



*The Danish American Center supports and fosters Danish culture through education and the celebration of traditions, customs and history.*

## **DAC SAMFUNDSSIND SILENT AUCTION**

March 5-March 14

We have received many wonderful items for our auction and are excited for it to happen! The Online Silent Auction will be open on March 5 and will close the evening of March 14. To participate, go to the 32Auctions Website: <https://www.32auctions.com/danishamericancenter> (Directions for using the auction site are at the end of this article).

You can look at all items and make bids. If you bid on something, make sure to go back and check to see if somebody else has outbid you! You can always raise your bid through March 14! Once the auction is over, we will contact you if you won the bid and what you owe. You can then pay for your items through the auction site or you can pay at the DAC with cash or check on pick-up day. And if you prefer not to purchase anything, there will be a place where you can simply donate to the DAC as well!

On Saturday, March 20 from 10am-2pm we will hold an Outdoor Pick-Up Event at the DAC. We will have coffee and treats for you to enjoy as well. If there are items that were not bid on or are more garage sale appropriate, we will have those items out for you to peruse while you sip your coffee. It is the first day of spring so cross your fingers for spring weather! If unable to pick up that day, we will make other arrangements with you for getting your items.

We collected donations during the month of February but if you still would like to donate, it's not too late! Some ideas might be putting together a gift basket, art, craftwork, gift cards, desirable gently used items (especially if they are Danish!).....you can be creative! If you DO still have something, contact us and we will arrange a time for drop off.

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## **MAY DAY ÆBLESKIVE EVENT UPCOMING**

Mark your calendars: the DAC Breakfast Committee plans to hold an outdoor æbleskive event on Saturday, May 1, 2021. More details to come in the April newsletter!

## **MARCH 2021**

- DAC Building is Currently Closed

## **NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Soon we will see warmer weather after a bitter cold stretch. Soon we will be gardening and hoping to hold outdoor events with proper cautions. I know some of our members are starting to be vaccinated. It will take months for all to be vaccinated who want to be. We are strongly encouraged to continue to follow the current protocols: masks, distancing, hygiene, and limited size of groups. Yet, there may be a light flickering at the end of the tunnel.

The DAC Board met on February 8 and heard the good news that members are making additional contributions and paying membership dues so that our finances remain strong. We all benefit from the generosity and faithfulness of others. We learned that plans are in place for an outdoor, members only, æbleskive breakfast on May 1. Plans continue for the virtual silent auction. Watch for more details. And a Danish 3 class is being offered this spring.

Also, Christina Zettel and Lars Olsen have submitted their resignation as our live-in caretakers. Christina took this position in August 2018 and has provided leadership with Danish Day 2019, has been a valued assistant with Wednesday luncheons (back when they were still possible) and has cared for our building during the pandemic. Also, she and her husband, Lars, kept a watchful

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The title of the auction is "Samfundssind," which means to be community minded. Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen used the word last spring when announcing the need to shut down Denmark in order to get Covid-19 under control. She presented samfundssind to Danes as collective responsibility and community spirit. We thought this was a great way to think about our DAC auction as well. This is an opportunity for us to come together in a different way and do something good to support our wonderful organization! We look forward to enjoying some "Samfund" during the auction and on March 20 at the DAC! If you have any question at any point about anything, please contact Tina Paulsen at [dainfo@dac.mn](mailto:dainfo@dac.mn) or Lisa Jensen at [lisa\\_jensen@rdale.org](mailto:lisa_jensen@rdale.org)

### Directions for Registering to Use 32Auctions

- 1) Go to: <https://www.32auctions.com/danishamericancenter>
- 2) Choose at the right top of the screen LOGIN
- 3) At the right of the LOGIN button, click "create an account now"
- 4) At the next screen add your name, email address and create a password. Click all the boxes, that you are legal age, understand the terms of use, understand the private policy and that you are not a robot.
- 5) The site will send you an email to complete your registration. When you get the email, click ok and you are registered.
- 6) You can explore all the items on the 32auctions site. Only add your credit card information when you're ready to pay. Remember, you may pay in cash when you pick up your item on March 20th.

*Janet Ogden-Brackett, Jane Carlson & Lisa Jensen (Auction Committee)*

eye during the unrest in the wake of the death of George Floyd. Thank you, Christina and Lars for being there during this very odd time in our lives together. A committee of the board will be making a recommendation for filling this critical role.

