



# 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.*

## ÆBLESKIVE BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 15: 9am / 10:45am



Come 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 features 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 February 15 and select the breakfast seating of your choice.

Option to order breakfast to go: select "Take Out - 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: March 15, April 19.

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](mailto:carla.s.mortensen@gmail.com) or 612-594-4925. We encourage you to attend a breakfast and see if you would like to join the 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 indicate the number of diners they wish to serve (normally limited to 40), shop for ingredients, and plan and prepare the meal. The DAC reimburses cooks for expenses, and they are honored for their work with a song. 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](mailto:cmahowal@hutchtel.net) with any questions or to volunteer.

## FEBRUARY 2026

- ♥ DAC Activity Groups
- ♥ Member Social Gathering
- ♥ Genealogy & DNA Zoom event

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are living in a time of great uncertainty in this city and country. Many of our accepted norms have been upended, and this has created an environment of anxiety and fear.



I'm writing this in the wake of the tragic confrontation in South Minneapolis, where a neighbor citizen was killed by an agent of the federal government. Our hearts go out to the families involved, and we expect that at the end of the day, justice will be served.

In addition to this local event, we have all been watching the developments surrounding Greenland and the political rhetoric that is increasingly hostile towards the Danish territory. The DAC has been asked by several international media outlets for comments and perspective. The board leadership has also been asked by members to consider taking a stance regarding these current events. The Executive Committee crafted the following statement, which may also be published elsewhere in this issue of *DANEWS: The Danish American Center is a non-political, cultural organization dedicated to education, heritage, and dialogue. While*

*we recognize the strong interest surrounding current events involving the United States, Denmark, and Greenland, our role is to foster understanding through history, culture, and people-to-people connections rather than political advocacy. We remain committed to creating a welcoming space for respectful learning and conversation grounded in shared values and mutual respect.*

Our organization, by definition, is sympathetic to new immigrants to the United States. Over 100 years ago, the DAC was founded by Danish immigrants, with the goal to celebrate and share our Danish values of fellowship, community, sharing, and collaboration. We continue these traditions today. We enjoy our Danish festivities, traditional food and drink, and many of our members spend time at the DAC learning about their family histories. In summary, our organization is comprised of immigrants and descendants of immigrants, and we want to see all immigrants treated with dignity, fairness, and legal due process.

As we continue to move forward, I am confident that the DAC can continue to serve as a venue for discussion, fellowship, and learning. Our members span multiple generations, and it's incumbent on us to listen and engage with each other in a respectful manner. We have much that we can continue to learn from each other. This is also uncharted territory for the City of Minneapolis, and our organization can hopefully serve as a beacon of fellowship, trust, and comfort not only to our members but our neighbors and city at large.

Pete Gantriis

## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:dainfo@dac.mn).

### Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the March issue is February 10  
Email submissions to [danews@dac.mn](mailto:danews@dac.mn)

### 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

### Executive Board:

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

### Board of Directors:

Dana Bacon, Pipper Berg Madsen, Charli Donchetz,  
Paul Jensen, Ginny Kirkegaard Leppart, Susan Loschenkohl,  
Ryan Maki, Tom Peterson, Selma Petterson,  
Bruce Simpson, Karma Walker, and Pernille Whited

### DANews Committee:

Charli Donchetz, Editor  
Pipper Berg Madsen  
Betina Kohler  
Susan Loschenkohl  
Myra Madsen  
Michelle Potter-Bacon

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

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

Friday, February 6: 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!

DANEBO READING CIRCLE STAYS UP NORTH

Sunday, February 15: 1-3pm

This month the Danish Reading Circle remains in Iceland, reading *The Fish Can Sing (Brekukotsannáll)*, a novel by Halldór Laxness (IS); 1957, 288 pages; translated into English by Magnús Magnússon (©1966), Havrill Press, 2000.

Two years after receiving the Nobel Prize, Laxness published this coming-of-age novel about a young boy in the early years of the 20th century. Abandoned by his mother, Álfgrímur grows up with loving foster grandparents in a cottage named Brekkukot on the outskirts of Reykjavik. Foster grandfather Björn works as a fisherman, never demanding more money for his goods than he needs to survive, and lives values like integrity, humility, and charity without making a show of it.

