



# 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 BUILDING IS CURRENTLY CLOSED

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.

## DANISH DAY

For many years, members of the Danish American Center and their friends have gathered on the first Sunday in June to celebrate all things Danish. That is why it is with very heavy hearts that we have



decided to cancel Danish Day this year, due to the coronavirus. We are adhering to the Governor's Shelter in Place guidelines, and since they continue to change, challenges arise with planning and preparations. We do however have Danish Day buttons. If you are interested in supporting the Danish American Center by purchasing one of these historic buttons, we will make them available. Details to follow.

## SANKT HANS AFTEN

Saturday, June 20

Sankt Hans Aften, also known as the summer solstice celebration, is quickly approaching. In Denmark, the summer solstice is celebrated along with the birth of Saint John the Baptist (Sankt Hans) who was supposedly born on June 24. If you're lucky enough to be in Denmark on the eve of his birthday, you'll see the beaches dotted with evening bonfires and celebrations in many public places, including Tivoli Gardens. This celebration is a tradition that goes back for centuries. In the 1920s, straw witches were added

SANKT HANS continued on Page 3

## MAY 2020

- DAC Building is Currently Closed
- Festival of Nations is Canceled

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is returning to Minnesota. The trees are greening up. We look forward to gardening and getting the annuals in the ground. Yet, these are strange days.

At the Danish American Center, all is closed for now. Our faithful caretakers, Christina and Lars, are still there keeping watch over the building. When Governor Walz says we can return to some normalcy, the DAC Board will notify you as to which activities might be safe to reinstate. Doors Open Minneapolis, optimistically, was postponed until September 12 & 13 and Festival of Nations was canceled this year. Your DAC Board has met for our usual bimonthly meeting via Zoom and decided to cancel Danish Day this year. We need to be making the arrangements now and it is not prudent to do so. It will be all the more wonderful to be together next year. The Board also approved a proposal to update the DAC website.

Because our building is closed, our rental and program income has also diminished. Our investments have declined in value. These realities are out of our control. Yet, there are ways you can support our bottom line. I would encourage each of you to keep your membership fees current. You can also buy a membership for family members who may be interested. And, if your finances allow,

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donations are welcome. These can be made on our Wild Apricot portal or by sending a check to the DAC office.

I hope all of you are staying well and I look forward to seeing you again when we are able to gather.

Diane Greve

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### Welcome New Members:

Mary Barber-Schmitz & Tom Schmitz

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.

## MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

The Mother's Day Brunch scheduled for May 10 has been canceled.

## FESTIVAL OF NATIONS

The 2020 Festival of Nations scheduled from April 30 - May 3 has been canceled and will not be rescheduled.

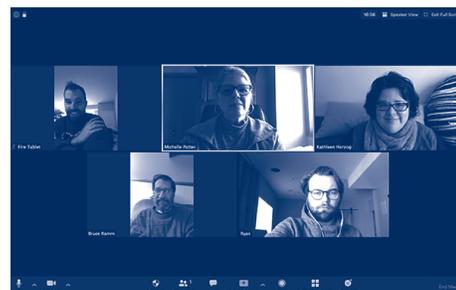
## HAPPY BIRTHDAY QUEEN MARGRETHE!

If you need something to toast, you may lift a glass in honor of the 80th birthday of Queen Margrethe, and many of us may need that these days. Yes, we know it was April 16, but if you didn't toast her then, you can do it now. Happy Birthday Queen Margrethe!



## DANISH 4 GOES VIRTUAL

Despite COVID-19 concerns closing down the in-person sessions, the students of Danish 4 have managed to keep learning by meeting each week via Zoom at our regular class time on Saturdays.



On April 4, we had special guests, Tom and Liz Anders, former DAC Danish language students who now live in Copenhagen. They "zoomed in" to tell us what living in Denmark has been like during the pandemic as well as how they have used the Danish they learned to kickstart their new lives in Denmark.

We hope to find a new date this summer to celebrate with our annual end-of-the-year potluck, welcoming back any and all students from the past year.

Stay tuned for updates on possible virtual gatherings in the future.

## Danish American Center

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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

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

## DOORS OPEN MINNEAPOLIS

Originally scheduled for May 16 & 17, 2020, Doors Open Minneapolis (DOM) is postponing this year's event until September 12 & 13, 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"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.

