



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.

DANISH DAY 2026—SAVE THE DATE

Plans for Danish Day 2026 are underway. Danish Day will be held on Sunday, June 7th. If you would like to volunteer to help plan or work the event day of, please contact the DAC office at 612-729-3800. Look for more details in the May DANews.

ÆBLESKIVE BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 19: 9am / 10:45am

Come and enjoy our all-you-can-eat breakfast and support the DAC.

Reservations are required and are on a first-come, first-served basis. The menu features æbleskiver, egg bake, sausage, juice and coffee. Cost- DAC Members: \$14/adult and \$9/child ages 5-12. Non-Members: \$16/adult and \$11/child ages 5-12. Children under age 5 are free.

To register, go to <https://danishamericancenter.org/public-calendar/>, find April 19 and select the Breakfast seating of your choice. If you would rather get breakfast to go, select the 'Take Out- pick up between 9:30-10:00am' choice on the calendar. You may also call the DAC office (612-729-3800) for assistance. Prepayment is required for all breakfast seatings and take-out orders. Upcoming breakfasts: May 10 (Mother's Day Brunch).

If you are interested in volunteering at one of our breakfasts or have questions, please contact Carla & Joel Mortensen at carla.s.mortensen@gmail.com or 612-594-4925. Come join the team!

ONSDAGFROKOST COOKS NEEDED

We need volunteer cooks for Wednesday Lunches this spring. These lunches are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. There are a few openings for anyone who loves to cook and would love to share their talents with our eager members. Cooks indicate the number of diners they wish to serve (normally limited to 40), shop for ingredients, and plan and prepare the meal. The DAC reimburses cooks for expenses, and they are honored for their work with a song. For those who would like to try this for the first time, we can provide tours of the kitchen and simple rules to follow for health reasons. Please contact Cathy Mahowald at 612-845-5562 or cmahowal@hutchtel.net with any questions or to volunteer.

APRIL 2026

- ♥ New Danish Language Class
- ♥ Shop Your Support for the DAC Library
- ♥ Upcoming Virkelyst Meetings

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello. As we move into spring, I'm sitting at my home watching a large snowfall event happen! Probably one of the last doses of winter that we will get, but it's nice to see everything turn white and sparkly.

At the last executive committee meeting, we discussed some decisions that have been pending for a bit. One of the biggest expenditures that we will be making this year is the purchase of new stackable chairs, which will be used in all of our spaces. The design committee has brought samples of different styles into the building, and we were able to sit in them and check them out. I'm grateful to the design committee and all those who participated in the selection of this new furniture. It's a significant investment, and we will likely live with these chairs for many years to come! It's funny how something so seemingly mundane as dining room seating can require a significant investment of our time and financial capital!

We also discussed the building projects that are underway. Our first floor bathroom project has been completed, and now the team has moved onto completion of work on the adjacent suite. This has been a great project to complete this winter, and I'm

again grateful to the building committee team and the design committee team for all of their time and efforts.

Moving forward into the spring, our much-anticipated Akvavit Pairing event will take place. This is a fun annual fundraiser, and it is wonderful to be able to continue this tradition. We have received sponsorship from several distilleries, and I know the volunteers have put together a wonderful menu of food to sample alongside the akvavit. I love these traditional events, and again I am grateful to the city of Minneapolis for updating the alcohol permit regulations for non-profits so that we can more easily host these types of events at the DAC.

Our board has also put together an outline of the Danish Day plan. We have assigned tasks to board members and other volunteers, and the organization for that much-anticipated June event is underway. Despite this snow that I'm looking at presently, June will be upon us soon, and the Danish Day tradition will continue.

We also discussed the plans for hosting a Townhall meeting. As mentioned in a past letter, this would be an opportunity for us to host an open house-type event with a structured discussion that centers around Greenland and also our role in the Minneapolis community. Stay tuned for more information on that as we announce a facilitator and develop the plan for this forum event.

As always, I'm grateful to all of our many volunteers and staff who make everything function so well at the DAC! And I'm also grateful to all of you members who continue to participate and engage in our Danish community.

