



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.

MEMBER SOCIAL GATHERINGS

FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH IN THE TIVOLI LOUNGE & LIVING ROOM

Friday, March 7: 4-6pm

Join your member friends for an informal social gathering and enjoy soft drinks, non-alcoholic beer, and snacks. No reservations needed; come join us!

DAC ONLINE AUCTION

March 14-March 23

Our theme this year is Ny Begyndelse, which means "new beginning" in Danish. This is an opportunity for us to come together and do something good to support our wonderful organization!

We have received many marvelous items for our auction and are excited for it to happen! The Online Silent Auction opens March 14 and closes the evening of March 23. To participate, go to the 32Auctions Website: <https://www.32auctions.com/DAC2025> (directions for using the auction site can be found on page 2). You can look at all items and make bids. If you bid on something, make sure and go back to check if somebody else outbid you. You can raise your bids through March 23. Once the auction is over, we will contact you with details if you won the bid. You can then pay for your items through the auction site, or pay at the DAC with cash or check on pick-up day. If you prefer not to purchase anything, there will be a place where you can simply donate to the DAC—on Saturday, April 12 from 10am-2pm.

ONSDAGS FROKOST – COOKS WANTED

We have a couple open dates for cooks for Wednesday Lunches this spring, before we go on hiatus for the summer. Please consider signing up to cook April 9, May 14 or May 28. If you love to cook, we would love to show you how to whip up a feast in the great DAC kitchen. Please contact Cathy Mahowald at cmahowal@hutchtel.net or 612-845-5562. Tak!

MARCH 2025

- ♥ Music on the Mississippi
- ♥ Æbleskive Breakfast
- ♥ Viking Guild
- ♥ Saga Writers

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this, spring is coming to us. Our long winter is ending, and I'm looking forward to warm sunny weather! In the spirit of looking forward, our board is working hard to facilitate our activities



for the coming year. We have a full calendar of events for 2025, and they are highlighted by the annual Danish Day celebration in June.

We are well into the planning stages for Danish Day. Committees have been formed to manage the event planning and food planning. At the end of Danish Day last year, we circulated a survey among the volunteers. We have tabulated those responses, and mixed them with feedback that we received from our guests. The celebration was wonderful in 2024, but there is always room for improvement. We are using the feedback to evaluate the site layout and improve the foot traffic flow. We are also reviewing the food stand situations, in an effort to manage the flow of foot traffic to the food and also to help manage the quantities and availability of popular

items like hotdogs! While this may seem like tedious work, we are doing everything we can to learn from past experience and make this 2025 celebration just that much better. I am grateful for our teams of volunteers who literally spend months working on the plans and arrangements for this annual event.

In addition to event planning, we are always evaluating the use of our DAC facility on the River Parkway. Over the past couple of years, we have had an evolution in the way that we use spaces in the DAC. Our Atrium has always been popular for hosting events, and this is a good thing. However, it puts pressure on some of the other spaces in the building, notably the Tivoli lounge, and the Kaffestue. I have asked the building committee to evaluate some possible improvements that might help us create additional space for large gatherings and activities. Bathroom space is also at a premium, so we are taking a look at some options to make our Atrium and first floor space more hospitable to big groups. We have also made some subtle improvements, in the form of new building security initiatives. We added cameras to many of the main gathering spaces, and alarm sensors to our doors to help us be secure and to monitor activity inside and outside of the building. We want to make sure that our DAC property is safe and welcoming for all our members and guests.

As always, I am grateful for the support of this Danish community. Happy spring!

Pete Gantriis

DIRECTIONS FOR USING 32AUCTIONS:

1. Go to <https://www.32auctions.com/DAC2025>
2. Choose LOGIN at the right top of the screen.
3. To the right of the LOGIN button, click create an account.
4. On the next screen add your name, email address and create a password. Click all the boxes, that you are of legal age, understand the terms of use, understand the privacy 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 can pay with cash or check when you pick up your item on April 12. If you have registered in past years, you should not have to register again. If you have forgotten your password, follow the instructions on the website to reset it.

REGISTERING FOR EVENTS ONLINE

Here are step-by-step instructions on how to register for an event on the DAC website:

1. Go to danishamericancenter.org
2. Login to your account
3. Once you are logged in, click on Go to Event Calendar
4. Select the event for which you wish to register
5. A blue "Register Now!" button will appear toward the bottom of the page. Click on that button.
6. Fill in all the information and credit card number. (We do not accept American Express.)
7. A blue "Register!" button will appear. Click on that button.
8. You will receive an email confirmation of registration. Make sure to check your Junk and/or Spam folders.

