



# 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.*

## 2020 DANEBO ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING CANCELLED

Your DAC Board considered various creative possibilities for how to safely conduct the annual meeting of Danebo, Inc. (doing business as Danish American Center) that would usually take place in the atrium in late September. After weighing the risks, we decided to exercise the option provided to the Board in our By-Laws and amend the By-laws for one year in order to cancel this year's meeting. We fully realize that the comradery of this event is so important in building our community spirit and that this could be a disappointment to some of you.

The Board will appoint those who were nominated by the Board Development Committee for one year. The full membership can formally elect them for the remainder of their three year term when we meet in September 2021. If you have "nominations from the floor," let us know before September 20, 2020 by emailing [dainfo@dac.mn](mailto:dainfo@dac.mn) or letting Diane Greve, DAC president, know at [dkgreve@gmail.com](mailto:dkgreve@gmail.com). John Scully, Anelise Sawkins, and Tina Paulsen will be leaving the Board. Newly nominated members are Julie Robbins, Niels Billund, and Jane Carlson. Those who are completing their first term on the Board but are eligible and willing to continue to serve are Laura Forslev, Lars Hesbjerg, Mette Petersen, Cathy Mahowald, and Ron Grand. (Their bios are included in this DA News.) Tusind tak to all who are willing to bring your wisdom and leadership to the DAC and many thanks to the Board Development Committee: Steen Moeller, Laura Forslev, MaryJo Scully, Patricia Walter Hansen, and Paul Juhl.

A summary of our annual financial report is included in this issue in place of the report that would normally be given at our annual meeting. If you are interested in a more complete breakdown of our year end financials, contact the DAC office and we can make those available to any member. Overall, we ended the year strong while also realizing that the rental income we have had in the past will not be available to us this fall. Thankfully we have cash on hand and investments as our security net at this time.

## SEPTEMBER 2020

- DAC Building is Currently Closed

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for staying with this organization during these past months of uncertainty and distancing. Since the Danish American Center is built on creating camaraderie around Danish traditions and culture, it is very difficult to keep that spirit alive during these times. I want to give many thanks to those who have kept their dues current and made additional contributions as well. With your help, our financial picture has remained strong. Let's keep that going!

Yes, we all would love to be together and we also want to be safe. I read of funerals and weddings where good people gathered and came away with a significant outbreak of the virus. I doubt any of us want to be in the headlines for such a calamity. With this caution in mind, your Board made the painful decision to keep the DAC building closed for now. We will revisit the question during the October Board meeting. Some of you may disagree but we are not deemed as an essential service in the whole scheme of things.

In addition, in a Special Meeting, the Board made the carefully considered decision to cancel the 2020 DAC Annual Meeting. (See a separate article in this issue.)

A new website is being designed to refresh our presentation to the public and to our members. The work group is hopeful that it will be available soon. Watch for more information.

The other important decision from your Board is to move ahead with the selection of an independent contractor to serve as the DAC office manager for up to 20 hours a week. We had strong applicants for the position, all with connections to the DAC. From those candidates, the selection committee chose Tina Paulsen. Tina has been on the Board for 5 years, on various committees, and has been a daughter of this Danish community for her entire life. Once she has her arms around her duties and we are reopening, our office volunteers will be engaged again.

Mask up, Minnesota is the word from our governor. I must insist that we also mask up whenever we are in a public space to contribute to the common good of all our members, neighbors and fellow citizens. Follow the best practices from our Minnesota Department of Health. Please stay well and we will be back together as soon as it is safe to do so.

Diane Greve

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for the October issue is September 10

### DANEBO READING CIRCLE UPDATE

Members of the Danebo Reading Circle, on hiatus since March, are exploring various ways of coming together to discuss books by Nordic authors or about Nordic topics, especially Danish ones. Using an emailed and telephone survey, we have made some preliminary decisions.

Due to the continuing threat of COVID-19 and the Board's decision to delay reopening the Danish Center, the Reading Circle will go the technology route in October and November. We will use September to offer Zoom training and practice for any members who might want to add this cyber skill to their repertoire. Anyone who does not have access to the Internet or does not want to use Zoom will be able to join the discussion via telephone (landline or mobile).

