



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.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CHEESE AND LEVERPOSTEJ SALE

It is time to place your order for our Danish cheeses, leverpostej and asier. The selection is the same as last year, but the price on the Danish cheeses has increased because the value of the US Dollar is down 10% against the Danish Krone.

Our members can order:

- Leverpostej (Liver pate) Large loaf \$10, small loaf \$5
- Asier (Danish pickled cucumber strips) 1 Qt glass \$7
- Creamy Havarti Cheese, \$7.30/lb
- Aged Havarti Cheese, \$9.60/lb
- Fontina Cheese, \$8.60/lb
- Danish Blue, 4.4oz wedge, \$3.50 ea.

Orders for Creamy Havarti and Fontina must be in 10 lbs, 5 lbs or 2.5 lbs, and orders for Aged Havarti must be in 3.5 lbs or 1.75 lbs. The blue cheese is sold in 4.4oz wedges. (Weight of cheese is approximate, price is per pound.)

Leverpostej and Asier are made by our own Svea Ernst, and the cheeses are imported from Denmark.

Order deadline is October 21, 2020. Please place your order with MaryJo Scully by email: wntrdame@comcast.net or by phone: 952-546-0861.

Your order must be picked up on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 or Saturday, November 21 in the DAC Atrium between 11am and 3pm. Payment can be made by check or cash.

We need to practice proper distancing, so please let us know your preferred pick-up date and make sure that we have your contact information, so we can give you your pick-up time.

OCTOBER 2020

- DAC Building is Currently Closed

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Usually winter is the dormant season in Minnesota. It is then that our natural world remains alive but inactive. This can be a time of restoration much like sleep. When we started our caution around the COVID-19 virus back in March, I was prepared for a few weeks of being at home. When I heard some of the DAC members projecting that this will be with us for a year or more, I had a hard time wrapping my head around it. Could that really be possible? Still, our activities have been dormant for over six months now and the future is not ours to see. We may need to hibernate this winter as well.

Still, the DAC remains alive. Friends are gathering informally from time to time on the front lawn for a picnic. Yard improvements have been a priority. We have begun to orient Tina Paulsen to her role as an independent contractor to oversee the office work. Your DAC Board and other committees continue to meet virtually. Thanks to membership renewals, contributions, and limited expenses our financial picture is holding its own. So even in our dormancy, we are alive.

I saw some of you at the Æbleskive Breakfast on the lawn on September 6. Even behind the masks and at a careful distance, we enjoyed being together.

DANEBO READING CIRCLE UPDATE

Welcome Back! The Danebo Reading Circle will be reconvening via Zoom on Sunday, October 18, at 2pm, for our first discussion of the new 2020-2021 season. The session will last 60-90 minutes depending on interest. At least two days in advance, we will send a Zoom invitation to our members, plus anyone new who would like to join us. Newcomers should contact Suzanne (suzannej41@me.com, 612-822-0275) no later than Wednesday, October 14.

Our October selection is the 2007 Icelandic novel *The Greenhouse* by Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir, translated by Brian FitzGibbon. The publisher summarized the 262-page novel in this description:

"For Lobbi, the tragic passing of his mother proves to be a profound catalyst. Their shared love of tending rare roses in her greenhouse inspires him to leave his studies behind and travel to a remote village monastery to restore its once fabulous gardens. While transforming the garden under the watchful eye of a cinephile monk, he is surprised by a visit from Anna, a friend of a friend with whom he shared a fateful moment in his mother's greenhouse, and the daughter they together conceived that night. In caring for both the garden and the little girl, Lobbi slowly begins to assume the varied and complex roles of a man: fatherhood with a deep relationship with his child, cooking, nurturing, and remaining also a son, brother, lover, and...a gardener. A story about the heartfelt search for beauty in life, *The Greenhouse* is a touching reminder of our ability to turn the small things in everyday life into the extraordinary."

Please join our discussion of this inspiring, internationally award-winning novel.

And then add Sunday, November 15, to your calendar for our next Zoom discussion. That book will be *The Alphabet House* (1997), set during World War II by Danish author Jussi Adler-Olsen, translated by Steve Schein (2007).