At Brekkukot, Björn helps all kinds of people in turmoil, and large parts of the book deal with Álfgrímur meeting Icelanders and some foreigners from all walks of life. A central character, Garðar Hólm, is allegedly a celebrated singer abroad and returns to Iceland several times. Although Álfgrímur is fascinated by the singer, he would be content to stay home and become a fisherman, but the grandfather knows that industrialized fishing will change the profession. Björn wants the youngster to get an education and is willing to sacrifice the past for Álfgrímur's future. *The Fish Can Sing* offers a painfully accurate portrait of life and its hardships in a rural Iceland that is about to disappear, engulfed by impending modernity. Álfgrímur's story reveals the classic confrontation between these two opposed concepts of the world. U.S. author Jane Smiley, in her introduction to the book, regards the two main characters as "the closest Laxness ever came to depicting himself." Appropriately, Smiley is the author of

the March 15 book: *The Greenlanders*, 1988, New York: Knopf, 558 pages.

A historical fiction bestseller, this lengthy saga is set in the 14th century, well after Icelandic explorers 'discovered' and then established a colony. The Plague rages in Europe while the influence of the Church wanes in the Greenland settlement. Lyrical prose describes human drama unfolding with the population cut off from the outside as they struggle to survive the often self-inflicted pain that arises in the harsh polar conditions. Smiley's epic novel spans 60 years, following two generations of Greenlanders through this period of isolation to the eventual dissolution of the settlement.

While working on her Ph.D. in English from the University of Iowa, where she later taught, Smiley was a Fulbright Scholar in Iceland. The author of many novels and other works, she won the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for her novel *A Thousand Acres*, a modern-day retelling of *King Lear* set in rural Iowa.

Everyone is welcome to attend these hybrid meetings, either at the DAC or via Zoom. For more information and a Zoom link, contact [suzannej41@me.com](mailto:suzannej41@me.com).

DANISH TUTOR AVAILABLE

Contact Niels Billund at [nielsbillund@gmail.com](mailto:nielsbillund@gmail.com). In lieu of payment, Niels requests his students donate to the Danish American Center.

TRANSLATION SERVICE AT DAC

To request a translation, mail the materials to the DAC, or email [dainfo@dac.mn](mailto: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 email. If you have any questions, please contact the DAC office at 612-729-3800.





## LEAVES FROM THE LIBRARY

by DAC Librarian Felicity Hanson

If you are a good Dane, I hope you remembered on 31 December at midnight precisely to stand on a chair and jump into the New Year for good luck. If you didn't, sorry, but you may have bad luck dogging you for the rest of the year! Although, if you twisted your ankle when you landed, that wouldn't be a promising indicator for the year, either.



I was reading about Danish festivals to mark seasons and special holidays. Like every other country, Denmark has its rituals. Typically in February there are carnivals celebrated in numerous ways, including Fastelavn, prior to the start of the 40 days of Lent. If you are an animal lover, you would have hated the historic cat-in-a-barrel Fastelavn event. The highlight was to put an innocent feline into a barrel, string it up, and have the locals beat the barrel until it broke, at which the traumatized wee animal escaped and was chased away (though I doubt it needed much chasing). The idea behind this was that the cat represented evil spirits, and the locals were seeing them off. Thought to have been brought to Denmark in the 1500s by Dutch immigrants, the last known live cat in a barrel was in the 1880s. Well, thank goodness times have changed! Modern Fastelavn has long been a children's event where they dress up in costumes and go door-to-door singing for candy or small change. Nowadays the barrel is like a piñata, filled with treats, though it usually still has a picture of a cat on the outside. Fun and family games are the order of the day, with no cats harmed.



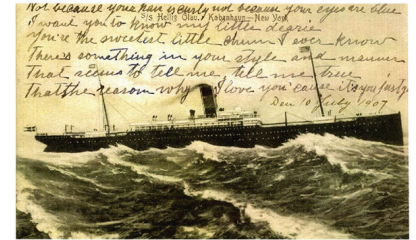
## GET INVOLVED IN A DAC ACTIVITY GROUP!

### THE SAGA WRITERS!

Sunday, February 1: 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, February 12: 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, February 17: 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](mailto:moeller612@aol.com).

### DANISH DANCING

Sunday, February 22, 6:15-9pm in the Atrium

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



## SINGALONG WITH DAN CHOUINARD

Monday, February 2 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.