On Sunday afternoon, October 18, we will rev up our computers, tablets, and phones to discuss *The Greenhouse* by Icelandic author Auður A. Ólafsdóttir. And on November 15 we will discuss Danish author Jussi Adler Olsen's *The Alphabet House*. Full details, including discussion questions, will be sent out to members at least one week in advance of the Zoom/phone session, which will last no longer than 90 minutes. Masks will not be required, and snacks and beverages are optional. New members are always welcome. To join our mailing list, please contact Suzanne Jebe at 612-822-0275 or [suzannej41@me.com](mailto:suzannej41@me.com). The Danebo Reading Circle is looking forward to meeting in person again, but for now we will remain cautious in the face of this very dangerous virus. As conditions change, so will our decisions as to the when, where, and how.

Stay healthy and safe, everyone – and enjoy a good book!

#### Danish American Center

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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

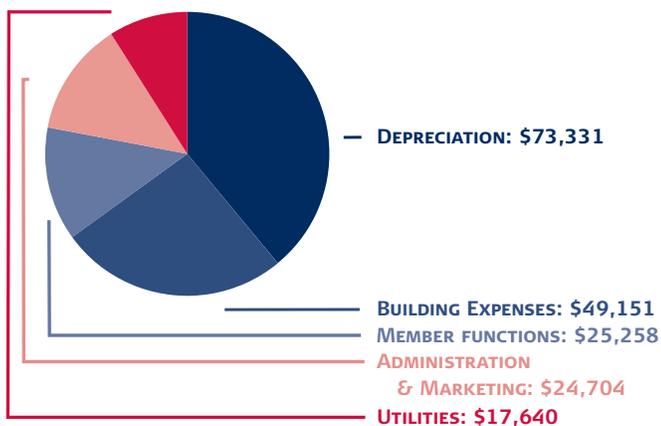
For submissions, advertising, or any other inquiries, please contact us at [danews@dac.mn](mailto:danews@dac.mn).

## FINANCIALS

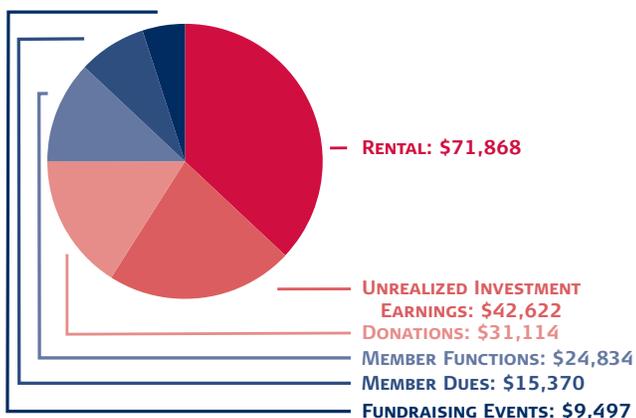
The year ended well financially, even though the building was completely closed for activities the entire last quarter of the year ending June 30, 2020.

Our income for the year was \$195,307.36 with total expenses of \$190,085.84 for a positive difference of \$5,221.54. This is great news! Our earned income was naturally down, but we were also able to keep expenses lower. The expenses for this year were mostly related to the building, including \$73,331 in depreciation, 48% of our overall expenses. There is good news about our investments, they have rebounded beautifully, after a staggering dip during the first weeks of the pandemic, we ended the year with positive earnings year over year of \$34,967.14.

### 2019-20 OPERATING EXPENSES: \$190,085



### 2019-20 INCOME: \$195,307



## ÆBLESKIVE EVENT

Sunday, September 6:  
10am-12pm

Please join us on Sunday, September 6 on the DAC lawn for an æbleskiver treat. Come anytime between 10 am-Noon to enjoy a couple æbleskiver



and a cup of coffee. Our yard allows us plenty of space to social distance, but please bring your masks and lawn chairs as well. If needed, people may use the bathrooms in the lower level, but aside from that the building continues to be closed for the safety of all involved. You will be required to sign a waiver if you need to enter the building.