Pete Gantriis

DANE OF THE YEAR 2026

We are looking for nominations for Dane of the Year 2026. If you have a nomination for someone who has made significant volunteer contributions to DAC, please submit their name and tell us the reasons you feel they should be recognized. The Award will be announced at Danish Day on June 7. Send your nominations to the office at dainfo@dac.mn.

TIPS ON USING OUR WEBSITE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR REGISTER FOR MEMBER EVENTS

• RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

1. Log in to your member account at danishamericancenter.org
2. Click on Go to Account Management.
3. Check your contact info for accuracy. Under that, click on Renew, Upgrade or Update Billing.
4. Membership and payment options will appear. Check that they're accurate, or change to what you want.
5. Complete payment process with credit card.
6. Recurring payment option now available, and American Express now accepted.

• REGISTERING FOR MEMBER EVENTS ONLINE

Your DAC membership must be current to register for member events.

1. Log in to your member account at danishamericancenter.org
2. Click on **Go to Event Calendar**
4. Select the event for which you wish to register
5. Click on the blue "Register Now!" button that will appear toward the bottom of the page.
6. Fill in all the information and credit card number.
7. Click the blue "Register!" button.
8. You will receive an email confirmation of registration. Make sure to check your Junk and/or Spam folders.

If you have any questions on renewing your membership, or registering for member events on our website, contact the DAC office at 612-729-3800 or dainfo@dac.mn.

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:

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EJ Gurley, Vice President
Anders Wolf, Treasurer
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For submissions, advertising,
or any other inquiries, please
contact us at danews@dac.mn.

A BRIEF VISIT TO DENMARK

Thursday, May 21: 6:30-8:30pm

The DAC is proud to offer a new Danish Language Workshop for beginners.

Join Annette D. and Pipper, both born and raised in Denmark, for some basic language skills and cultural experiences. Take this class as an introduction to the Danish language before a visit to Denmark, to help you search for your ancestors, or for your personal pleasure. Don't miss out on this single two hour class, meeting in the North Classroom. All proceeds go to the DAC.

Price \$25 non-members/\$20 members.

Register on the Danish American Center calendar.



GENEALOGY CONSULTATION

Saturday, April 4: 10am-1pm

Free consultations with a DAC genealogist are available on the first Saturday of each month. If you are interested in learning more about your family history and where your ancestors came from, join Bill Holmquist in the library, and he will share resources with you so you can find your family history. He doesn't do the research for you but he can point you in the right direction and give you the tools so you can do your own research efficiently. Then, consider joining the Saga Writers and write up your family stories.

LEAVES FROM THE LIBRARY

by DAC Librarian Felicity Hanson

This month, the Danish American Center library committee invites you to celebrate **National Donate a Book Day** on April 14 by making a purchase from the library's Wish List on Amazon. These titles will:

- contribute to our circulating books that are in English
- expand contemporary reading options
- be a valuable resource for new members seeking to learn more about Denmark and Scandinavia
- provide Danish books for DAC language students

View the wish list by visiting <https://bit.ly/4bzztEC>, or by checking out the "Library" page on the DAC website.

How the Wish List Works:

1. From a new web page, open the link <https://bit.ly/4bzztEC>. Wait a few seconds to be re-directed to Amazon
2. Browse the list of books and select an item
3. Add to Cart
4. Proceed to Checkout
5. Log in to your amazon account
6. When prompted for the shipping address, select Danish American Library
7. Complete payment



NOTE:

- The wish list address will only show the library name, city, and state.
- If an item is from a third-party seller, you may need to enter the shipping address: Danish American Library, 3030 West River Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55406.
- Prevent duplicates: Only buy directly from the wish list link, not by searching for the item separately, to ensure it is marked as "purchased."
- The wish list will remain available for at least a month.
- Contact danishamerlibrarymn@gmail.com with questions.



DANEBO READING CIRCLE EXPLORES TIME AS SEEN BY DANISH AUTHOR

Sunday, April 19: 1-3pm

Although this month's Reading Circle selection was written first in Danish, the setting is northern France and the time is the repeating date of November 18. This is the magic of Danish author Solvej Balle's *On the Calculation of Volume I (Om udregning af rumfang I)*, Pelagraf: 2020, 161 pages; copyrighted translation into English by Barbara J. Haveland, 2024, New Directions Publishing (New York).