For anyone who didn't catch our September Zoom training events, but who wants to sharpen online skills, visit zoom.us and click on the resources link in the banner at the top of the home page; this will take you to a Zoom Training Resources link. YouTube also offers lots of assistance – just search for Zoom tutorials. We especially like "Joining a Zoom Call for the First Time" by the Creative Life Center. Our Zoom invitation will also contain a list of ground rules being compiled by members. See you on Zoom!

FROM THE PRESIDENT continued on Page 2

We had amazing weather that morning and the spirit of the day was upbeat. Thanks to the Board for their work in organizing this breakfast and the earlier such event for the neighborhood in June.

Let's continue to stay healthy. Get a flu shot this month if you have not already. Wear your mask over your nose and mouth when in public places. Prepare to vote. Complete the census if you have not. And be kind to one another. We are a strong community and we will weather this storm.

Diane Greve

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for the November issue is October 10

Danish American Center

3030 West River Parkway South
Minneapolis MN 55406

612-729-3800

email: dainfo@dac.mn

Website: www.dac.mn

Office Hours: Wednesdays: 10am-2pm

Affiliate Organizations

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

www.dac.mn

Executive Board:

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

MEET OUR NEW OFFICE MANAGER

Tina Paulsen has been a lifelong member of the Danish American Center. As a kid, she folk danced for years and attended all the kids' parties, later on bringing her own son to them to continue the traditions. She has volunteered at numerous holiday events and the Festival of Nations and served on the Board. After 21 years in the hospitality industry, Tina's employer sold their largest entity, forcing them to downsize and eliminate many positions, including Tina's. When the opportunity to work at the Danish American Center arose, it felt like the perfect fit, as one of Tina's responsibilities at her former job was office manager. Tina currently works part time for the City of Chaska at the Chaska Curling Center and Par 30 Golf Course, so she's able to easily balance her time there and at the DAC.

LUNCH ON THE LAWN

Amidst COVID-19, the DAC gathered members when possible. During the summer, on Wednesdays when the weather cooperated, DAC members socially distanced on the DAC lawn for lunch. Members brought their own lunch and DAC provided coffee and ice cream bars. This was a great way to keep the DAC community connected during these tough times. Thanks to Grethe Peterson and Anelise Sawkins for arranging this and to Erik Kristoffersen for his help with set up.



MEDISTERPØLSE MADE BY JOEL MORTENSEN

As much as I would love getting together at the DAC and helping folks make their own medisterpølse, we just can't do it this year. There are a few commercial options, if you're willing to drive to Tyler, MN or Luck, WI but why do all that driving when we can provide this delicious sausage to you at the DAC? I'm willing to make 120 pounds! I'll put it together in 5 pound batches and sell as many batches as you'd like. Since many holiday gatherings will be fewer in number this year, I'll make lengths of 10 to 12 inches to avoid waste and overages. If interested, please write to me at morte007@umn.edu or call 612-724-1814 and let me know how many pounds you'd like. Deadline for ordering is November 5th. Pick up day is November 21st at the DAC. In order to cover the cost and make a small profit for the DAC, we're charging \$9 per pound (\$45 per 5 lb bag).

Thank you, Joel Mortensen

ONLINE DANISH COURSE BEGINS IN LATE OCTOBER

Tak to all who participated in the language poll in September! Due to a great response and obvious enthusiasm from our members, The Danish American Center will again offer Beginning Danish lessons via Zoom this autumn. This course, taught by Michelle Potter-Bacon, is appropriate for high school aged learners and up with little or no previous Danish language experience.

Dates: Thursdays, October 22, 29, Nov 5, 12, 19, Dec 3.

Time: 7 to 8:30pm

Tuition: \$90 for DAC members and \$120 for non-members, paid by mailing a check made out to the Danish American Center, to be received at DAC no later than October 19.

Please visit <http://bit.ly/Danish1-Fall2020> to register by October 15. Vi ses!

FREE ÆBLESKIVER

The Danish American Center remains closed, but on September 6, our grounds were open and



the beautiful weather allowed us to hold our member appreciation event. From 10am to 12pm, members were invited to enjoy free æbleskiver and coffee, while social distancing. We had a great turnout, as members were finally able to reconnect with one another. We look forward to things getting back to normal, but for now, the occasional outdoor gathering will have to do.

WEDDING AT DAC

On September 18, 2020, DAC Caretakers Christina Zettel and Lars Olsen gathered with their families on a beach on the Mississippi River and committed to spending the rest of their lives in partnership.