At this time, we hope to have the annual meeting in person on September 26. More to come on those plans. Stay well, get your vaccine when possible, and we will be together outside this summer. See you then.

Diane Greve

### DANISH TRIVIA

The island of Møn is well known for its cliffs, which are made from what substance?

Check the April *DANews* for the answer!

### MEMBERSHIP CORNER

#### Welcome New Members:

Denise Hinton • Carol Sime and Family  
 Ingrid Bertelsen • Lorraine Bloomquist  
 Rene Paulsen

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](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 e-mail solicitations that are deemed necessary for the operation of the DAC.

### Danish American Center

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email: [dainfo@dac.mn](mailto:dainfo@dac.mn)

Website: [www.dac.mn](http://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](http://www.dac.mn)

### Executive Board:

Diane Greve, President  
 Rikke Dierssen-Morice, Vice President  
 Janet Ogden-Brackett, Treasurer  
 Laura Forslev, Secretary  
 Ron Grand, at Large  
 Catherine Mahowald, at Large

### Board of Directors:

Niels Billund, Jane Carlson, Peter Gantriis,  
 Lars Hesbjerg, Lisa Jensen, Ginny Kirkegaard Leppart,  
 Erik Kristoffersen, Steen Moeller, Mette Pedersen,  
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### 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](mailto:danews@dac.mn).

## FYRAFTEN GATHERS OUTDOORS

The Fyraften men's group hasn't met for several months due to the DAC being closed and



indoor COVID restrictions. So, we decided on an outdoor boot hockey event. Anders Wolf provided his home ice rink and fire pit. Luckily the weather cooperated and despite a few falls no one sustained an injury. Anders and Erik Kristofferson cooked an excellent chili with fixings and we finished with appropriate Danish sweets including kringle from Denny's Bakery.

FyrAften is open to the men of DAC who are members and 18 years or older. We usually meet at the DAC on the last Friday of every month during the standard nine-month school year. For further information about the group, call or email Paul Juhl at 612-437-2430 or Pjuhl727@comcast.net.

## NEW TRANSLATION SERVICE AT DAC

The DAC frequently receives requests for translators of documents. We are pleased to announce that several of our members have decided to offer help! We are now offering an unofficial translation service. To request a translation, you can mail the materials to the DAC, or email to [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. If it needs to be mailed, postage and handling will be added.

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.

## DANEBO READING CIRCLE VISITS A BOOKSTORE IN COPENHAGEN

No, it's not a field trip, but it is a fantasy excursion through Danish author Mikkel Birkegaard's literary thriller, *The Library of Shadows* (2007, 430 pages; translated by Tiina Nunnally and published in English in 2009). As with most recent meetings, this one will take place on Zoom on Sunday, March 21, at 2pm.

The description of the book on the back cover begins with a sentence that will surely resonate with any reader. The second sentence, however, sets up the premise of the novel and will undoubtedly lead to a lively discussion. *Imagine that some people have the power to affect your thoughts and feelings when you read, or they read a book to you. They can seduce you with amazing stories, conjure up vividly imagined worlds, but also manipulate you into thinking exactly what they want you to.*

The description then continues with a synopsis of the plot: *When Luca Campelli dies a sudden and violent death, his son Jon inherits his second-hand bookshop, Libri di Luca, in Copenhagen. Jon has not seen his father for twenty years since the mysterious death of his mother.*

*When Luca's death is followed by an arson attempt on the shop, Jon is forced to explore his family's past. Unbeknown to Jon, the bookshop has for years been hiding a remarkable secret. It is the meeting place of a society of booklovers and readers, who have maintained a tradition of immense power passed down from the days of the great library of ancient Alexandria. Now someone is trying to destroy them, and Jon finds himself in a fight for his life and those of his new friends.*

Reviews of the book have been quite mixed, so it will be interesting to hear how the discussion goes. Maybe some in the group will agree with Kathy on Goodreads.com who exclaimed: "This story was absolutely AMAZING! Also fascinating, spell-binding and heart-poundingly gripping." Or with fellow Goodreads reviewer Shomeret who expressed some disappointment: "I really wanted to like this book more than I did. The concept is so original and I am a great lover of books. I believe that books do have

power for their readers. Making this more than metaphor within a fantasy context is ingenious.”

