



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.

VALENTINE'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, February 9: 9:30am-12:30pm

Come join us at the Danish American Center for our 2020 Valentines Day Brunch. Cost for brunch is \$11 per adult and \$5 for children ages 5-12. Younger children are free. The menu includes æbleskiver, egg bake, ham, juice and coffee.

If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know. This is an important fundraiser for the DAC, and we would love to have you help out if you are so inclined. Email Joel and Carla Mortensen at morte007@umn.edu or call (612) 724-1814 for more information.

FASTELAVN

Sunday, February 23: 3-5pm

Fastelavn is the traditional Danish celebration of Lent/Carnival where kids dress up in costumes and go from door to door 'trick-or-treating,' except in Denmark you would ask for pastries (what else?) rather than candy.



Other traditions tied to Fastelavn are 'hitting the cat out of the barrel' and making 'Fastelavnsris.' There is no longer a cat in the barrel. Instead kids hit at a barrel full of candy until it cracks open a bit like a pinata. Fastelavnsris are twigs decorated with streamers, carnival symbols and candy, signaling the beginning of Lent and spring.

FASTELAVN continued on Page 3

FYR AFTEN

Friday, February 28: 6pm

Fyr Aften, written in Danish, translates to 'Guy's Night.' But when you combine the two words into 'Fyraften' it very fittingly means 'quitting time' or 'happy hour.' Fyr Aften was formed nearly ten years ago, and was inspired by the closeness that already existed amongst the Danish woman's group called Tøse Aften. There was a need for a generation of men at the Danish American Center (DAC) to know one another better.

FYRAFTEN continued on Page 3

FEBRUARY 2020

- Food & Aquavit Pairing
- Intermediate Danish

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I have enjoyed meeting new members of the DAC and getting to know many of the long-time members that I have not been able to get acquainted with before. The membership has expanded over the past year, and there are wonderful opportunities to get to know one another.

The children's Christmas party was very well attended. Another chance to teach the Danish culture and traditions to the next generations is Fastelavn on Sunday, February 23, 3-5pm. This family-oriented event is filled with activities and food. All children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews of DAC members are welcome. Dress the kids up in simple costumes, and let us know you are planning to be there. A special event for families is also planned for Sunday, April 5 to celebrate the 215th birthday of Hans Christian Andersen. See the article in this issue for more information. There will be activities for all ages.

Maybe some of you saw the recent piece in the *Star Tribune* about sustainability in Denmark. The board authorized a work group to be formed to help shape some practices that could put the DAC more in line with the Danish initiatives. If you have an interest in helping on the work group, email dainfo@dac.mn.

Glædelig Valentine's dag.

Diane Greve

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome New Members:

Phoebe Kalema
Laura Morris
Nancy Olesen

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.

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 or Jytte Svarre at jytte.svarre@yahoo.com.

The DAC Library is truly grateful for all of the donations we have received over the years. Thank you—tusind tak!

DAC LIBRARY HOURS:

Wednesdays 10am-3pm

1st Saturday of the month 10am-noon (Genealogy)

3rd Saturday of the month* 10am-noon (Librarians)

* *September through June*

The library is also open during the following events:

- Danebo Reading Circle: 3rd Sunday 1:30-3:30pm
- Genealogy: 4th Monday 7-9pm
- Danish Language Classes during sessions

Times are periodically updated, check the DAC website or latest newsletter for current library hours.

FOOD AND AQUAVIT PAIRING EVENT

Sunday, March 1: 12:30 pm

It is time again for our annual food and aquavit pairing event. This will be our 9th event.

As in previous years, we will be featuring a variety of selected food dishes and pairing them with aquavits to enhance the experience. Some of the dishes will be new and some will be old favorites.

Each year we try to learn a little more about both locally produced and celebrated Danish aquavits, and discuss cocktail options with them. Last year we had both Gamle Ode (www.gamleode.com) and Vikre Distillery (www.vikredistillery.com) in attendance. We are working with them again, and also with local representatives from ARCUS (the distributor of Aalborg Aquavits).

