



# 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.*

## **DAC ANNUAL MEETING**

Sunday, September 26: 3pm

The annual meeting of Danebo, Inc. dba, Danish American Center, is scheduled to be held on Sunday, September 26, with social time from 3-4pm. The meeting will begin promptly at 4pm. All adult members are encouraged to come for financial reports, committee updates and the election of new board members. Please see page 3 for our current slate of board nominees. We will also receive nominations from the floor. And we will have time for questions. We hope it will be safe to meet in person this year! Stay tuned for any changes.

## **SEPTEMBER ÆBLESKIVE EVENT**

Sunday, September 19: 10am-12pm

Please join us on Sunday, September 19 outside the DAC entrance for an abbreviated æbleskive breakfast! Come anytime between 10am – 12pm to enjoy a few æbleskiver, along with a cup of coffee or juice. Note that wearing a mask is mandatory if you are not fully vaccinated, and encouraged, though not required, if you are vaccinated. Bring your own chairs or blankets if you wish to sit on the lawn. This is a free outdoor event. Donations are appreciated, but not required. If the weather does not permit us to be outside, the event will be rescheduled. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Lisa Jensen at 612-430-2741. Hope to see you there! Stay tuned for details on the October 17 breakfast.

## **DANEBO READING CIRCLE RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER**

Sunday, September 19: 2pm

Sunday, September 19, marks the beginning of the fall season for members of the Danebo Reading Circle. An in-person meeting is planned for the third floor conference room at the DAC, starting at 2pm. However, should COVID-19 restrictions be reinstated, the group will look at an outdoor meeting on the DAC patio (weather permitting) or go back to a virtual get-together via Zoom. In any case, plans for a hybrid meeting will be worked out to include anyone at a distance or who wants to keep a distance. Email instructions will go out to everyone during the week before.

READING CIRCLE continued on Page 4

## **SEPTEMBER 2021**

- DAC BOARD NOMINATIONS
- HERITAGE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

## **NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

How exciting to see Denmark win 11 medals at the Tokyo Olympics—3 Gold, 4 Silver, and 4 Bronze! And all were celebrated! So much fun.

Now that the Olympics are behind us for a year, the DAC is facing a new season of uncertainty. Over the summer we made plans to reopen our building and schedule programs hoping that the pandemic was behind us. Now we are back to wearing masks in many indoor settings whether we are vaccinated or not. How this virus and its variants will unfold is uncertain and we will need to be prepared to pivot with the grace of the Olympians.

The Board met for its regular meeting in August via Zoom. After considerable discussion regarding the increased concern about the COVID-19 Delta variant, the board unanimously passed the following motion:

**We request that anyone attending indoor events at the Danish American Center who is eligible to receive the Covid-19 vaccine, be vaccinated. Masks are highly encouraged while in the building.**

How we wish it were not so, but we prefer to proactively protect the health of our members. Our collective well-being is important to us.

FROM THE PRESIDENT continued on Page 2

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### Welcome New Members:

Richard Wagner Society of the Upper Midwest  
 Peter Poulsen and family • Birgit Andersen  
 Erin Swenson-Klatt • Todd Powell & Jennifer Stohl Powell  
 Kirsti Arntzen and family • Ulrik Aaskov & family  
 David and Jane Gregerson • Michelle Jensen  
 Lauren Nielsen • Kennard Lehmann & family  
 Joann Jacobson Nesser • Scott Smedberg  
 Conrad Christiansen • Erik Kruse • William Hughes  
 Thor Sohlstrom • Amanda & Stuart Robbins Butcher  
 Lisa Venable • June McKinney • James Ramsberg  
 Carol Hansen • Raphael Cheron & family  
 Krista Johnson & family • Edwin Stieve & Otto Paier  
 Christine Aas-Larson • William Hughes

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.

## MEMORIALS IN JULY

*Gifts in memory of...*

**Barb Holmquist** from Jeanne Buck  
**Iver "Whitey" Jorgensen** from Linda K Mazanec, Joel & Carla Mortensen, Sonja Walker, Erik Hansen, Bob Hansen & Cathy Mahowald, John & MaryJo Scully, and the Wahlfors

Thank you to all who have made memorial contributions to DAC. These generous gifts are much appreciated. All donations to DAC are tax deductible. Please contact the DAC Office for more information.

Over the summer the DAC office was moved to the north end of the first floor. The former office space is being renovated into an extended Kaffestue. This will allow for more places to socialize during some of our events. Check it out when you are in the building. Many thanks to the numerous volunteers who have done the demolition and the reconstruction of the new space. We hope to have the project completed this fall.

Stay tuned and stay well everyone, and I hope to see you in the months ahead.