Lars and Christina met six years ago, working in the kitchen at Sea Salt Eatery. On their first date, while taking a walk along West River Parkway, Lars pointed out the Danish American Center. His older brother Kjell was the caretaker at the time and gave them a tour of the space. Little did Christina know that one day, she would not only marry the wild barefooted man beside her, but that the DAC would become such a huge part of their story.

They had been looking forward to celebrating with friends and family at the center in August, but postponed those plans until a time in the future when it is safe again to gather, dance and hug! They want to say thank you to the Danish American community, for welcoming them over the past six years, for giving them a home for the past two, and a special thanks from Christina for providing her with ample opportunities to learn to love Aquavit and pickled herring (although the jury is still out on the herring). Skål!

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Questions? Contact Ellen Ogman:
esogman@gmail.com / 651-481-6902

LEIF 2020 CELEBRATES NORDIC CULTURES ONLINE

This year's Leif Eriksson International Festival will offer more than 35 online opportunities to celebrate all things Nordic – in Minnesota and beyond our borders. There's something for everyone, young and old. You can spend minutes or hours while traveling the Nordic world and celebrating Leif Eriksson. Lad os begynde!

LEIF 2020 is ten days of music, museums, food, festivals, travel, presentations, worship, and a "Destination of the Day." Some events are time-sensitive, others will be available throughout the day; most will be archived on the website. Highlights include:

Friday, October 2, 7:30pm: Riverside Winds Concert of Nordic Music streamed live from Augsburg University in Minneapolis and co-sponsored with the Edvard Grieg Society (donations welcome through the website). Composers include Carl Nielsen (Quintet, Opus 43).

Saturday, October 3: Whet your appetite with an online tour of Nordic Cuisine curated on YouTube by the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa. Skål!

Sunday, October 4: Opening Worship Service online through Mindekirken with Pastor Arden Haug (Swedish), special music, and flags processional (11am), Virtual Kirkekaffe (1-1:45pm), and 2pm concert by Finnish-American/Japanese cello/piano Duo Ihana playing Sibelius and Grieg (donations welcome).

Monday, October 5: Join members of Gammelgarden in Scandia as they celebrate Sweden's National Cinnamon Bun Day, then take a virtual tour of the Immigrant Heritage Museum.

Tuesday, October 6: Join the virtual Zoom crowd at Mindekirken's Tuesday Open House (11am) for a program by a Minnesota winner of Norwegian television's Alt for Norge competition for people of Norwegian heritage. There will also be a link for a tour of the Norwegian Emigrant Museum in Ottestad, Norway.

Wednesday, October 7: Many a person has carried a spouse over the threshold of a new home, but on this day we will explore the Finnish "sport" of wife-carrying in its variations in Finland and the USA. This year's North American Championship will be on Friday in Sunday River, Maine (11am ET).

Thursday, October 8: Use the Internet to fly to Finland and visit the Sámi Museum and Nature Center at Siida. This is the last year of the old Siida – renovations are coming!

Friday, October 9: Celebrate Leif Eriksson Day with links to many of the sites in Iceland and North America that commemorate this Nordic explorer. We will also have an online presentation by Vancouver-based Professor Kristjana Gunnars of the University of Iceland, who will discuss the Christianization of the Icelanders in Greenland (Leifur Eiríksson had been tasked with that) in the wider context of pan-European trade.

Saturday, October 10, 11am: Learn all about planning a trip for your own Iceland Adventure. Veteran traveler and LEIFMN co-webmaster Magne Hatlevik will guide us through all the logistics, take us around Reykjavik and Westmann Islands, and provide lots of other tour options. God rejse på internettet!

Sunday, October 11: Closing Worship Service online through Mindekirken with Pastor Andrés Albertsen (Danish), special music, and flags recessional (11am), Virtual Kirkekaffe (1-1:45pm), and 2pm concert by Norwegian musical group Tidløs – five men who bring the beautiful lyrics and melodies of great hymns in a slightly new way for younger generations to enjoy – maybe even some by Grundtvig! (Donations welcome) This is also our Danish day, with links to the DAC, the Museum of Danish America, and Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen.