The cost for this event is \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members, and it is a fundraising event for the DAC. There are only 50 spots available on a first come, first served basis. This event sold out quickly in past years so don't delay with sending in your donation. For questions contact Steen Moeller at moellersteen@gmail.com.

For reservations, mail your payment/donation to: DAC, 3030 West River Parkway South, Minneapolis, MN 55406 before Wednesday, Feb. 26th, or pay online at dacmn.wildapricot.org.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for the March issue is February 10

Danish American Center

3030 West River Parkway South
Minneapolis MN 55406

612-729-3800

email: dainfo@dac.mn

Website: 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

Executive Board:

Diane Greve, President
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For submissions, advertising, or any other inquiries, please contact us at danews@dac.mn.

FASTELAVN continued from Page 1

This is a great chance for kids, parents and grandparents to come to the Danish American Center and spend a 'hyggelig' afternoon together across generations. Partake in hitting the barrel, making Fastelavnsris and enjoy some delicious Fastelavnsboller (special pastry made for the event).



Please RSVP by February 27 to anders.wolf@gmail.com or by calling (612) 747-3285.

Cost is \$5 per person and payments will be accepted at the event. If you would like to buy extra Fastelavnsboller, please let us know when you sign up.

SINGALONG WITH DAN CHOUINARD

Monday, February 3: 7-8:30pm

The monthly sing-along with Dan Chouinard is a fun time. If you have not been to one yet, you should come and experience the joy of singing along with a fun group of people. It is on the first Monday of every month, unless you see differently in the *DANews*. Free and open to all, with a free will donation.

INTERMEDIATE DANISH AT DAC

Classes for intermediate Danish speakers will begin in February.

When: 11am on Wednesdays

Location: 3rd Floor Classroom

Dates: February 12 through May 20.

Cost: \$10 per session

Registration is not needed—drop in as your schedule allows. Please contact instructor Niels Billund with questions at nielsbillund@gmail.com.

FYRAFTEN continued from Page 1

In the first couple of years we started out by coming together for dinner once a month along the theme of touring the vast variety of international restaurants in the Twin Cities. This made for a good start, but became cost prohibitive for many. We opted to move our monthly get together to the DAC and try our hand at cooking our own meals to reduce costs. We found a camaraderie and hygge in planning and preparing a meal together with a drink close at hand, setting a table and then spending a 'few hundred minutes' at a dinner table together, plates pushed aside like true Danes, talking, sharing a laugh and a skål.

Fyr Aften is open to the men of DAC who are members and 18 years or older. The average age of the group is currently about 50 and about half of the group speaks Danish. As a group we feel it is important that you have a connection and passion for Danish culture either because you were born in Denmark, lived in Denmark, are of Danish descent, are married to a Dane and therefore familiar with Danish customs or perhaps you went to school in Denmark, studied Danish and developed a fondness for its food, customs and traditions.

At Fyr Aften we meet on the last Friday of every month from September to May. Each month there is a choice cooking spot available to the first person to request it, and we try to have that planned a few months ahead. The cost for dinner, dessert and coffee is the bargain price of \$10 per person, with drink costs being shared and any extras added to a collective stash for the future Fridays. We average around 12 – 15 men at each Friday get-together. When dinner and dessert are finished and we are feeling like it's nearing time to call it a night, it's 'all hands on deck.' Every single guy there is expected to jump in to help with clean up and putting the kitchen and eating area back to the way it was when we arrived, if not better! We often play cards, games or darts after dinner, too.

If you are interested in joining Fyr Aften, please contact Michael Petersen at: constructionbydesign2004@yahoo.com or (651)247-4878.

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN BIRTHDAY PARTY

Sunday, April 5: 2-5pm

Birthdays parties are fun!
How do people in Denmark celebrate?