Diane Greve

## NOTARY PUBLIC

If you are in need of 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.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for the October issue is September 10

### Danish American Center

3030 West River Parkway South  
 Minneapolis MN 55406

612-729-3800

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.danishamericancenter.org](http://www.danishamericancenter.org)

### Executive Board:

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

### Board of Directors:

Jane Carlson, Peter Gantriis, Lars Hesbjerg, Lisa Jensen, Ginny Kirkegaard Leppart, Erik Kristoffersen, Steen Moeller, Mette Pedersen, Grethe Petersen, and Julie Robbins

**Office Manager:** Tina Paulsen

### 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).

## **DAC BOARD NOMINATIONS**

### **Susan Jacobsen**

Susan spent her professional career administering studio art and art history educational programs for public audiences for all ages and retired from the Minneapolis Institute of Art in 2020 after 47 years, including ten years as a board member of an international museum organization, the French Regional American Museum Exchange, 2003-2013. She is English Recording Secretary for Yukimakai, the Japanese Tea Study Group associated with Urasenke, Kyoto, Japan. She has been active in the Danish American community for many years serving on the Danebo Inc. board when it joined with the Danish American Fellowship to form the DAC from 2005 on and as DAC President from 2014-2017, Secretary of the board 2011 & 2013-2014 and Dane of the Year 2017. She served on the board of the Danish American Heritage Society from 2006-2009 and was the Minneapolis conference chair in 2009. She has attended the Danebod Family Camp (July) in her hometown of Tyler, Minnesota for 70 years and has served on the board from 2017 to the present. A Virkylist member, she presented a talk on Danish Art to Virkylist in April 2021 via Zoom, including several encore presentations. She is looking forward to having more time to devote to the Danish American Center and Danish cultural programs in the coming year.

### **Jesper Jensen**

I have been a member of the DAC since December 2019 where I volunteered at the Christmas party and was amazed to see so many Danes attend. That is also how I learned about Fyraften which I enjoy a lot.

I've been living in Chanhassen for the past two years after I moved here from Fargo, ND where I lived for almost five years. I left Aabenraa, Denmark, in 2014 when I decided to come work and travel the US which was the biggest adventure of my life. I ended up staying and falling in love with the United States and everything it stands for and in February 2021 I became a US citizen. I have been an automotive technician specializing in German vehicles for almost 10 years now.

### **Pipper Berg Madsen,**

Born and raised in Denmark. Married to Jeff Hardwick (whom she met on her travels) for 43 years. Lived in Florida for 19 years and moved to MN in 1997. She has been a member of first DAF and then DAC for most of those years.

Active in Tøsegruppen, where I enjoy getting together with other Danish speaking women. Previously on the board.

### **Steen Moeller**

I am a current board member seeking re-election for a second term. I have been active in the DAC since 2009, and this is my second time being on the DAC board. I am an active member of the Fyraften group and a co-organizer of the annual food and aquavit pairing event. I have been active in helping with organizing different events, e.g. the Danish Opera Singers and the H.C. Andersen celebration (cancelled due to COVID).

I immigrated to Minnesota in 2002, and currently live in Edina with my wife and two kids, ages 4 and 6. Professionally I am an associate Professor in Radiology at the University of Minnesota focusing on magnetic resonance imaging for brain function.

As a board member at the DAC I try to focus on ensuring inclusivity and supporting new activities. I am an advocate for us to make our building as useful as we can. Including the current remodeling, but also previous remodeling such as kaffestuen. I would like to see that we can maintain the benefits of having a gathering place that is well-suited for the size of the DAC organization, while being adjustable to new activities.

## **TRANSLATION SERVICE AT DAC**

The DAC frequently receives requests for translators of documents. We are now offering a 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.

**BEGINNING DANISH COURSE STARTS SEPT. 18**

Join fellow Danish enthusiasts for Beginning Danish 1. This 8-session course centers around a casual 90-minute weekly session. We follow a textbook and enlist various online resources. There are weekly assignments to complete outside of class. No previous language experience is necessary, and Beginning Danish I is appropriate for high school age and up.

We will be meeting via Zoom for the month of September.

**Dates:** Saturdays: September 18, 25; October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; November 6

**Time:** 9:30 to 11am

**Cost (includes materials):** Members: \$100  
Nonmembers: \$120

**More Dates for 2021-2022:**

**Danish 2:** 6 classes (December 4 - 18, January 8 - 22)

Members \$75 & Nonmembers: \$90

**Danish 3:** 6 classes (February 5 - March 12)

Members \$75 & Nonmembers: \$90

Registration and payment for the course is available on the DAC's website. Scroll down to the event section and click on Beginning Danish 1 by September 10 to secure your place.

**ROCK BALANCING CLASS**

Sunday, October 2: 9:30am-12pm

Peter Juhl will be offering a Rock Balancing class on Saturday, October 2 from 9:30am – Noon. He has enjoyed time on the North Shore over the years where he has practiced this centering art form along with his photography. The class will be limited to 25 so register now. You can go to the member section Events Calendar on the website to register and pay, or call the DAC office at 612-729-3800, or email the office at dainfo@dac.mn. Registration for members is \$30 and nonmembers is \$40.

Peter has offered this class at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum over the summer. This October offering is a gift to the DAC. Hopefully, we can fill the class and maybe persuade him to offer a second class in the spring!

Newcomers are welcome at the Danebo Reading Circle! To join the contact list please email Suzanne (suzannej41@me.com).

The September book selection is Danish author Christian Jungersen's 2004 award-winning *The Exception (Undtagelsen*, 502 pages, translated in 2006 by Anna Paterson). Discussion leader will be Gitte Mohr.

