



# 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.*

## **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Members,

Our building closed on March 16.

As our cities and states try to stay one step ahead of the COVID-19 virus, your Executive Committee found it necessary to close the Danish American Center to individuals, groups and activities. How long this will be necessary is uncertain. The situation is changing by the hour as each of you know. We are told that physical distancing, and when possible to just stay home, is the best way for us to stop the transmission of this virus. Some of you lived through the polio epidemic and World War II. Folks all rallied to get through it. I know we all want to do our part today. It may seem we are overreacting but "overreacting" may be our best response.

Cleaning at the DAC has become even more intentional and many activities were already cancelled. We don't know if we will be able to begin programming in May. This issue includes events that may still need to be cancelled or postponed. Danish Day is uncertain. Please watch for more information as it comes out and double check before assuming an event is happening. We will try to reschedule some events as it is possible to do so.

I realize that the DAC is a place of socializing that enhances our mental health. I suggest we call one another and reach out for help as that is needed and wanted. We want to be there for each other and we want to get through this crisis without having anyone become sick because they were in the building. These are very challenging times for sure.

Please stay safe and well.

Diane Greve

## **APRIL 2020**

- DAC Building is Currently Closed
- All April Events are Cancelled
- Festival of Nations is Cancelled

In light of the current CDC Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance, the Danish American Center is currently closed. As the safety of our members and guests is paramount, the Danish American Center will be closed to individuals, groups and activities until further notice. Be safe and follow the guidelines being given to us by the CDC. We want to see one another again when this is over.

## **NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Members,

While cleaning out my closets and trying hard to downsize, I found issues of the DANews from 2000 and 2001. I am intrigued to read names of those who remain core to the operation of the organization today. We all enjoy the benefits of their vision, labor and wisdom. Today we have 750 members! And, a new generation of leadership is stepping up. This is vital to the DAC's future. A new website is being planned, and we hope to add a part-time staff person in the near future. We will get through this disconcerting time.

Diane Greve

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### Welcome New Members:

Anthony (Tony) L & Judy L Christensen

John T Hansen

John V Masengarb

Hilary K & Joe Moliter, Lincoln & London

Bill Moore

Thomas M Peterson

Damien G Tank & Jess Bergman Tank, Eamonn, Desmond

& Shea

Jase Swalve

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](mailto: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.

## DAC LIBRARY

The DAC Library is no longer accepting book and materials donations. If you have questions about the items you want to donate, please contact Julianne Haahr at [jehaahr@uwalumni.com](mailto:jehaahr@uwalumni.com) or Jytte Svarre at [jytte.svarre@yahoo.com](mailto:jytte.svarre@yahoo.com). The DAC Library is truly grateful for all of the donations we have received over the years.

## DANE OF THE YEAR

For nearly 40 years, we have identified individuals who have contributed so much to the DAC organization and to our community. We award the Dane of the Year each year at Danish Day. We are accepting nominations now through May 18. A committee will then decide on this year's award from the names submitted. You may drop off nominations in person at the DAC office or email them to [dainfo@dac.mn](mailto:dainfo@dac.mn). All nominations will be considered and are kept confidential.

*As of the time of publication, the following event is still scheduled. If you are planning to attend, we encourage you to contact someone in the event's leadership for the status of this activity. We will also post updates on Facebook, send email blasts and update the DAC website. You can also always contact the DAC office at 612-729-3800 for event updates.*

## KEFAS, DANISH GOSPEL CHOIR- BEFRIELSESDAGEN

Tuesday May 5: 6pm

May 5th is the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Denmark. One of the most important events of the 20th century in Danish history. This year we have

the pleasure of welcoming Kefas, a Danish gospel choir to the DAC for a concert to mark this important date.

Gospel music is quite popular in Denmark. Kefas Choir was founded in 1975 and is considered to be the oldest gospel choir in Denmark. They cover a variety of gospel genres and also perform Danish songs.

The Choir Director writes: "We will love to celebrate the liberation of Denmark in 1945 with you on the 5th of May. And I think that the celebration of this very special day perfectly matches the good message in the gospel music – the message of peace, hope, love and grace."

The concert will start at 6pm and be followed by a light meal, where you will have the opportunity to meet the members of the choir, and maybe share a few songs. The cost of the evening is \$15 per person and reservations with payment is required by April 29 to the Danish American Center. This event is open to DAC members and their guests



## 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.dac.mn](http://www.dac.mn)

## Executive Board:

Diane Greve, President

Rikke Dierssen-Morice, Vice President

Janet Ogden-Bracket, Treasurer

John Scully, Secretary

Ron Grand, at Large

Catherine Mahowald, at Large

## Board of Directors:

Laura Forslev, Peter Gantriis, Lars Hesbjerg,

Lisa Jensen, Ginny Kirkegaard Leppart,

Erik Kristoffersen, Steen Moeller, Tina Paulsen,

Mette Pedersen, Anette Petersen, Grethe Petersen

and Anelise Sawkins

## DANews Committee:

Erik Bruun

Laura Forslev

Betina Kohler

Susan Loschenkohl

Myra Madsen

Michelle Potter-Bacon

Robert Rasmussen

John Scully

Becky Wifstrand

Steffen Wifstrand

For submissions, advertising, or any other inquiries, please contact us at [danews@dac.mn](mailto:danews@dac.mn).