On April 5 the DAC will be celebrating Hans Christian Andersen's 215th birthday. Many of us know his legacy of stories and paper cutting. This party will be

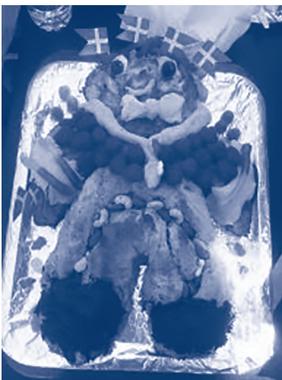


a chance to learn about the Danish birthday traditions while enjoying songs, reenacted HC Andersen stories, a lecture for the adults, activities for the children, and a taste of the Danish-style birthday cake that will be decorated by the children.

The party begins at 2pm with music and stories. Around 3pm, we will have a presentation with discussion by Paul Houe, professor emeritus of Scandinavian languages and literature at the University of Minnesota, entitled, "What Kind of Dane was Hans Christian Andersen?" During that time, the children and interested adults will engage in various creative Danish birthday activities in the Dining Room, including making Gækkebrev (Snowdrop Letters). Around 4pm we will gather in the Dining Room, eat birthday cake and view the crafts made by the children. The party will end by 5pm.

DAC members and their guests of all ages are invited. Let us know if you plan to attend the party, and if you have kids who would like to be part of a reenacted HC Andersen story by emailing dkgreve@gmail.com. We will limit the number attending but also hope that everyone interested can attend. Cost is \$5.00 per person, and pre-registrations can be done by March 23 through either

<https://dacmn.wildapricot.org> or by calling (612)729-3800 and paying at the door (subject to availability). We hope this will be the first such festive event to help us all learn more about famous Danes throughout history.



DANEBO READING CIRCLE

Sunday, February 16: 1:30-3:30pm

The Danebo Book Circle's selection for February is the Norwegian writer, Hanne Ørstavik's novel, *LOVE*. We will meet on February 16 at 1:30 in the south porch for our Valentine's gathering.

Ørstavik's book was awarded the 2019 Pen Translation Prize and was a finalist for the National Book Award's Best Literature Translation.

"*Love* is the story of Vibeke and Jon, a mother and son who have just moved to a small place in the north of Norway. It's the day before Jon's birthday, and a travelling carnival has come to the village. Jon goes out to sell lottery tickets for his sports club, and Vibeke is going to the library. From here on we follow the two individuals on their separate journeys through a cold winter's night - while a sense of uneasiness grows. *Love* illustrates how language builds its own reality, and thus how mother and son can live in completely separate worlds. This distance is found not only between human beings, but also within each individual. This novel shows how such distance may have fatal consequences."

In March we will be reading Danish author Helle Helle's 2011 novel, *This Should Be Written in the Present Tense* (186pp). It was published in English by translator Martin Aitken in 2015. Join us on Sunday, March 15, for a lively discussion - treats, too!

NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

GENEALOGY

Monday, February 24: 7pm

Naturalization: The Process, The Law and The Records

The February meeting of the Danish Genealogy Group will be held at the DAC on Monday, February 24, at 7pm. The evening's topic is a timely one - how our ancestors became American citizens. Becoming an American citizen involved a process that created records which often provide wonderful information about our ancestor's personal histories. But, what was that process? How does one locate those records?

The evening's speaker, Tom Rice, CG who is a professional genealogical researcher, lecturer, and writer with long-time service to the MGS, IGS, and MNHS, will be able to

provide this information and answer questions. Everyone is invited to attend this informative meeting, and for further information please call Bill Holmquist at (651)748-5017.