Many reviewers mentioned parallels – both positive and negative - with Dan Brown’s *The DaVinci Code*, but others found it quite original. Virtually everyone agreed that the premise was ingenious and challenges readers to assess their approach to books. *The Library of Shadows* was a bestseller in Denmark and has found readers in 17 languages around the world. Translator Tiina Nunnally is well known for her accomplishments and has many admirers in the Danebo Reading Circle.

Perhaps these “final words” from Goodreads reviewers will whet some appetites for picking up this Danish novel: “...what an AMAZING idea! And Mikkel Birkegaard makes it work, he makes it into a believable, wondrous and exciting ride. I suppose it’s a mystery novel, in ways, but it’s also a bit of an adventure and a love letter to books and the experience of reading. It definitely changed the way I look at and think of books, and how I treat them.” (Kristine) “Highly recommended for any book lover and after it you will see the act of reading with different eyes.” (Livi) “The summary on the back cover mentioned murder, bookshop, secret, ....and there was a beautiful cover. But this didn’t prepare me to be sucked into a book that I wish I was still living in.” (Jeane)

Obtaining copies of *The Library of Shadows* proved almost as spell-binding as the novel itself. The group always tries to choose books that are readily available from libraries or local and online bookstores. But lots can change from the time a book is nominated and when members try to find it. This one proved especially challenging, but in the end eight copies were located for those who needed one. The only two books in local libraries came from Greater Minnesota—one at Gustavus Adolphus College and one in the Blue Earth Community Library. Single books came from Powell’s in Portland (OR) and from a Thriftbooks.com source in Phoenix (AZ), while four arrived from Better World Books after a 14-day journey from Scotland—whew!

Also due to accessibility issues, the group is changing the order of books for April and May. In April, the book to read is *Miss Iceland* (2018, 238 pages) by Auður Ava

Ólafsdóttir. This seems to be a little easier to find than copies of the now-for-May title: *Alberta and Freedom* (1931, 220 pages) by Norwegian author Cora Sandel. Those who want to join in the discussion of these books should start now to locate a copy.

*Miss Iceland* is the story of Hekla and Jon, two friends searching for new life in the arts but trapped in the small, conservative world of 1960s Reykjavik. But that world is changing. Will they escape? The publisher describes the book as “a novel of extraordinary poise and masterful acuity from one of our most celebrated Icelandic writers.” Join the reading group via Zoom (or possibly outside at the DAC if weather permits) on Sunday, April 18. Katy Lindblad will lead the discussion beginning at 2pm.

## NOTABLE DANISH FILMS

Three Danish films have been in the news recently:

*President*, a documentary by Camilla Nielsson, follows the 2018 election in Zimbabwe. *President* is a sequel to Nielsson’s Tribeca-winning 2014 documentary *Democrats*, which focused on the establishment of Zimbabwe’s first democratic constitution. *President* received the Special Jury Award for Cinema Verité Filmmaking at The 2021 Sundance Film Festival. More information can be found on the Final Cut For Real website: <http://www.finalcutforreal.dk/president>

*Flee*, an animated film by Jonas Poher Rasmussen recounts the dramatic journey of a child refugee from Afghanistan who eventually landed and created a life for himself in Denmark. It won the World Cinema Documentary Grand Jury Prize at The 2021 Sundance Film Festival. More information can be found on the Final Cut For Real website: <http://www.finalcutforreal.dk/flee>

*Another Round* (*Druk* in Danish) by Thomas Vinterberg, stars Mads Mikkelsen as one of four middle-aged friends who start a social experiment to test Norwegian psychiatrist Finn Skårderud’s theory that suggests man’s blood-alcohol level is actually 0.5% too low. *Another Round* was nominated for a 2021 Golden Globe Award in the category Best Picture–Foreign Language. More information, including links to all current US streaming options) can be found on the Samuel Goldwyn Films website: <http://www.samuelgoldwynfilms.com/another-round/>

## THANK YOU CHRISTINA AND LARS!

After almost three years as the caretakers of the DAC, the time has come for Lars and I to move on to greener pastures. In this case, quite literally. Last month we signed a lease on a cabin and two acres of tillable land in St Croix Falls, WI where we will spend the growing season playing in the dirt and growing food. Farming and orcharding is our long-term dream, but due to changing circumstances over the last year in our professional spheres, we have the opportunity to make a move we thought was five to ten years away for us. While we are incredibly excited to begin this new journey, we would be remiss not to feel a pang of sadness that our time here at the DAC has come to an end. It has been a wonderful home for us these last few years and we are grateful for the opportunity to get to know so many of you at events like Luncheon and Æbleskive Breakfasts. We look forward to running into you all at DAC events in the future! Tak. -Christina and Lars

## NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

### DANISH GENEALOGY

WEBINAR: SATURDAY MARCH 20, 2021 AT 1pm CST

What are runes? What does runic writing teach us about our Scandinavian ancestry? This presentation will provide an overview of the thousands of runestones existing today, primarily in Sweden, Norway and Denmark, but some in North America.