Please note: Your DAC membership must be current to register for events. If you have any questions, contact the DAC office at 612-729-3800.

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:

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

Board of Directors:

Dana Bacon, Pippet Berg Madsen, Bill Holmquist,
Lisa Jensen, Ginny Kirkegaard Leppart, Susan Loschenkohl,
Ryan Maki, Tom Peterson, Bruce Simpson,
Scott Thomsen, Karma Walker, and Pernille Whited

DANews Committee:

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Bill Holmquist
Betina Kohler
Susan Loschenkohl
Myra Madsen
Michelle Potter-Bacon

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

LEAVES FROM THE LIBRARY

SIGN UP NOW FOR A DAC LIBRARY ACCOUNT!

By DAC Librarian Felicity Hanson

Did you know ... the DAC library has a great selection of titles across many genres? Members, come in and see for yourself! But sign up ahead of your visit for an online account so you can check something out:



1. To complete the Library Account Request form, click here: bit.ly/3CNtRs3
2. Library staff will set up your account and email your Patron ID and password along with basic instructions.
3. Visit the library during open hours (see below) or make an appointment.
4. Or view the catalog here: bit.ly/412hLDz

Hope to see you soon!

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS IN NORTH COMMONS CLASSROOM WITH DAC LIBRARIAN FELICITY HANSON

Workshop Cost:

\$15 for DAC members / \$25 for non-members

TEENY TINY BOOK WORKSHOP WITH EARRING OPTION

Saturday, March 22, 1:00 - 3:30pm

What's better than your favorite book? A teeny tiny sized version of it! These little books are super cute and completely adorable!

In this workshop, you will cut out the boards and covers for your book, make some tiny pages to glue inside, and put the whole thing together. This work does require a degree of skill, so the workshop is suitable for teens through adults.



Optional - make a pair of teeny tiny books and turn them into earrings. Fishhook earring findings an additional \$2.50 per pair. They are sterling silver and include latex backs.



***After registering, email titles for 2-4 books that you love to daclibrarymn@gmail.com (by Wed, March 19 at noon), and I will endeavor to provide those covers at the workshop. I will also have a selection of English children's and adult's book covers, and Danish children's covers to choose from.**

LIBRARY HOURS

Wednesdays 10am-2pm

1st Saturdays 11am-12pm

- and by appointment

Please note: From April 4 through early June, the library will be available by appointment only. Please email daclibrarymn@gmail.com to set up an appointment, or if you have any questions relating to the library.

PAPERLESS PUZZLE CHECKOUT

Next time you're at the Danish American Center, feel free to stop by our paperless puzzle checkout, located in the Living Room. We have a large selection of puzzles from 250-1000 pieces with a variety of depictions and levels of difficulty. No need to fill out any forms. Just grab a puzzle, take it home, and bring it back when you're finished!

SAGA WRITERS

Sunday, March 2, 1:30-3:30pm, North Commons Classroom

Do you want to do something with those memories, stories, and recollections you've been carrying



around in your head and heart for years? Then be sure to attend our next meeting! You will find a friendly and supportive group of writers both experienced and not so experienced, with whom you can share your goals, aspirations and accomplishments. Let's get those writing projects underway! See you there!



VIKINGE LAUG (VIKING GUILD)

Thursday, March 27, 6 pm, North Commons Classroom

Join us to make historically authentic craft items from the Viking years. Everyone picks craft projects that match their skills and interests. IT IS NEVER TOO LATE to join, since we each have different projects going. Come visit, see examples, and get ideas for what you might want to make. Beginners and experienced crafters and Vikings are equally welcome. Selma Petterson & Shane Orthman are your friendly coordinators!

DANEBO READING CIRCLE MARCHES ON

On Sunday, March 16 (2-4 pm), the DAC's reading group will have a hybrid meeting to discuss Danish author Lisbeth Zornig Andersen's memoir *Anger Is My Middle Name* (DK: Gyldendal A/S, *Zornig – vrede er mit mellemnavn*), 2011, 203 pp; translated by Mark Mussari (Seattle: Amazon Crossing, 2020). The meeting takes place in the North Commons (third floor) at the DAC and virtually for those unable to attend in person. Participants will bring questions and comments to share with the group.