We had something very similar for our Longfellow neighbors earlier this summer and we wanted to do it again for our members. This is a free event and will be postponed if the weather does not permit us to be outside. If that is the case, we will inform members via email and social media. If you have questions, please call Lisa Jensen at 612-430-2741. Hope to see you there!

## TAKE OUR POLL: DANISH LANGUAGE CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS

Due to COVID-19 shutdowns last March, the Danish American Center converted the Beginning Danish language course already in session to an online model. With safety concerns in mind, we are considering conducting our usual fall beginner course online. We would welcome your thoughts about attending a virtual language course.

We want to know more about your technical knowledge, scheduling preferences, and general interest to ensure we create programming that fits the needs of our constituents.

The poll is anonymous, or you may add your contact info if you are interested in being contacted with course details when they become available.

We invite you to share your opinion by September 15 at the short poll found here.

<https://bit.ly/VirtualDanishPoll>

Tusind tak!

## GIFT OF ART TO THE DANISH AMERICAN CENTER

Karen Nelson-Hoyle, PhD is being honored by a special gift to the DAC from Mary Jo Thorsheim, PhD and owner of NORWAY ART®, in Minneapolis: an original oil painting from Denmark "Portrait of a Young Girl". The donation is intended to recognize Karen's national and international prominence that developed from her commitment to children throughout her personal and professional life, as well as her Danish heritage, and Mary Jo and Karen's long-standing friendship that began during undergraduate days at St. Olaf College. They are both DAC members; Karen originally introduced Mary Jo to the DAC by inviting her to attend events as her guest.

The portrait shows a young girl seated in an artist's studio, in Denmark, probably in the 1920s. Children and adults are drawn to the girl in the painting with questions such as: How old would she have been? What is she thinking about as she sits patiently posing for the artist to capture the scene with paintbrush and oil paints?

Long-time DAC member Karen Nelson-Hoyle has a strong personal interest in Denmark and family roots there. Professionally, she has devoted her lifetime career to



The portrait (pictured here) illustrates a young girl seated in an artist's studio in Denmark, probably in the 1920s. Children and adults are drawn to the girl in the painting with questions such as: How old would she have been? What is she thinking about as she sits patiently posing for the artist to capture the scene with paintbrush and oil paints?

children and literature for them. Karen was Curator of Children's Literature Research Collections, including the Kerlan, University of Minnesota, for more than 40 years. She is internationally recognized for her contributions to preserving the history of authors and illustrators, as well as encouraging writing for children, scholarship



In addition, Karen is a gifted storyteller. During the 2019 DAC Children's Christmas Party, she captivated the youngsters with her Danish and American holiday stories. (See picture here.)

and education. Children's literature became her focus following a brilliant academic undergraduate course of study at St. Olaf college in English. As a child, she was an active reader and the impact of the books she read was never forgotten. As a University of Minnesota faculty member, she led the area of children's literature in the library system. One of her major achievements was to establish and direct the internationally-known "Kerlan Collection" of original manuscripts, illustrations and other materials that record the history of the development of important literature for children. Her expertise has been highlighted with awards, appointment to juries evaluating books for national competitions, special events in her honor and other recognition.

Karen and her husband Bob Hoyle are frequent attendees at DAC events. Bob is the retired Executive Director of the International Institute. They have two daughters, five grandchildren and provided a home for at least 25 international graduate students.

## FYR AFTEN

Fyr Aften is open to the men of DAC who are members and 18 years or older.

The average age of the group is about 50 and about half speak Danish. As a group we have a connection and passion for Danish culture. Eating with a knife and fork, saying "Tak for Mad" when finished eating and knowing some Danish phrases are all important as we strive to keep our Danish culture alive.

We meet at the DAC on the last Friday of every month during the standard nine-month school year. Each month there is a choice cooking spot available to the first person to request it and everyone helps with the cleanup. The cost for dinner and dessert is the bargain price of \$10 per person. We often play cards, games or darts after dinner, too.