Speaker Loraine Jensen is the President and founder of the American Association for Runic Studies (AARS), a nonprofit organization promoting scholarly research on runes and runic inscriptions. AARS website: [www.runicstudies.org](http://www.runicstudies.org)

Registration is required, but free and open to all. Registration will be accepted until the start of the meeting. Register at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83370513778>

For more information please contact Bill Holmquist at 651-748-5017.

## SKOVSOEN FOR SUMMER 2021!

After last summer's fully virtual programming, Skovsøen will be back with several residential opportunities this summer, and continue with virtual opportunities, as well.

### Our summer residential offerings will include:

- Earn a full year of high school credit in the one-month credit program (9th - 12th grades) from June 20 to July 17

or

- Explore Danish language immersion in a culture-rich environment in a one-month program (ages 13-18) from June 20 to July 17

All residential programs will follow Covid-19 residential camp protocols from the Minnesota Department of Health. With one-month residential programs, there will also be plenty of time for regular exciting Skovsøen activities and holidays. The smaller number of residential villagers this summer will allow for more personal attention for your child's language learning.

### Our summer virtual offerings will include:

- Two virtual sessions for kids of all ages, 8-18 (July 5-9 and July 12-16), Virtual Skovsøen last summer was a great success last year and drew young people from around the country!

The virtual program includes large- and small-group Danish language learning in appropriate skill-level groups, cooking, art, music and culture. My daughter participated in the virtual program last summer and loved it!

Whichever experience you choose, Skovsøen is a great way to start your adventure in learning Danish or as a way to keep up Danish language, especially for those seeking to maintain their connections to family in Denmark or as a means to maintaining Danish citizenship. Skovsøen was a wonderful path for my son to learn and keep up his Danish language, transitioning from villager to high school credit villager and now to counselor.

All 15 languages of Concordia Language Villages will be conducting programming with both residential and virtual sessions this summer. Come join us!

Here is the link for more information on Skovsøen: <http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org/youth-languages/danish-language-village> or contact the dean, Liz "Lis" Klages at [klages@cord.edu](mailto:klages@cord.edu).

## I KØKKENET

Enjoy the last days of winter with a cup of hot chocolate, similar to what you can get at La Glace, Copenhagen's oldest konditori.

### *Ingredients:*

1 liter (4  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups) whole milk

125g (4  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz) dark chocolate (~60% cocoa), finely chopped

Granulated sugar to taste

Heavy whipping cream, whipped to serve on top

### *Directions:*

Slowly heat the milk in a saucepan until almost boiling, add the chopped chocolate and stir until it has dissolved. Add sugar to taste.

Recipe from *Copenhagen Food* by Trine Hahnemann

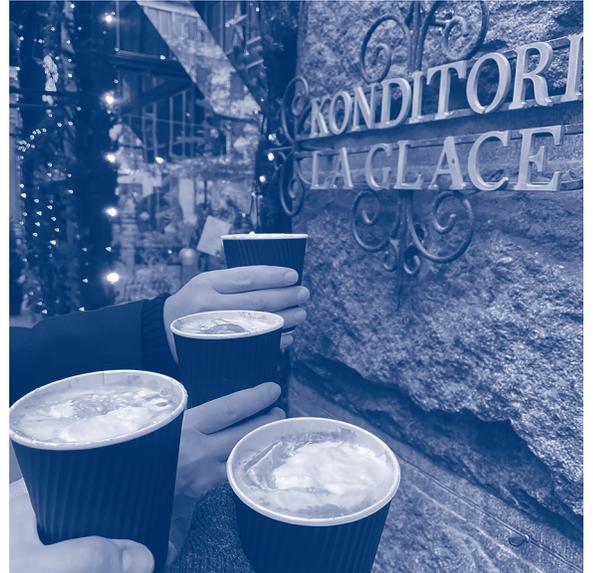


Photo Credit: La Glace Instagram



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