

# The Little Mermaid



A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHWEST DANISH ASSOCIATION

Oct Nov Dec 2021 Issue #2021/2022 Volume 2

## The Spirit of the Season

By Line L Larsen



Image: Danish aquavit, a favorite spirit in Denmark during the holiday season

For the second year in a row, this year's holiday season at NWDA will be different from a typical year. However, holiday spirit and Danish julehygge will still abound in the Pacific Northwest.

Normally folks flock together in seasonal bliss for traditions including the annual Bazaar, the Danish Christmas Fest for beer tasting, and Christmas crafts at Julestue at the Seattle Danish Center. Lillejuleaften normally marks the last event in the Danish community each year.

This year we will have some modified holiday offerings as we navigate

the changing event rules in this pandemic. Our first seasonal gathering will be Fredagscafé on November 5th at Heritage Distilling. The distillery is creating a special spirit for NWDA—an aquavit infused with Danish holiday flavors, including cardamom, citrus, and cloves. These NWDA bottles will be available for purchase. A Christmas cocktail party is also in the works, with a cocktail created by Heritage Distilling. More details will be shared soon!

We will have a virtual Juleauktion again this year, stocked with Danish Christmas items to bid on. This year's offerings include a private tour of OOLA distillery, Danish art, baked goods, a summer house vacation stay, museum tickets, Danish design items, and much more. Mark your calendars – the auction begins on November 15th!

*Continued on page 3*

## Corona Report From Denmark

By Jan Bruun-Petersen



September 2021— All Coronavirus restrictions are dropped, because over 71 percent of Danes have been fully vaccinated. There will still be masks used at airports and on airplanes. Twelve Danes a week are dying of Corona. The EU has just recommended placing restrictions again on travel from the USA, because Corona hospital admissions are too high. Denmark will have to decide what restrictions it will place on travellers from the USA.

The Danish government has shut down the large vaccine centers, because now there are many fewer people getting vaccinated. People with weak immune systems are now

### In this issue

- 2....President's Corner
- 3....NWDA News
- 4....DACR 2021
- 5....National Danish Book Club

- 6....Klima Klub
- 7...Another Way of Viewing Animals
- 8....Jul in Esbjerg
- 9....Calendar
- 10, 11....Donations & More



Northwest Danish Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing with others our Danish culture, traditions, and values.

## President's Corner



### How to Make the Future Positive

By Edith E. Christensen, EdD, NWDA President

In the last issue I told you about the excitement of paying off the mortgage and looking at a positive future. However, it won't be unless we put away a savings, just like you do for yourself. You can help make this happen!

We aim to be a successful non-profit organization for a long time. How does this happen? There are several ways. One is to not overspend, another is to not borrow, and another is to save for the future. You can be a big help in this process.

Programs must be run with a purpose, to help promote Danish-ness and Denmark's contributions to the betterment of the world or to celebrate an event. It is not just for us to have a fun event for ourselves, but to teach others about hygge, and how Denmark contributes to the world's betterment. You might say that is a tall order. But many years ago, when I was a private School Headmaster, I had a group of busy boys sent to my office due to their mischievous behavior. I was talking to them about their role here on earth. I told them that they were not put here on earth just to fill up space, but to make it a better place when they leave than it was when they came. One of the boys said to me that that was a big job. I agreed with him but told him that was our duty.

How can you help make this a better place for our descendants? It isn't so hard. You may have an old paid-up life insurance policy sitting around that you really don't need for yourself or your family anymore. You can simply change the beneficiary to be the NWDA. You can't take it with you!

Another way is to add a codicil to your will stating that a specific dollar amount be left to the NWDA. Or you can say that a certain percentage of the residual in your estate be left to NWDA. There are many ways to ensure that your family is taken care of and that you also can help a non-profit for a long time with a gift. NWDA is a legal non-profit section 501(c)(3), which can accept donations.

Making such a gift in your will costs you nothing during your lifetime but is a powerful commitment to our work and mission for generations. We have a member with knowledge about this kind of gift. Let me know if you want his number, or you can contact your lawyer.

This year, October 18th to 24<sup>th</sup> is National Estate Planning Awareness week. Now is a good time to update your will. When you put NWDA in your will, we would love it if you let us know so we can properly thank you in advance.



Image: The NWDA Building in Seattle



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# NWDA News



## Welcome to Our New Employee, Gabrielle!



We are thrilled to welcome our newest team member to the NWDA! Gabrielle will be working with us part-time as a Fundraiser and Office Assistant.

Gabrielle first joined us as a volunteer in August. She was helping in the library by scanning photographs of NWDA events from the 1980s and 1990s. She loved volunteering and is excited to be joining our wonderful staff.

Not only is Gabrielle new to the team, but she is new to Seattle, too! She moved here last year from California, where she attended UC Berkeley for her undergraduate degrees in Anthropology and American studies. She loves living in the PNW and will gladly welcome any recommendations for restaurants, activities to try, or places to visit.

Gabrielle has experience in many different fields — her first job was as

a beekeeper's assistant in San Diego, CA! At Berkeley, she worked as an archivist at an architecture library and later as a research assistant for an architectural historian. Most recently, she worked as a copywriter for an e-book publishing company.