If you are interested in joining or attending an upcoming Fyr Aften gathering please contact Paul Juhl at 612-437-2430 or [pjuhl727@comcast.net](mailto:pjuhl727@comcast.net).

## HOLIDAY CHEESE SALE

This year again we will have a sale in preparation for the holidays. COVID-19 or not, the holidays will come. We will have the same selection of Danish cheeses we offered last year, and Svea has again this year Asier, and her famous Leverpostej. You can find all the details in the October *DANews*.

## DAC BOARD NOMINATIONS

### Niels Billund

My name is Niels Korsholm Billund and I am 60 years old. I live in St Paul with Anne, who also is a nurse and we have four grown children.

Born near Ålborg in 1960, I was raised on Fyn and came to the US in 1988 and Minnesota in 2003, where I soon became a DAC member. I have had the joy of performing at Danish Day, Skt Hans and at a special memorial benefit for famed folk singer, Kim Larsen, who died in October, 2018. For years, I have taught Danish at the center and I currently do so remotely, keeping the sharing of language and culture alive at this very unique time.

It is with pride, joy and great anticipation that I run to be on the board of the DAC and I intend to offer my time and effort to further the growth and presence of the Danish experience in the region. Tusind tak.

### Jane Carlson

I would be honored to serve on the DAC board and enrich my involvement in the organization.

I joined the Danish American Center as part of the Doors Open Minneapolis event in May 2019.

As a new member, I have enjoyed many exciting events at DAC. From lectures, dinners, luncheons, and book group, I have had the opportunity to meet many members and to make new friends. I have learned about DAC's mission and history and come to appreciate Danish culture. I have also enjoyed volunteering at DAC. I have rolled up my sleeves to clean rooms, set tables for the Christmas luncheon, and made cookies for the book group. I have enjoyed helping out where I can. In my professional life, I am an attorney and have worked in software development at Thomson Reuters and United Health Group. For the past six years, I have volunteered as a Community Mediator in Hennepin County harassment court. I am proud to be a member of DAC and look forward to contributing and supporting DAC's mission.



### Laura Forslev

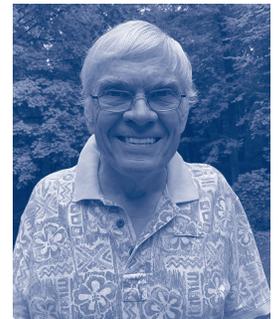
I have always been proud of my Danish heritage. My grandfather was an immigrant and moved to the United States in 1919. He made Chicago his home, met my grandmother and established roots there. As a child I loved hearing him tell stories of his times back home and the family history. He traveled back to Denmark several times over his 96 years, and always loved to see his homeland and reconnect with his family and friends there. I became involved in the Danish American Center in 2016. I had always heard about it through my friend, Tina Paulsen, and her family. I became a member and attended events throughout 2016. I have served on the board since 2017 and I am currently the Editor of the *DANews*. I'm looking forward to continuing serving on the Board and continuing my membership with the Danish American Center.



### Ron Grand

I am eager to serve in developing and sustaining the Danish American Center as an organization which has greatly served our strong Danish American community

here in Minneapolis. I have been active within the Danish American community all my life. I began my membership with the Danish Brotherhood back in 1966, and later in the late 90s, served on the Board of Danebo before it merged with the Danish American Fellowship in 2005. I grew up with a strong Danish influence being a first generation Dane on my father's side and a second generation Dane on my mother's side. Both my parents were very active within the Danish community. I have greatly enjoyed being a part of such a wonderful community that has kept me in touch with my Danish roots, and now that I am retired, I look forward to increasing my involvement in every way that I can. I would like to serve on the Board of DAC and help in developing its future goals, projects and visions.