Author Andersen's middle name, Zornig, means "anger" in German, but, despite exploring the many ways anger has played a role in her life, she writes with insight, optimism, and hope about the treatment she and her brothers received in the Danish child welfare system. The book has been described as "heart-wrenching" (*Kristeligt Dagbad*) but one that "is ultimately life-affirming, as it illustrates that it is possible to reject one's negative background and have a good life." (*Literatursiden*).

This third selection for 2025 continues a theme of childhood trauma and mental health issues, relevant topics then and now. Beginning and ending with Articles 19 and 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, this "deeply moving odyssey through the twilight of Denmark's

underclass" (*Politiken*) unfolds in text and photographs, told "in two voices: that of a young girl who was unwanted, challenged, and defiant, and that of a young woman who channeled her rage into a positive force as a passionate advocate for children's rights." This library website blurb concludes "Whatever darkness defines the past, it can be used to change the future. Lisbeth's heart-wrenching and ultimately uplifting journey is proof."

On Sunday, April 13, the group will discuss Icelandic author Jón Kalman Stefánsson's novel *Heaven and Hell* (IS: Bjartur, *Himnaríki og helvíti*), 2008, 215 pp; translated by Philip Roughton (London: MacLehose, 2014 and Ontario: Biblioasis, 2025). The newest edition identifies it as "The Trilogy about the Boy, Book 1." This is the second work by Stefánsson that the group has read; his *Summer Light, and Then Comes the Night* was a popular selection in May 2023.

Discussion leader Marie Thorsten provides this description of a boy's journey on sea and land: The unnamed "boy" himself is not so much the focal point, however, as is the contrast between the young man and the world he inhabits. The boy's self-professed insignificance is continuously juxtaposed with the grandeur of the sea and land, wakefulness and dreams, heaven and hell. The inventions of humans—language, poetry, numbers, etiquette—lose their meanings next to the endurance of non-human species and the force and unpredictability of nature. "I'm such a small character," confesses the boy, "that of course I melt with the snow, change into a puddle that dries up, change into a dark spot that then disappears" (p89). In contrast, when the boy is at sea, he marvels at the cod, fish that have endured the seas for 120 million years, "so gluttonous that it gets the better of everything" (p49). The novel is a poetic exploration of friendship and love. And, at the same time, the story casts doubt on poetry itself: *Heaven and Hell* opens with the boy's best friend getting killed in a sea snowstorm while reading *Paradise Lost*.

The Danebo Reading Circle welcomes current, former, and new members to meet with the group virtually or at the DAC. Newcomers may attend the first meeting without commitment, but continuation requires DAC membership. Details about the group are in each issue of *DANews*; more information and a virtual link are available by contacting suzannej41@me.com. Come read and discuss with this engaging group!



MUSIC ON THE MISSISSIPPI CONCERT WITH ROBERT ROBINSON

Thursday, April 3: 6pm Social Hour, 7pm Concert in the atrium

Robert Robinson is absolutely one of Minnesota's & America's finest Gospel singers. He uses his gift to lift the audience with a message of good news, be that gospel or conveying his own first hand knowledge of overcoming life's struggles, through his songs.

Robert Robinson skips all formalities and speaks directly to your heart from the first note. How do we know? Well that is what he did at DAC in 2023 and he earned the most enthusiastic applause we have ever heard.

Here is a recording by Twin Cities Public Television, TPT, of Robert Robinson singing Swing Low, Sweet Chariot: <https://www.pbs.org/video/Robert-Robinson-Swing-Low-Sweet-Chariot-594333H-1/>

Members can go to the Calendar item, click, and order tickets. <https://danishamericancenter.org/membership/event-calendar/#!calendar>

All ticket sales are final: no refunds, no exchanges. Your contribution to keeping live music alive is very much appreciated.

DAC Members \$30, Non-Members \$35.

NOTARY PUBLIC

The Danish American Center offers Notary Public service for members in the Twin Cities Metro Area. Please contact DAC member Ardis Wexler at judgeardis@aol.com to make arrangements to meet at a mutually agreed-upon time and location. Rates are \$10 per document; 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.

ÆBLESKIVE BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 16 at 9am and 10:45am

Reservations are required for our two scheduled seatings and are on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost for the all-you-can-eat breakfast is \$13 per adult and \$8 per child, ages 5-12.