## MONDAY SING-ALONG WITH DAN CHOUINARD

The Monday sing-alongs with Dan Chouinard have been canceled for the time being. We hope to be able to sing together again very soon. Watch the DANews for information on when the sing-alongs will resume.

## REBILD NATIONAL PARK SOCIETY

The 2020 Rebild Festival in Denmark planned for July 4, 2020 has been canceled. The Rebild National Park Society was closely following the coronavirus developments in Denmark, and received the announcement from the Danish Prime Minister, Mette Frederiksen, that all of the large major events and festivals in Denmark were canceled or prohibited through the end of August.

to the bonfires in remembrance of the witch burnings of the 16th and 17th centuries when, as the story goes, the witch flies off to a giant witch gathering in Germany



once the bonfire is in full burn. This enduring tradition also included speeches and singing. Today, church hymns from the 1800s have been replaced with "Vi Elsker Vort Land" (We Love Our Country) by Holger Drachmann, which is now considered the anthem of this holiday.

The Danish American Center has kept this festive tradition going here in Minnesota thanks to members Pat Walter and Kurt Hansen, who have hosted Sankt Hans at their beautiful farm in Rosemont for 24 years. Rain or shine, the Walter-Hansen's provide a spacious, pastoral setting for members and their guests to gather for grilling, singing, dancing, hayrides and of course the highlight of the evening—the bonfire! This is always a fun party even when it rains, as everybody moves into the shelter of the barn. The Danish American Center and all its members appreciate and look forward to this annual summer party and hope life will get back to normal in time to celebrate once again this summer. As of now, the party is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 20 but a decision won't be made until the Governor's Shelter in Place directive is lifted.

We hope to see you all at this long-standing event, but realize the health and safety of all is our first priority. We will keep you posted. Until then, stay well.

## OUR GALLERY

The scheduled exhibit of paintings by our long time member, Roger Nielsen, has been postponed. The paintings would be very lonely hanging there during the shutdown. We plan to install the exhibit when things have changed, and members and friends can again get together and visit to view the paintings. Our hope is for August or September.

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for the June issue is May 10

## KEFAS CHOIR CONCERT, BEFRIELES DAGEN

The concert by Kefas Danish Gospel Choir on May 5th has been canceled. The choir has postponed their tour of America because of the pandemic. We hope that they will reschedule their tour, and that we may have a performance at DAC.

The choir concert would also have been in celebration of the liberation of Denmark from the Nazi occupation during the Second World War. The German army rolled into Denmark on April 9, 1940, the beginning of an increasingly severe and violent repression of the Danes.

During the occupation, the Danes were able (secretly and at great risk) to listen to shortwave radio from England broadcast every evening. These broadcasts were how Danes could know what was happening in the war, other than the propaganda that was allowed in the Danish media. The broadcasts also had another purpose. They contained coded messages to the Danish resistance, mostly about air drops of weapons and ammunition for use in the attacks on the occupation force and its operations. The messages in the form of greetings came

at the end of the broadcast for example: Hilsen til Axel or Peter (Greetings to Axel and Peter).

On the evening of May 4, 1945, the direction of the war was obvious to most people, and more than ever were listening to BBC from London. During the greetings at the end of the broadcast the announcer stopped, and then said that the British command had just announced that the German forces in Holland, Northern Germany and Denmark had capitulated effective at 6am on May 5. Windows swung open so everybody could hear the good news.

The event has been celebrated in Denmark every May 4, by placing candles in the windows to show that you no longer were forced to have heavy black curtains over your windows, so that no light would show outside.

My parents placed candles in their windows on May 4 until they passed away in the 90s. Today fewer Danes who lived through the five turbulent years are alive, and candles are placed in fewer windows. We won't have a concert at the DAC, but you can commemorate the occasion by placing a candle in your window. And maybe that will lift our spirits through this confinement period.

*When the world is ready for travel again,  
we will be too.*

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## DAILY DANISH MORNING SING-ALONG (MORGENSANG)

Since the stay-at-home order started in Denmark, Danish television has started a daily sing-along program with Phillip Farber, the Director of the Danish Radio's Women Choir. Every morning he plays piano and sings two Danish songs, many from the Folk School Song Book (Højskole Sangbogen). And...the viewers are encouraged to sing along! The texts accompany the songs. He sings many old familiar songs, but also newer, popular songs, which are fun to learn. Go to [https://www.dr.dk/drtv/se/morgensang-med-phillip-faber-jeg-gik-mig-ud-en-sommerdag-og-musens-sang\\_182694](https://www.dr.dk/drtv/se/morgensang-med-phillip-faber-jeg-gik-mig-ud-en-sommerdag-og-musens-sang_182694) and join singing Danish Morning Songs!