### Lars Hesbjerg

Lars Hesbjerg of Mendota Heights has been living in Minnesota for more than 24 years. He was born in Ganløse, Denmark which is about 20 km from Copenhagen where his mother and siblings still live. He arrived, like many of us, more by accident than design. After he graduated from Niels Brock in Denmark he got the opportunity to take a year of college in Minnesota with the help from the Meerwald family. He soon found his future wife Cynthia and started a family here, and today has a 27 year old son (Benjamin) and a 26 year old daughter (Ahnika) who both grew up with the Papegøje Klubben and all the great events at DAC. During his time in Minnesota he received a Bachelor Degree and completed the Carlson School of Management Executive Program. Since 2002 he has worked for Donaldson Company, Bloomington where he has held various management roles. Currently he is the Global Business Unit Director in the Aerospace & Defense division. His time with Donaldson has allowed him to be exposed to most aspects of business, finance and strategy and travelled extensively throughout the world. He is an active member of the Fyraften group and has volunteered for United Way, Habitat for Humanity and other groups. He has been a board member since 2017.

### Cathy Mahowald

I worked as a financial analyst for 40 years at Continental Grain and Cargill before retiring. I served on my condominium's Board of Directors for three years. I currently volunteer as assistant Treasurer of the DAC and have enjoyed serving on the Board the last three years. I feel I work well with people and I am driven to get things accomplished. I love to travel, volunteer and keep busy. I wish to serve on the Danish American Center Board because I have been impressed with the DAC since my first visit. I have been a member of Virkelyst, currently serving as treasurer, and enjoy volunteering. I have taken some Danish classes but feel I may be too old to ever speak it even though I do have better luck reading it. I was fortunate to be able to travel to Denmark with the Hansen family and visit the four farms their grandparents came from.



### Mette Pedersen

I moved to Minneapolis almost 22 years ago from Haderslev in south Jutland, Denmark. Once in Minnesota, I married a wonderful Danish man, who I met at a DAC Christmas event, and our two kids enjoyed time at Skovsøen being part of the community and involved in all the Danish traditions.



As a member of DAC for many years, I was also lucky to function as a vendor with a booth for Danish Day, plus volunteering for this and many other events in the past, such as Fastelavn, Christmas Party, and Tøseften.

After a few years of observing my close friends become members of DAC I was excited about the opportunity to become a board member and have now been on the board for 3 years. I continuously wish to bring in my Danish spirit to the organization as well as utilize my multi-faceted background in fields like marketing/graphic design, customer service and Vitality Health Coach.

### Julie Robbins

My maternal grandparents both immigrated from Jutland. My grandfather came with his brother while my grandmother's whole family came together. They met in the Milltown, WI area where they eventually married and my great uncle married my grandmother's sister. Double cousins led to a rich family dynamic over the years. Unfortunately, I never had the opportunity to meet my grandparents as they both died before I was born but my mother and her 7 siblings kept the family history alive and I always felt Danish even though my father brought Norwegian roots to our family. My first introduction to the Danish Center was through the Reading Circle and I participated for several years until family responsibilities pulled me away. I came back a couple years ago and had recently been volunteering in the office until Covid 19 changed our world. I look forward to returning to that role someday soon.



I retired from Fairview Health Services in 2018. Over the course of my working life, I worked for a variety of other

organizations including the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies, AT&T, and the Minnesota Center for Health Care Ethics. Most of my work has been in administrative capacities.

### DAC OUTSIDE SPACES

Thank you to all who have kept the lawn around the DAC looking loved. Grethe Petersen and Anelise Sawkins, Ron and Linda Grand, and others who have come to help. Ron has repainted the benches around the yard. A new lawn service is doing the mowing. And we are consulting with Metro Blooms to refresh the rain gardens around the building that have helped to lower the energy costs and to contribute to our Green initiative. If we can't go inside the building for now, we can enjoy the outside. Feel free to stop over and walk our grounds, bring a picnic lunch and a lawn chair, and enjoy the space. Fall is coming very soon.

### LEIF 2020 GOES VIRTUAL

This year the Leif Eriksson International Festival (LEIF) will come to us as virtual offerings on our computers, tablets, and smartphones. All events will occur between Sunday, October 4 and Sunday, October 11. The committee is planning a concert, two Nordic worship services, a possible museum tour, and something special for Friday, October 9 – Leif Eriksson Day. The full schedule will be in the October DANews, on the festival website (leifmn.org), and on Facebook (LEIF Minnesota).