## FOOD AND AQUAVIT PAIRING EVENT

On March 1st the atrium of the DAC was the venue for the 9th annual "Food and Aquavit Pairing Event". This year 59 people were able to enjoy an afternoon of food, aquavit, and hygge. There were two educational discussions from

Haakon Nelson (from Vikre Distillery in Duluth, Minnesota), and Mike McCarron (founder of Gamle Ode). Haakon addressed how to age aquavit with an ocean voyage when based in Duluth and Mike also shared his experience with Minnesotans trying his aquavit aged in whiskey barrels products – including possibly the world's longest whiskey-aged aquavit.

The afternoon was kicked off with a vegetable starter built with a Bloody Mary using dill aquavit from Gamle Ode (MN), and paired with raw vegetables and a remoulade dip. For the three herring options (plain, curry and gin and juniper), the attendees had the opportunity to try a 2017 Aalborg Taffel Jule Aquavit (Denmark), Vikre Ovrevaan (Duluth, MN) and Ida Graves (Alexandria, MN). The second course was a beet/horseradish/dill gravid lax (Sockeye, Alaska) served with a mustard sauce and paired with the popular Aalborg Grill on Sherry Cask (Denmark). For the third course, a thyme seasoned sous vide pork tenderloin was served along with potatoes and a pea puree and Aalborg Fad (Denmark) and the Long Boat (made by Gary Peterson) were the accompanying choices.

For the dessert courses, Minnesota Blue, Nuworld and a Pesto Havarti from the University of Minnesota were paired with an Old Fashioned made with the Celebration on Rye from Gamle Ode (MN), and followed with a taffel aquavit (Denmark) infused vanilla ice cream with a chocolate ganache.

Throughout the afternoon there was a raffle, with prizes from both Vikre Distillery and Gamle Ode. Both also provided some nice sweatshirts and t-shirts as well as



some free drink tickets for the Vikre Distillery. With the generosity of the attendees and support of the aquavit producers about \$1,200 was raised for the general funds for the DAC.

The team of critical helpers for this event were: Inge (Pipper) Madsen, Lars Hesbjerg, Anders Wolf, Marta Johnson, Laura Forslev and Erik Kristoffersen. It was planned by Paul Juhl, Malcolm Terry, Tina Paulsen and Steen Moeller.

Look out for the 10th "Food and Aquavit pairing event" in February 2021.



### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for the May issue is April 10

*As of the time of publication, the following events are still scheduled. If you are planning to attend, we encourage you to contact someone in the event's leadership for the status of this activity. We will also post updates on Facebook, send email blasts and update the DAC website. You can also always contact the DAC office at 612-729-3800 for event updates.*

## **DOORS OPEN MINNEAPOLIS**

May 16 and 17: 10am-5pm

"Doors Open Minneapolis is a weekend-long event that allows the public free, behind-the-scenes access to buildings and venues in the City of Minneapolis that are architecturally, culturally, or socially significant."

These are the words you see as you open the website for Doors Open Minneapolis 2020. <https://www.doorsopenminneapolis.org/>. Last year's initial Doors Open event was wildly successful at the DAC. We had over 400 visitors on a wet, chilly weekend. Many volunteers helped with that success. We are asking for your help again.

You can sign up to volunteer in two ways:

1. Go to the website above, click Volunteer and look for Danish American Center, where there are eight volunteer

opportunity slots available. The Doors Open organization will manage these volunteers.

2. Contact Ginny Leppart at 612-532-5750 or [gleppart@comcast.net](mailto:gleppart@comcast.net) to sign up through the DAC itself. We will organize greeters, building tour guides and kitchen helpers. Please indicate your availability of Saturday or Sunday, morning or afternoon.

We look forward to another opportunity to showcase our building and activities, and for others in our city to learn about us.

## **MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH**

Sunday, May 10: 9:30-12:30

The annual Mother's Day Brunch will be held on Sunday, May 10, 2020. The breakfast includes an egg dish, æbleskiver, fruit, Danish pastries, "rugbrød" (pumpernickel) with cheese and salami, juice and coffee.

The tickets are \$11 for adults and \$6 for children ages 5-12. Children under age 5 are free. No reservations needed—just come! For more information or if you would like to volunteer that day, call Lisa Jensen at 612-430-2741. Hope to see you there for this well attended event!

