-Members Only
Wednesdays	10am-2pm: DAC Office Hours
Wednesdays	10am-3pm: Mah-Jongg
Friday	02 Member Social Hour 4-6pm
Saturday	03 Library Open Hours for members only 10am-12pm
	03 Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm
Sunday	04 The Saga Writers! 1:30-3:30pm
Monday	05 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7-8:30pm
Thursday	08 Vikingelauget - The Viking Guild 7-9:30pm
Saturday	10 Danish Beginners 2: 9:30-11am
	10 Danish Beginners Plus 2: 11:15am-12:30pm
Monday	12 DAC Board Executive Committee Meeting 7pm
Wednesday	14 Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm
Saturday	17 Danish Beginners 2: 9:30-11am
Sunday	18 Æbleskive Breakfast 9am and 10:45am
	18 Danebo Reading Circle 1-3pm
Tuesday	20 Spillefolk 7-9pm
Saturday	24 Danish Beginners 2: 9:30-11am
	24 Danish Beginners Plus 2: 11:15am-12:30pm
Sunday	25 Danish Dancing 6:15-9pm
Wednesday	28 Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm
Friday	30 Fyraften 6pm
Saturday	31 Tøsegruppen 5pm

FEBRUARY

Mondays	9:30am: Watercolor Group
Wednesdays	9am-1:30pm Library - Members Only
Wednesdays	10am-2pm: DAC office Hours
Wednesdays	10am-3pm: Mah Jongg
Sunday	01 The Saga Writers! 1:30-3:30pm
Monday	02 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7-8:30pm
Friday	06 Member Social Hour 4-6pm
	06 Tøseafeten 7pm
Saturday	07 Danish Beginners 2: 9:30-11am
	07 Danish Beginners Plus 2: 11:15am-12:30pm
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	07 Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm
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Sunday	22 Danish Dancing 6:15-9pm
Wednesday	25 Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm
Friday	27 Fyraften 6pm

January 2026

3030 W River Parkway S
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