Many thanks to Mindekirken for hosting the planning and many virtual events and to Mary Beth and Leo Lake and Suzanne Jebe for representing our DAC on the committee. See you at LEIF 2020 online!

### MEMBERSHIP CORNER

#### Welcome New Members:

- Sarah Anderson
- Cindy Kolling
- Adam T Day
- Ryan & Shera Maki

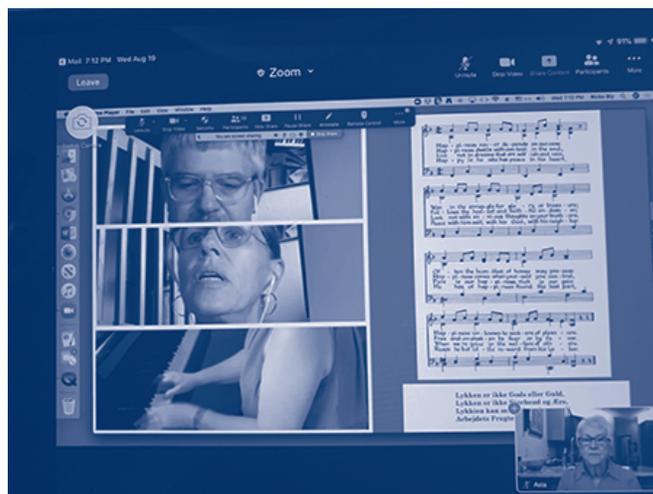
DAC Directory Information - For further contact information on new and current members, please visit the Members Only portion of the DAC website. The necessary user ID and password can be obtained by emailing dainfo@dac.mn.

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.

## NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

### VIRTUAL FOLK MEETING

The Danebod Folk Meeting was held virtually via Zoom this August with several of our DAC members providing planning and leadership and others enjoying the chance to take in the lectures, story telling and singing from the comfort of our living rooms, kitchens and dens. Clearly attendees said how much they missed the meals, coffee time, and conversations with old and new friends and still it was a wonderful event. Thanks to all who made this happen! It was a lot of work and many are grateful to you. The musicians and song leaders recorded in advance and shared over Zoom while people sang from home while on mute. Here Andrés Albertsen is singing in Danish and Ginny Leppart is singing in English.



## NEWS FROM DENMARK

### PRINCE JOACHIM SUFFERS BRAIN ANEURYSM

Prince Joachim of Denmark, age 51, the youngest son of Queen Margarethe, suffered a brain aneurysm on July 24 while vacationing with his family in the Danish queen's summer residence in France, Chateau de Cayx. He underwent emergency surgery at University Hospital in Toulouse.



Prince Joachim was released from the hospital on August 3. At press time for this article, Prince Joachim remains in residence at Chateau de Cayx to recuperate.

## DENMARK ENLISTS “SAMFUNDSSIND” TO BATTLE COVID-19

The following is an excerpt from the August 3, 2020 BBC article, *How a long-forgotten word rallied a nation*, by Mark Johanson.

Rathje says samfundssind is a compound noun of ‘samfund’ (society) and ‘sind’ (mind). It dates back to 1936, and made an historical cameo in a call for solidarity by then prime minister Thorvald Stauning at the outbreak of World War II. Thereafter, it lay in relative dormancy until Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen revived the word at a press conference on 11 March of this year announcing the first major measures to shut down the country. She presented samfundssind to Danes as having two main pillars: collective responsibility and community spirit. “As Danes, we usually seek community by being close together,” she said. “Now, we must stand together by keeping apart. We need samfundssind.”

According to Rathje, usage of samfundssind in the Danish media soared from 23 mentions in February to 2,855 in March. In the first six months of 2019, samfundssind appeared 611 times in Danish newspapers and magazines, compared to 9,299 times in the same period this year.

“All Danes watched the prime minister’s press conferences, and that gave us the same vocabulary,” explains Rathje. “The word reminded us to look at corona as a joint situation where it was important not to think of your own needs, but to think about yourself as part of a bigger cause.”

Read the article in its entirety here: <https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20200802-how-the-long-forgotten-word-samfundssin-rallied-a-nation>



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