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## CELEBRATING MY DANISH HERITAGE-ROGER NIELSEN COMING TO THE GALLERY

When DAC is back open for business, come enjoy the new display in the gallery by local artist and our long time member Roger Nielsen. Roger explains the title of the show: "My maternal grandparents Angel and Marie Iversen were part of the founders of Danebo "Old Peoples Home". They, as well as my parents, Knud & Lillian Nielsen, were very active in the Danish American community in the Twin Cities, serving in various capacities on boards and committees for Danebo, Society Dania, Danish Brotherhood and Danish Sisterhood, etc. Following in their footsteps, I am a past board member of DAF and Danebo, and president of Danebo for a brief period (about 1-1/2 years)"

The show will include a number of paintings of Danes; family and friends, and thus shows many of the people who have been instrumental in getting DAC to where we are today. But apart from that historical aspect of the show, you will also be able to follow the development of Roger the artist through his career. Watch the next issue of *DANews* for more information on the Roger Nielsen exhibit.

## OTHER EVENTS AND NEWS

### 74TH ANNUAL FOLK MEETING-SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for the 74th annual Folk Meeting at the Danebod Folk School in Tyler, Minnesota, August 19-23, 2020.

This event is a four-day residential folk school experience affirming the joy of living through lectures and learning, fellowship, song and dance, faith and spiritual reflections, socializing -- and great food! -- in the context of the Danish folk school tradition.

The programming this year will include lectures, discussions and stories on a wide variety of topics

- Tales of a Danish Translator; Spiritual Teaching of NFS Grundtvig; Peace Education and Service Learning
- Grundtvig, Horton and Friere; Reinventions of Airport Amenities; A Look at a Better MN for Pollinators and People; Strategies for Clean Energy; The American Political Environment; 3-D Printing and Robotics Research; Breaking Down Walls of Misunderstanding; and

Sustainable Farming. There will also be an afternoon field trip to a local dairy.

We hope you'll plan to join us! Watch for the official registration forms and information which will be coming in May. For more information, see our website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/danebodfolkmeeting/home?authuser=0>.

## MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA'S "VIEW OUR COLLECTION" IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

In a time where almost all updates from museums and other cultural organizations speak of closings, a bit of good, "opening" news from the Museum of Danish America. They invite everyone to enjoy artifacts through their online records and images. Take a deep dive into history. Now you can:

- Share links to records with family and friends.
- "Curate" collections on social media, such as Pinterest.
- Search for ancestor names.
- Find inspiration for projects and crafts.
- Use "Random Images" to explore new subjects.
- Lose track of hours as one artifact leads to another.

There are thousands of catalog records and images of objects and other materials including furniture, wedding dresses, military uniforms and medals, tools, photographs, works of art, passports and immigration documents, books, and much more!

Search and browse anytime at <https://danishmuseum.pastperfectonline.com>

## LOOKING FOR PAINTINGS

Do you have any paintings by Danish Golden Age artists such as Rorbye, Koebke, Constatin Hansen or Monsted? Or marine paintings by Scandinavian artists? If so, or if you know any personal collectors, organizations or shops that may want to sell such paintings contact: Mary Jo Thorsheim NORWAY ART at 612-339-7829 or email [mjtmng@gmail.com](mailto:mjtmng@gmail.com).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### May

Mahjonn: Every Wednesday from 10am-6pm

Friday 01 Toeseaften for dansk talende 7:30-11pm  
Monday 04 DAC Sing-Along 7-8:30pm  
Tuesday 05 Danish Liberation Day Concert and dinner 6pm  
Wednesday 06 Intermediate Danish 11am  
06 Virkelyst Meeting 7-9pm  
Friday 08 Viking Age Meeting 6-10pm  
08 Danish Dancing 7-9pm  
Saturday 09 Rebild Scholarship Cmt Mtng 1-3pm  
Sunday 10 Mother's Day Brunch 9:30am-12:30pm  
Monday 11 DAC Exec Comm Mtng 7-10pm

Wednesday 13 Intermediate Danish 11am  
13 Onsdag Frokost 11:30am Social 12pm Lunch  
Thursday 14 Scandinavian Collectors Club 6-10pm  
Sunday 17 Reading Circle 1:30-3:30pm  
17 Danish Musicians Recital/Practice 2-4pm  
17 Nordic Roots Dances 2020 6-9pm  
Monday 18 Genealogy 7-9pm  
Wednesday 20 Intermediate Danish 11am  
Friday 22 Danish Dancing 7-9pm  
Wednesday 27 Intermediate Danish 11am  
27 Onsdag Frokost 11:30am Social 12pm Lunch  
Friday 29 Fyr Aften 6pm



**DANISH  
AMERICAN  
CENTER**

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