Danish television has also started a Friday evening singing program, called "Fællessang-hver for sig" (Group singing-apart). It is an hour long program, where they visit popular Danish singers and musicians at their homes. They again sing a popular song and viewers can sing along with them. They show Danish families gathered at home singing along! This has become a weekly hit in Denmark. You can join the singing by going to [https://www.dr.dk/drtv/serie/faellessang-\\_hver-for-sig\\_179988](https://www.dr.dk/drtv/serie/faellessang-_hver-for-sig_179988).

This is a fun thing to do during this time that we cannot get together at DAC and sing Danish songs!

## DANEBO READING CIRCLE UPDATE

Our wonderful literary group is "reading in place" during the COVID-19 quarantine. We had to cancel our March and April meetings and now we are abiding by the governor's peacetime emergency order by not meeting in May. But we have been actively planning for a future when we can all gather again at the Danish American Center.

This is what we are hoping for:

- The three spring book selections will move to the fall:  
September 20: *This Should Be Written in the Present Tense* by Helle Helle (DK)  
October 18: *The Alphabet House* by Jussi Adler-Olsen (DK)  
November 15: *The Greenhouse* by Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir (I)
- The selection process deadline for 2021 books will be extended until September 20, when nominations are due to selection team members Mary Beth Lake and Julie Robbins.
- Voting for the new choices will occur at the October meeting, with the 2021 schedule available in November.

We would like to invite the entire DAC membership to participate in our book selection process. We are looking for titles by Nordic authors or of books in which Denmark or Danish culture or history play a central role. All books should be published in English and readily available in local libraries and/or for purchase from booksellers (in person or online). A database of previous books we've read is available via email from Suzanne Jebe ([suzannej41@me.com](mailto:suzannej41@me.com)) – someday we hope to have that posted on the DAC website.

We also warmly welcome any *DANews* reader to join us for a lively discussion and tasty treats at any or all of our future meetings. We usually meet on the same Sunday as the Æbleskive Breakfast/Brunch.

Also join us in staying healthy, hopeful, strong – and finding time to read a good book!

## NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

### GENEALOGY-HONORING THE STORIES BEHIND THE STUFF

Monday, June 22: 7pm (tentative)

Do you have a box of old photos and memorabilia? Have you avoided tackling those boxes because you just don't know what to do with it or you feel guilty if you don't really want it? This program is designed to teach you a process to sort through your photos and memorabilia efficiently, while still honoring the memories they represent; and provide creative and space-saving tips to preserve them for future generations.

Speakers are Holly Corbid, of Capture Your Photos and Amanda Lathrop, of Lead Sheep Productions. To learn more, please come to the DAC on Monday June 22, 2020, at 7pm. DAC is located at 3030 West River Parkway, Minneapolis. For further information call Bill Holmquist at 651-748-5017. Check out the website at <http://www.danishgenealogy.org>

### 74TH ANNUAL FOLK MEETING

A decision has been made to cancel the onsite 74th annual Folk Meeting at the Danebod Folk School in Tyler. Planners are exploring ways to provide a virtual experience for attendees.

## GIN & JUNIPER HERRING RECIPE

The annual Aquavit Pairing Lunch is a great opportunity for members and their guests to try new dishes and cocktails with a twist. One of the highlights of last month's lunch was the gin and juniper herring, a recipe that was used from member Kirsten Larsen's cookbook. Her surprising spin on the classic herring dish uses juniper berries that can be found at most grocery stores.

### Gin & Juniper Herring

8 ounces pickled herring, drained

#### Marinade:

1/2 cup vinegar

1/4 cup water

1 ounce gin

1/2 cup sugar

1 tsp crushed juniper berries

1 medium red onion, thinly sliced

Drain the herring pieces. Blend all marinade ingredients, stir until sugar dissolves. Place the herring pieces in a glass jar or a bowl with cover. Pour marinade over and refrigerate covered for 2 to 4 hours.

Serve on buttered rye bread, on lettuce leaf and decorate with red onion slices. Enjoy!



**DANISH  
AMERICAN  
CENTER**

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