OTHER EVENTS AND NEWS

ANNUAL CODFISH AND MEATBALL DINNER

Friday, March 6: 5pm and 6:30pm

St. Peder's Lutheran church will be holding its annual Codfish and Meatball Dinner on Friday, March 6. There will be seatings at 5:00 and 6:30 pm. The dinner also includes boiled potatoes with our famous mustard gravy, peas and carrots, Havarti cheese on pumpnickel, cupcakes and beverages. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children age 12 and under. St. Peder's Church is located on 4600 East 42nd Street in South Minneapolis. Call St. Peder's Church office at (612) 722-8000 or email Jeannie at office@stpeders.org for reservations. Please state how many meatball or cod dinners, seating time preference, and phone number if leaving a message. Hope to see you there!

CONCORDIA LANGUAGE VILLAGES-OPEN POSITION

Concordia Language Villages currently has an opening for a Danish dean, who would lead a month-long intensive immersion program on our site every summer.

Although many of the language community deans are professors or language teachers, we also welcome applications from those outside of the academic realm who can share a love of Danish language and culture.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in this opportunity, please encourage them to apply for the position through the following link: <https://hr.cord.edu/postings/6293>.

GET THE WORD OUT!

Help your business reach Danish American Center members by advertising in DANews. Reasonable rates and packages available. For rate sheet and more information, contact the DAC Newsletter Committee at danews@dac.mn.

Kjell Bergh's
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

Mahjongg: Every Wednesday from 10am-6pm

Saturday	01	Danish Language 3 10-11:30am
Monday	03	DAC Sing-Along 7-8:30 pm
Wednesday	05	Sewing Club 12-2pm
Friday	07	Tøseften for dansk talende 7:30-10pm
Saturday	08	Danish Language 3 10-11:30am
Sunday	09	Valentines Day Brunch 9:30am-12:30pm
Monday	10	DAC Board Meeting 7-9pm
Wednesday	12	Onsdag Frokost 11:30am Social 12pm Lunch Intermediate Danish Speakers 11am
Thursday	13	Scandinavian Collectors Club 6-10pm
Friday	14	Viking Age Meeting 7-10pm 14 Danish Dancing 7:30-9pm
Saturday	15	Danish Language 3 10-11:30am
Sunday	16	Reading Circle 1:30-3:30pm
Wednesday	19	Intermediate Danish Speakers 11am
Friday	21	Hyggeaften 5:30-10pm
Saturday	22	Danish Language 3 10-11:30am
Sunday	23	Fastelavn 3-5pm 23 Nordic Roots Dances 2020 6-9pm
Monday	24	Genealogy 7-9pm
Wednesday	26	Onsdag Frokost 11:30am Social 12pm Lunch Intermediate Danish Speakers 11am
Friday	28	Fyr Aften 6pm 28 Danish Dancing 7:30-9pm

March

Mahjongg: Every Wednesday from 10am-6pm

Sunday	01	Food and Aquavit Pairing Event 12:30-3:30pm 01 Virkelyst Meeting 1-3pm
Monday	02	DAC Sing-Along 7 - 8:30 pm
Wednesday	04	Sewing Club 12-2pm Intermediate Danish Speakers 11am
Friday	06	Tøseften for dansk talende 7:30-11pm
Monday	09	DAC Exec Comm Mtng 7-10pm
Wednesday	11	Onsdag Frokost 11:30am Social 12pm Lunch Intermediate Danish Speakers 11am
Thursday	12	Scandinavian Collectors Club 6-10pm
Friday	13	Viking Age Meeting 7-10pm 13 Danish Dancing 7:30-9pm
Sunday	15	Æbleskive Breakfast 9:30am-12:30pm 15 Reading Circle 1:30-3:30pm
Wednesday	18	Intermediate Danish Speakers 11am
Friday	20	Hyggeaften 5:30-10pm
Monday	23	Genealogy 7-9pm
Wednesday	25	Onsdag Frokost 11:30am Social 12pm Lunch Intermediate Danish Speakers 11am
Friday	27	Danish Dancing 7:30-9pm
Sunday	29	Jim Reilly Concert 3-5pm 29 Nordic Roots Dances 2020 6-9pm



**DANISH
AMERICAN
CENTER**

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