Younger children are free. The menu includes æbleskiver, egg bake, sausage, juice and coffee. To sign up, go to danishamericancenter.org, find March 16 on the calendar, and click the breakfast seating of your choice. Or call the DAC office at 612-729-3800 to sign up. We also accept a limited amount of take-out orders. Pre-payment is required. Reservations will be accepted through March 14. Upcoming breakfasts: April 13 and May 11.

If you are interested in volunteering for one of our breakfasts or have questions, contact Carla & Joel Mortensen at carla.s.mortensen@gmail.com or call 612-724-1814. We hope to see you there!

BEGINNER PLUS DANISH CLASSES

In person monthly sessions at DAC designed for those with a little more experience and/or who have completed previous Beginning Danish courses at DAC.



Register for one or both sessions, held 11:15am-12:30pm Saturdays, March 8 and April 12. More information and registration available on the DAC website Classes and Events page: <https://danishamericancenter.org/classes-events/>.

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the April issue is March 10



SINGALONG WITH DAN CHOUINARD

Monday, March 3: 7pm
The next singalong will be held at 7pm on Monday, March 3 at the

Danish American Center in Minneapolis. Dan Chouinard hosts from the piano with lyrics projected on the big screen to help us through. If you have not been to one yet, you should come and experience the joy of singing along with a fun group of people. Free will offering.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome New Members:

- Steven & Annice Gregerson
- Karen & Joseph Robertson
- Jayne Byrne
- Shane Byrne
- Erik & Kirsten Sorensen
- Laura & Ron Schlatter
- Roger McKnight
- Ingrid Johansen & Ben Anderson
- Janna Wallin Haug & Arden Haug
- Martha Nymann Stephenson
- Dani Thibodeaux

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 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

TRANSLATION SERVICE AT DAC

To request a translation, mail the materials to the DAC, or email 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.

US EMBASSY INSTAGRAM POST FEATURES MINNESOTA

The US Embassy is featuring one state every week for the year 2025 on their Instagram channel (@denmarkinusa). The format of each episode starts with a greeting from the honorary consul, a brief look at cultural or historical ties to Denmark and then emphasizes current business relationships between the state of the week and DK. Minnesota and the Danish American Center were featured in February. If you haven't yet seen it, the Embassy's Minnesota video is linked on the Danish American Center's Facebook page.

MEMORIALS

Donations in memory of **Joseph Mohr** from Svea Ernsrt, and Lise Day

Donation in memory of **Helen Stub** from Lise Day

Donation in memory of **Dick Juhl** from Lise Day

Donation in memory of **Tom Livdahl** from Lise Day

Donation in memory of **Barbara Andersen** from Lise Day

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.

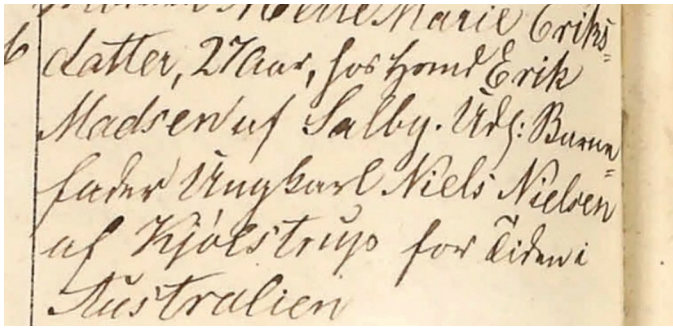
NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

DANISH GENEALOGY

CREATING AN AFTERLIFE FILE FOR GENEALOGY

Monday, March 24 at 6:30pm via Zoom

Searching Danish church records for documentation of births, marriages and deaths is one of the first skills a genealogist researching their Danish ancestors learns. But what if your ancestors didn't get married in a church? Or you haven't been able to locate a church marriage record? Beginning in 1851, Denmark began allowing civil marriages, which were recorded by a local sheriff or magistrate. This program, Civil Marriages in Denmark, will teach us where to locate historical civil marriage records, what information might be included on them, why they may have been chosen over a church wedding, and more. Speaker Charlotte Champeno is highly experienced in



Danish genealogical research, and an informative and engaging professional speaker. This program is provided free of charge from the National Danish-American Genealogical Society. Join us via Zoom, on Monday March 24 at 6:30pm CST. The Zoom link is: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87945684509>.

For more information and to learn of other upcoming Zoom events, visit our website: danishgenealogy.org If you have questions, email us: ndagsmembers@gmail.com.