The book has been published in 18 countries and adapted for Radio 4. It was on the bestseller list for 1.5 years in Denmark and has twice been at or near the top of readers' polls (2009 second best Danish novel of past 25 years in Jyllands-Posten and 2010 as best Danish novel of preceding decade). It won the P2 Novel Prize and *De Gyldne Laurbær* and was nominated for the International Dublin Literary Award, the Duncan Lawrie Dagger (UK), the Gran Prix des Lectrices de Elle (France), and the Martin Beck Award (Sweden).

According to the book jacket, "The Exception dissects the nature of evil and the paranoia that drives ordinary people to commit unthinkable acts. Four women work together for a small non-profit in Copenhagen that disseminates information on genocide. When two of them receive death threats, they immediately believe that they are being stalked by Miro Zigic, the Serbian torturer and war criminal they recently profiled in their articles. Yet as tensions mount among the women, their suspicions turn away from Zigic and toward each other. The threats increase, and soon the office becomes a battlefield in which each woman's move is suspect."

In a very readable translation, the novel unfolds in chapters alternating among the four co-workers at the Danish Center for Genocide Information: Anne-Lise, Camilla, Iben, and Malene. Drawing on research on the nature of evil, Jungersen's thriller makes the case that the same dark impulses that lead to genocide may underlie the bullying that plagues the dysfunctional center's office – and be present in all humans (adapted from Wikipedia). *New York* magazine described it as "full of surprises and profound moral implications....ends with a devastating twist."

The fall sessions continue on October 17 with *The Red Address Book* by Sweden's Sofia Lundberg (2017, 290 pages; translated by Alice Menzies) and on November 21 with the Danish classic *The Fall of the King* by Johannes V. Jensen (1901, 273 pages; translated by Alan G. Bower). During the fall, the group will also receive and vote on the list of books nominated for 2022. Many thanks to Mary Beth Lake for compiling the suggestions made by members.



## THE DANISH HERITAGE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

Do you have an interest in our Danish history in the Twin Cities? Do you like learning about the Danes of the past who created our organization and our lovely DAC building? This could be the committee for you.

Our group does the important work of showcasing our past members and events over the years, and all the pieces that brought Danes, their friends and families to where we are today in the Twin Cities.

We have created the large history story boards you see in the DAC hallways. We have also created several exhibits you may have visited in the Heritage Exhibit room. We learn a lot from our explorations and from each other.

Our group meets a few times each year, usually on Wednesday mornings. We often follow up our meetings by attending the Wednesday luncheons! If you are interested in learning more, please contact Ginny Leppart. 612-532-5750 or [gleppart@comcast.net](mailto:gleppart@comcast.net)



## LEIF 2021 WILL BE HYBRID IN OCTOBER

Planning is well underway for the 2021 Leif Eriksson International Festival (LEIF), which will happen online ([leifmn.org](http://leifmn.org)) and in-person (COVID-19 permitting) at Mindekirken, the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church, in Minneapolis. The opening event will be on Tuesday, October 5, with a noontime Tuesday Open House program on silversmithing. The first festival worship service will be at 11am on Sunday, October 10, followed by a 2pm concert by John De Haan (tenor) and Jordan Buchholtz (piano). All three of these events are live at Mindekirken ([mindekirken.org](http://mindekirken.org)). The celebration concludes on Sunday, October 17, with the second festival church service, which will have Danish connections. The full LEIF 2021 program will be in the October *DANews*. It is also available on the festival website ([leifmn.org](http://leifmn.org)), which will include daily links for online "Destinations of the Day" for adults and kids. Many of the program sessions and links will highlight the Sámi people of far northern Europe. Please join the LEIF Committee, presenters, and supporters for many things Nordic, October 5-17, 2021! Special thanks to Suzanne Jebe and Leo and Mary Beth Lake for representing the DAC on the LEIF Committee.

## NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

### DANISH GENEALOGY

Monday, September 27: 6pm

September has traditionally been the month when members informally met together and shared road blocks, successes, questions and networked with other members. It is one of the most enjoyable and worthwhile meetings of each year. Everyone learns something. This year we are excited to take it further with two Danish genealogy experts on hand to help answer your questions and give advice! And of course, we still want to hear your experiences, advice, and tips for fellow members as well! It's a great time for everyone to get involved. Hope to see everyone participating.

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdOQtqD4qHtfuLd8eeGGnRHqVRx\\_Q\\_e\\_i](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdOQtqD4qHtfuLd8eeGGnRHqVRx_Q_e_i)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## DANISH DAY

Danish Day took a little different approach this year by limiting some of the food options, no big tents, and donations requested rather than a set price. The Board recognized the “Danes of the Decade” as John and MaryJo Scully have given years of faithful service to the DAC. Several smorrebrod sandwiches were prepared in advance by members and sold at auction. Niels Billund and his friend, Rolf Krogstad offered music for the day. Many thanks to Grethe Petersen, Steen Moeller, Betina Kohler, Tina Paulsen, and Laura Forslev for their leadership in making this event a success in the midst of our pandemic.



**DANISH  
AMERICAN  
CENTER**

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