The festival will be using many Internet platforms: YouTube, Zoom, Wikipedia, and more. You do not need a paid subscription to join in the fun on any of these sites. Links and full information for each day's events will be on the LeifMN website and Facebook pages. If you are on Facebook, please "like" Leif Minnesota so you will be sure to get all the updates. New information will be posted there and on the website every day. There is no cost for any event but sometimes donation opportunities will appear on the screen to support the performers, organizers, or the festival in general. So, kick back, get your favorite beverage and snack, and make it a daily habit to spend the first third of October with Leif MN!

Not on the Internet? Our committee regrets that there are no in-person events during COVID time. We invite you to "save the date" for local festivities in October 2021 (Held og lykke!)

FYR AFTEN

Twelve Fyraften friends gathered on the DAC patio in late August for another evening of food and fellowship.

Anders Wolf, with

assistance from Mark

Patzloff, prepared a terrific meal of flank steak, brats, baked potatoes, corn on the cob and coleslaw. We started with an appetizer of Svea's leverpostej and ended with fresh strawberries on cake. Kent Strand brought a special treat - bottles of his recently home brewed ale. As usual, conversations in English and Danish could be heard and most of the world's problems were solved, or certainly set aside for the evening! Weather permitting we plan to meet again on the patio the last Friday evenings in September and October. Call or email Paul Juhl at 612-437-2430 or Pjuhl727@comcast.net if questions. Also, new and used grills were donated to the DAC from Malcolm Terry and Paul Juhl. They are located in the lower storage area under the south porch.



GRANDMOTHER'S SPOKEN DANISH

by Bill Holmquist / originally printed in The Beech Tree, issue July - Sept. 2020

History lives in and around us in surprising ways. Here is a very brief example. My Danish grandmother grew up in the Danish farming community of Rosendale in Danielson Township of Meeker County, Minnesota. Being born in 1903, she grew up in the heart of an immigrant community. Danish, of course, was the everyday spoken language. English was only used when absolutely necessary.

Her father, a Danish immigrant, did not allow English to be spoken in their home. He could go about his business in Rosendale, go to the creamery, the general store, the feed mill, perhaps the blacksmith shop and stop at the Danish Brotherhood lodge for some socializing and never need to speak English the entire time. He could conduct all his business in Danish.

A few years ago, my grandmother was at her home when she received a phone call from a childhood friend. This friend explained that some professors from the University of Copenhagen were visiting the area and were interested

in speaking with anyone who had grown up in the Rosendale area and who could speak Danish and asked if my grandmother would be interested in meeting them. My grandmother immediately agreed.

A few days later two men and a woman arrived at my grandmother's home. The three were linguists and they wanted to hear how my grandmother spoke Danish. They set out a tape recorder and the conversation began.

Grandmother said she knew right away that whatever it was they were after, they must have found because by the time she had finished answering their second question, all three were smiling broadly. The conversation was recorded for two hours. At the end, they explained what they were looking for.

In Denmark, as across all of Europe, regional dialects and local ways of speech have been nearly lost, due to the onslaught of mass media. The influence of television, etc., resulted in the homogenization of spoken language. The three linguists had a theory that if one wanted to hear the regional dialects of the past, one had to find isolated Danish communities in other parts of the world that would not have been under the same mass media influence. If one could find those communities and speak with their residents, one would find a bit of language history preserved like an insect in amber.

My grandmother, they said, had greatly helped prove their theory. They said she spoke a pure form of Old West Sjaellandese. This was the local dialect spoken in the past by the residents of the west side of the island of Sjaelland. This would make sense. Nearly all of my Danish ancestors come from a group of villages located at the base of the peninsula on the west side of the Roskildefjord. This area is about 60 miles west of Copenhagen.

My grandmother's little bit of living Danish linguistic history is preserved on tape at the University of Copenhagen. Grandmother spoke a Danish dialect that was 150 years old and even older. One day she said to me, "I didn't know I spoke a dialect. I thought I just spoke Danish." It was the only Danish she had ever heard.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome New Members:

Mark and Jeanne Bloomquist

Dana, Marty & Ted

Robert Boyce and Tom Cytron-Hysom

Ryan Gosche

Andrea Idsø Nelson and Hill Mugisha

Jayn Lindquist and family

Liv Paulson Norderhaug

DAC Directory Information - For further contact information on new and current members, please visit the Members Only portion of the DAC website. The necessary user ID and password can be obtained by emailing dainfo@dac.mn.

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 solicitations that are deemed necessary for the operation of the DAC.

NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

GENEALOGY GROUP

The Danish Genealogy Group has not scheduled their regular meetings at the DAC while the COVID-19 lockdown is in place. But, that doesn't mean that working on one's family history comes to a stop.

There are ways to work on genealogy, even during a pandemic. Here are some ways to turn extra time at home to your genealogical advantage:

1. Go online and look for interesting genealogy books at your local library and then submit a request for curbside pickup.
2. Finally organize and identify that shoebox of old photos that has been sitting up on a shelf in a closet for years.
3. Go online and look for some new and free genealogy forms and print them out for your own use.
4. Have you ever wanted to put family stories or reminiscences on paper? Now is the time to do it. Set aside a time to record your memories. You'll be glad you did.
5. Find out who has Aunt Dagmar's Apple Cake recipe that everyone ate and loved for years at family gatherings. Once you have located it, make some for yourself and you will have retrieved a delicious bit of family history.

6. Take out your family albums and go through them to make sure everything is still in good condition and in its place.

7. Make a list of every place you've lived and when you lived there. This would be a timeline of your life. This could help greatly when writing family stories and reminiscences.

8. Go online and acquaint yourself with genealogy sites like FamilySearch.org, the Danish Emigrants Archives, etc. The large genealogy sites have databases added, literally on a daily basis. There is always something new.

9. Sit down and make a list of deceased family members. Then, record their place of burial. This will tell you which burial locations you know and those you do not. You now have a list of family burial locations you need to research.

10. Go online to the web site of the Minnesota Historical Society and learn how to find vital records such as death certificates, etc. These can be ordered online and will be mailed right to your home. You can research without leaving the comfort of your own home.

11. Go to the website of the National Danish American Genealogical Society which meets right here at the DAC and print out their membership form and mail it. You will then be a member and you will get help with your research, learn new things and make friends.

GET YOUR FLU VACCINE

Getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during 2020-2021 to protect yourself, your family and your community from flu. A flu vaccine this season can also help reduce the burden on our healthcare systems responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and save medical resources for care of COVID-19 patients. For more information on flu vaccines, please go to [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

ELECTIONS ARE COMING SOON!

The next Presidential election is occurring on November 3, 2020. This is a reminder to vote. With the COVID-19 virus still rampant, many are hesitant to go to their polling location, but there are other ways to vote. You can apply for an absentee ballot, complete it at home and mail it back or you can get the absentee ballot and drop it off at your polling place. Once you have voted, you can track the ballot online to confirm it has been received. If you have questions, go to [MNVOTES.ORG](https://www.mnvotes.org) and have all your questions answered. It's your civic duty!

"HOME-CRAFTED" AQUAVIT

Provided by Garry Peterson

Transforming vodka into aquavit in our kitchen has been an avocation of mine for several years. It's easy and it's inexpensive. No special equipment is required. The ingredients that I use are readily available with a two-stop shopping trip—a liquor store and the local supermarket.

I've had good success using moderately-priced "lower shelf" 80-proof vodkas, such as Smirnoff, Pinnacle, and Fleischmann's. Boutique high-end vodkas can be left to the self-styled connoisseurs.

Here's a basic recipe for making one liter. Of course, it can be scaled-up for larger batches if you choose.

1- Liter of 80-proof Vodka

1-Tablespoon of Caraway Seeds

5-Pods of Star Anise

2-Teaspoons of "Sugar in the Raw"

I bruise the caraway seeds using a zip-lock bag and a rolling pin. Leave the eight-pointed star anise pods intact. Using a clean glass container with a cover, steep the dry ingredients in the vodka. The sugar will dissolve, the caraway seeds will sink, and the star anise pods will float. Stir the mixture once or twice a day, and you'll see the amber color slowly deepen. After a couple of days, you can begin sampling the aquavit. If you have one, an iced tea spoon is ideal for this purpose. Three or four days of steeping usually gives me the intensity of flavor I'm looking for, but you may prefer your aquavit's flavor to be stronger or weaker.

Filter the aquavit to remove the solid material. I use our Melitta coffee maker with its matching paper filter, but feel free to use your ingenuity and whatever else you might have in your kitchen for this purpose.

Funnel the filtered aquavit back into the vodka bottle, or perhaps into a crystal decanter, and it's ready to enjoy.

Skål!



**DANISH
AMERICAN
CENTER**

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