ST. PEDER'S ANNUAL COD FISH DINNER

Friday, March 7: Seatings at 5pm and 6:30pm
St. Peder's wildly popular Cod Fish Dinner is back! The dinner includes boiled potatoes, their famous mustard gravy, peas and carrots, Havarti cheese on pumpernickel, cupcakes, and beverages. Meatballs are available for your main entrée if you prefer them to fish. Cost is \$15.00 for adults, and kids under high school age eat free! **Make reservations by March 3:** call St. Peder's church at 612-722-8000 or email office@stpeders.org. Provide your name, number of people in your party, which seating time you prefer, phone number or email address, and number of cod dinners, meatball dinners, OR cod/meatball combos your party would like. All are welcome!



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE DANEBOD FOLK MEETING, AUGUST 20-24, 2025

You are invited to Danebod for the 79th annual Folk Meeting in Tyler, MN! Founded in the Danish folk school tradition of lifelong learning in community, the Folk Meeting attracts interesting people from across the country to a residential living, learning and socializing experience. Treat yourself to a break in August and join your fellow guests for three and a half days of learning, singing, story-telling, socializing, dining, and folk dancing.

Each year our Folk Meeting program seeks to offer a broad liberal arts curriculum. In 2025 you will engage with experts in water quality, the state of our judiciary system, issues in journalism, and the health of America's electrical grid. You will have the opportunity to learn about relaxation and "de-stressing," converse with a young Dane about life in Danish society and culture, and engage with a poet in explicating a poem.

Experiential learning workshops will spur your creative side with options for exploring the arts of making Smørrebrød or writing song lyrics, savoring the magic of a nature walk, or honing your skills in folk dancing or backyard games.

If you are interested in learning more about the Danebod Folk Meeting, visit us at danebodfolkmeeting.org. Registration materials will be available in early May.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

Mondays at 9:30am: Watercolor Group
 Wednesdays 10am-2pm: DAC office Hours
 Wednesdays 10am-3pm: Mah Jongg
 Wednesdays 9am-1:30pm Library open for members only

 Saturday 01 Danish Language for Beginners 9:30-11am
 01 Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm
 01 Library Open (members only) 11am-12pm
 Sunday 02 Saga Writers 1:30-3:30pm
 02 Fastelavns Party for the Kids 3-5pm
 Monday 03 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7pm
 Wednesday 05 Virkelyst 7pm
 Friday 07 Member Social Hour 4-6pm
 07 Tøseften 7pm
 Saturday 08 Danish Language for Beginners 9:30-11am
 08 Beginners Plus Danish Class
 11:15am-12:30pm
 Wednesday 12 Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm
 Friday 14 Online Auction Bidding starts
 Saturday 15 Danish Language for Beginners 9:30-11am
 Sunday 16 Æbleskive Breakfast 9am & 10:45am
 16 Danebo Reading Circle 2-4pm
 Saturday 22 Teeny Tiny Book Workshop 1-3:30pm
 Wednesday 26 Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm
 Thursday 27 Vikingelauguet/Viking Guild 7pm
 Friday 28 Fyraften 7pm
 Sunday 30 Danish Dancing 6:30-9pm

APRIL

Mondays at 9:30am Watercolor Group
 Wednesdays 10am-2pm: DAC office Hours
 Wednesdays 10am-3pm Mah Jong

 Wednesday 02 Library open (members only) 9am-1:30pm
 02 Virkelyst 7pm
 Thursday 03 Music on the Mississippi – Robert
 Robinson, 6pm social hour, 7pm concert
 Friday 04 Member Social Hour 4-6pm
 04 Tøseften 7pm
 Saturday 05 Danish Language for Beginners 9:30-11am
 05 Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm
 Sunday 06 Saga Writers 1:30-3:30pm
 Monday 07 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7pm
 Wednesday 09 Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm
 Saturday 12 Danish Language for Beginners 9:30-11am
 12 Auction Item Pick Up 10am-6pm
 12 Beginners Plus Danish Class
 11:15am-12:30pm
 Sunday 13 Æbleskive Breakfast 9am and 10:45am
 13 Danebo Reading Circle 2-4pm
 Monday 14 Board Meeting 7pm
 Wednesday 23 Onsdags Frokost 11:30am-1pm
 Thursday 24 Vikingelauguet/Viking Guild 7pm
 Friday 25 Fyraften 7pm
 Saturday 26 DAC Concert: Taylor Ann Grand,
 Lisa Jensen, and Niels Billund 2pm
 Sunday 27 Danish Dancing 6:30pm

March 2025