In addition to the background information shared in the March issue of *DANews*, discussion leader Jayne Byrne will provide discussion materials via email before the group meets at the DAC and via Zoom. The meeting is open to all, near and far. For more information, a Zoom link, or to be added to the email list, contact suzannej41@me.com.

Praise for the book has come from other writers, readers, and critics. Descriptions gleaned from quotations at the beginning of the book and on the back cover include: "a masterpiece of its time," "richly strange," an "unparalleled cliffhanger," "new, original, and brilliantly beautiful," a "crazy, philosophical, and addictive novel," a "total explosion," a "hypnotic feat of prose writing," and "unforgettable." Norwegian novelist Karl Ove Knausgård wrote: "What the best novel can do is open up spaces. Balle has opened a space in time, and it is absolutely, absolutely incredible. What a fantastic book!"

Solvej Balle has travelled and lived in Europe, Australia, the United States, and Canada. She studied in Copenhagen, Southern Jutland, and Ithaca, New York (Cornell).

The selection for Sunday, May 17, is *The Dangerous Age: Letters and Fragments from a Woman's Diary* (104 pages), by Danish author Karin Michaëlis, published in the early 20th century and available only in digital format (Project Gutenberg). The translator was Beatrice Marshall. The novel explores the inner life of a woman, as she navigates middle age, divorce, and societal expectations. Told through letters and diary entries, the book delves into themes of female psychology, loneliness, identity, and the conflict between personal fulfillment

and traditional gender roles in a changing world. It is considered a culturally significant work that critiques the constraints placed on women during this period.

Please join the reading group for two woman-focused novels by Danish authors before the summer break. Bookmarks with the 2026 schedule are on the table outside the DAC Library. One addition to the list is a rescheduling of the snowed-out March discussion of *The Greenlanders*; details for a June meeting will come in the next issue.

UPCOMING VIRKELYST MEETINGS

We look forward to meeting via Zoom or in person each month through June. If you are interested in joining Virkelyst (a friendly and caring group of women) please contact Ginny Leppart for more information, gabby.leppart@gmail.com or 612-532-5750.

April 1: In person meeting at 7pm

Jane Leonard, current Chair of Minnesotans for the American Community Survey (ACS) and 2030 Census, will explain why the ACS and U.S. Census are fundamental tools for American democracy, mandated by the U.S. Constitution, and need our support.

May 6: In person meeting at 7pm

Agricultural and arborist enthusiast Dick Haskett will be our presenter. Potential topics include "Getting to Know the Tall Neighbors" walk, "The Woods of Our Lives," "History of This Place" (meaning the DAC plot of land), or "10 Vegetables You Can Grow."

June 3 Annual picnic at the DAC 6pm

DANISH TUTOR AVAILABLE

Contact Niels Billund at nielsbillund@gmail.com. In lieu of payment, Niels requests his students donate to the Danish American Center.

NOTARY PUBLIC

If you need a Notary Public, the Danish American Center offers this service for members in the Twin Cities Metro Area. Please contact DAC member Ardis Wexler at judgeardis@aol.com 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.

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.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome New Members:

Lisa Gavin
Connie Loetterle
Mary Tripoli
Arne and Athena Kildegaard
Mary and Dan Stroeing
Lisa Nilles and Mark Halvorson

DAC Directory Information - For further contact information on new and current members, please visit the Members Only portion of the DAC website by visiting danishamericancenter.org and logging into your account. For questions, or assistance accessing your account please 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 email.



SINGALONG WITH DAN CHOUINARD

Monday, April 6 at 7pm in the Atrium

Monthly community singalongs are arranged around a month's birthdays

or the season, with lyrics projected on a screen. We always include a Scandinavian tune or two and leave plenty of time for requests. Free and open to all.



NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

DANISH GENEALOGY

"VIRTUAL POTLUCK:" DANISH DISHES THROUGH THE AGES

Monday April 27: 6:30pm via Zoom

Join us for a "virtual potluck" that will teach us about Danish dishes and food served throughout the history of Denmark. Four presenters, both DAC and NDAGS members, will each highlight a different time period in Denmark: Viking Era, Middle Ages, 19th century, and New Nordic. Each will explain a recipe from that time period, provide visuals, and give some background into Danish foods of that era. Take a culinary trip through time like your ancestors would have experienced (but without the calories!).

This event is free and open to the public, sponsored by the National Danish-American Genealogical Society. No need to register, simply click on the Zoom link below at the start of the program. For more information on our genealogy group, to see an example of our unique and original quarterly journal, or to find other upcoming NDAGS events, please visit our website at: <https://danishgenealogy.org/>

Zoom link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88994615174>

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT AT THE DANEBOF FOLK MEETING

Another reminder to mark your calendar for the Danebod Folk Meeting in Tyler!

New friends are made, old friends reunited. Teachers and students learn from each other.

These are some of the foundational tenets of the Danish folk school tradition and the annual Danebod Folk Meeting. At the 2026 Folk Meeting, August 19-23rd, professionals and participants will come together for three and a half days of mutual, hands-on learning.

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the May issue is April 10
Email submissions to danews@dac.mn

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

Mondays 9:30am: Watercolor Group
 Wednesdays 10am-12 pm Library-Members Only
 Wednesdays 10am-2pm: DAC Office Hours
 Wednesdays 10am-3pm: Mah-Jongg
 Wednesday 01 Virkelyst 7-9pm
 Friday 03 Tøseften 7pm
 Saturday 04 Danish Language for Beginners 3, 9:30-11am
 04 Danish Beginners Plus 2, 11:15am-12:30pm
 04 Library Open Hours for members only 10am-12pm
 04 Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm
 04 The Saga Writers 1:30-3:30pm
 Monday 06 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7-8:30pm
 Wednesday 08 Onsdagsfrokost 11:30am-1pm
 Thursday 09 Vikingelaugget - The Viking Guild 7-9:30pm
 Sunday 12 Tøsegruppen 12-5pm
 Monday 13 Board Meeting 7-9pm
 Saturday 18 Danish Language for Beginners 3, 9:30-11am
 18 Danish Beginners Plus 2, 11:15am-12:30pm
 Sunday 19 Æbleskive Breakfast 9 / 10:45am
 19 Danebo Reading Circle 1-3pm
 Tuesday 21 Spillefolk 7-9pm
 Wednesday 22 Onsdagsfrokost 11:30am-1pm
 Friday 24 Fyraften 6pm
 Saturday 25 Danish Language for Beginners 3, 9:30-11am
 Sunday 26 Danish Dancing 6:15-9pm

MAY

Mondays 9:30am: Watercolor Group
 Wednesdays 10am-12pm Library - Members Only
 Wednesdays 10am-2pm: DAC office Hours
 Wednesdays 10am-3pm: Mah Jongg
 Friday 01 Tøseften 7pm
 Saturday 02 Library Open Hours for members only 10am-12pm
 02 Genealogy Consultation 10am-1pm
 02 Danish Language for Beginners 3, 10:30am-12:30pm
 02 Danish Beginners Plus 2, 10:30am-12:30pm
 Sunday 03 The Saga Writhers 1:30-3:30pm
 Monday 04 Singalong with Dan Chouinard 7-8:30pm
 Wednesday 06 Virkelyst 7pm
 Sunday 10 Mother's Day Æbleskive Brunch 9am / 10:45am
 Monday 11 DAC Executive Committee Board Meeting 7-9pm
 Wednesday 13 Onsdagsfrokost 11:30am-1pm
 Thursday 14 Vikingelaugget - The Viking Guild 7-9:30pm
 Sunday 17 Danebo Reading Circle 1-3pm
 Tuesday 19 Spillefolk 7-9pm
 Thursday 21 "A Brief Visit to Denmark" language workshop for beginners 6:30-8:30pm
 Wednesday 27 Onsdagsfrokost 11:30am-1pm
 Friday 29 Fyraften 6pm

April 2026