## MEMORIALS

**Donations** in memory of **Renee Showalter-Hanson**  
from Cathy Mahowald

**Donations** in memory of **Leif Duus** from Peter Gantriis,  
Susan Gantriis, and Karma Walker

**Donations** in memory of **Raymond Hathaway** from  
Susan Jacobsen

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.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### Welcome New Members:

Niko Tsatsos

Eric J. Sander

Jean Elizabeth Inglehart

Nicholas Brock Enger

Julie Kruse Angeles and Paul Vincent Angeles

Cheryl Neithercott and John Neithercott, Jr

Kathryn Brewer

Alex J. Hermodson

Thomas Jorgensen

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](http://danishamericancenter.org) and logging into your account. For questions, or assistance accessing your account please 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 email.



## 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](mailto: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

#### DNA: ISSUES FOR SCANDINAVIAN-AMERICANS

Monday, February 23: 6:30pm via  
Zoom

DNA can be the key to breaking through many genealogical brick walls. But DNA can be a complicated source to use, and DNA research can pose special difficulties for Scandinavian researchers.

This presentation will look at topics such as ethnicity estimates, endogamy, patronymics, and Scandinavian history.

We will look at the differences among the big four genealogical DNA companies (Ancestry, MyHeritage, FamilyTreeDNA, and 23andMe) including an examination of some of the best DNA analysis tools.

Our presenter, Bob Johnson, is a Certified Genealogist with over 50 years of experience. He specializes in Swedish, Finnish, Danish, and Norwegian genealogical research and has authored two books.

This event is provided free of charge courtesy of the National Danish-American Genealogical Society and is open to the public. No need to register, simply log on at the start time. For more information on our organization, and to see other upcoming programs, please visit our website at: <https://danishgenealogy.org/>.

Zoom link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/84116967699>



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 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	Tøseften 7pm
Saturday	07	Danish Beginners 2: 9:30-11am
	07	Danish Beginners Plus 2: 11:15am-12:30pm
	07	Library Open Hours for members only 10am-12pm
	07	Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm
Monday	09	DAC Board Meeting 7pm
Wednesday	11	Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm
Thursday	12	Vikingelaugget - The Viking Guild 7-9:30pm
Saturday	14	Danish Beginners 2: 9:30-11am
Sunday	15	Æbleskive Breakfast 9am and 10:45am
	15	Danebo Reading Circle 1-3pm
Tuesday	17	Spillefolk 7-9pm
Friday	20	Tøsegruppen 6pm
Saturday	21	Danish Beginners 2: 9:30-11am
	21	Danish Beginners Plus 2: 11:15am-12:30pm
Sunday	22	Fastelavns Party for the Kids! 3-5pm
	22	Danish Dancing 6:15-9pm
Monday	23	Music on the Mississippi - The Mardi Gras Steamers 6pm Social Hour / 7pm Concert
Wednesday	25	Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm
Friday	27	Fyraften 6pm

### MARCH

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
Wednesday	04	Library Open Hours for members only 9am-1:30pm
	04	Virkelyst VIA ZOOM 7-9pm
Friday	06	Member Social Hour 4-6pm
Friday	06	Tøseften 7-11pm
Saturday	07	Danish Beginners 2: 9:30-11am
	07	Danish Beginners Plus 2: 11:15am-12:30pm
	07	Library Open Hours for members only 10am-12pm
	07	Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm
Wednesday	11	Library Open Hours for members only 9am-1:30pm
	11	Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm
Thursday	12	Vikingelaugget - The Viking Guild 7-9:30pm
Saturday	14	Danish Beginners 2: 9:30-11am
Sunday	15	Æbleskive Breakfast 9:00 and 10:45am
	15	Danebo Reading Circle 1-3pm
Tuesday	17	Spillefolk 7-9pm
Wednesday	18	Library Open Hours for members only 9am-1:30pm
Saturday	21	Aquavit Food Pairing Event
	21	Danish Beginners 2: 9:30-11am
	21	Danish Beginners Plus 2: 11:15am-12:30pm
Sunday	22	Danish Dancing 6:15-9pm
Wednesday	25	Library Open Hours for members only 9am-1:30pm
	25	Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm
Friday	27	Fyraften 6-10pm

February 2020