In her free time, Gabrielle loves to read, ride her bike, and go on picnics when the weather's nice. Gabrielle is also fluent in French and has spent a lot of time in France. Feel free to brush up on any French with her if you swing by the office or attend an upcoming event.

Welcome, Gabrielle!

## Congratulations 2021 to 2022 Scholarship Recipients!

Annika Dunton

Helen Durst

Hannah Brewer

Kaitlyn Kiteley

Faith Ealy

Carson Younker

## The Spirit of the Season

*Continued from page 1*

Due to the ever-changing situation with COVID-19, we are forced to stay on our toes and will adjust event guidelines as needed. Potential movie nights will be scattered throughout the fall and a possible Julestue is also in the cards.

The best way to stay up to date on our events and any changes is to read our weekly e-bulletin. You can sign up online:

[northwestdanish.org/e-bulletin](http://northwestdanish.org/e-bulletin)

## Northwest Danish Association Contact Information

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*The Seattle Danish Center is in  
Suite 205*



Visit our website for more information about events and programs!  
Via our website you can also sign up for our e-bulletin to receive updates  
on all these activities:

[www.northwestdanish.org](http://www.northwestdanish.org)

# DACR 2021



## DACR 2021: A Virtual Success

By Gabrielle Clement



Image: A screenshot of some of the 2021 DACR attendees on Zoom

Due to the persisting COVID-19 pandemic, the 43rd Danish American Cultural Retreat (DACR) was held online this fall. Equipped with lessons learned from last year's first virtual conference, the NWDA was ready to host another successful retreat. The conference was held over three days, from Friday, September 17th to Sunday the 19th. Like last year, the conference used Zoom video conferencing and YouTube to share lectures and documentaries.

DACR has been a Pacific Northwest tradition since 1978, where it has been held annually at the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center in Corbett, Oregon, on the Washington-Oregon border. DACR offers an opportunity to enrich your knowledge about Denmark, its significance on the global stage, and important connections between Denmark and the United States—both presently and historically.

This year's program began on Friday

with a welcome message presented by NWDA board member Sonja Kromann and NWDA president Edith Christensen. Then, award-winning author Bill Arnott took the stage, joining from his home in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. He recounted his travels following Viking voyages across the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Oceania. You can find more about his adventure in his newest book *Gone Viking II: Beyond Boundaries*.

Later in the day, attendees gathered for a lively discussion following a showing of the documentary *Egtved Pigen*. The film imagines the story of the Egtved Girl, whose burial remains date back to the Bronze Age. Discovered in 1921 by a Danish farmer, her coffin contained some of the most well-preserved items of Nordic prehistory, including a woolen skirt, a belt, a comb, jewelry, and a hair net. The documentary is available to rent

online from Amazon Video or Curiosity Stream.

On Saturday, day two of DACR started bright and early with a fascinating talk given by Sterre Klaver, a maritime archaeologist working in Denmark. From prehistory, to the Vikings, to modern industrial fishing, Denmark is a nation that has been dominated by seafarers. Klaver illustrated Denmark's rich maritime history and discussed exciting new technologies that will help maritime archaeologists dive deeper into Denmark's prolific past.

Next up, Diya Nagaraj logged on from the Museum of Danish America in Iowa with wedding bells ringing. Danish and Danish-American wedding traditions were discussed and Nagaraj showed photos of old wedding gowns from different time periods and social ranks. Not many were white, as is common today.

Award-winning producer and writer Marcia Franklin and Smithsonian Anthropologist Joanna Scherer took the audience all the way back to Pocatello, Idaho in 1895 in their captivating lecture.

Benedicte Wrensted was a Danish photographer who captured photographs of Shoshone-Bannock tribal members. Franklin and Scherer discussed the photographer's life, her work, and her images' impact on its Native American subjects. You can learn more about Benedicte Wrensted and another portrait photographer, Jane Gay, in the Idaho Public Television documentary *Out of the Shadows*.

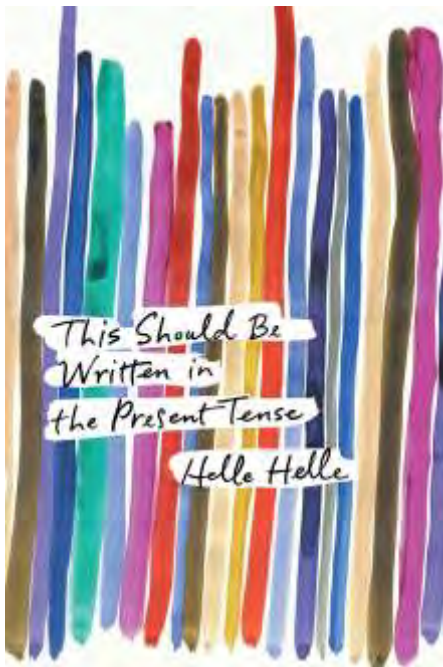
*Continued on page 11*

# National Danish Book Club & Literary Event Series



## New National Danish Book Club and Literary Event Series Launched

By Line L Larsen



A new nationwide Danish book club and literary event series kicked off during the month of September. Each month, a book by a popular author in Denmark is selected for a virtual group discussion and an accompanying literary event. The literary event is in the format of an author interview or a talk with an expert in the content.

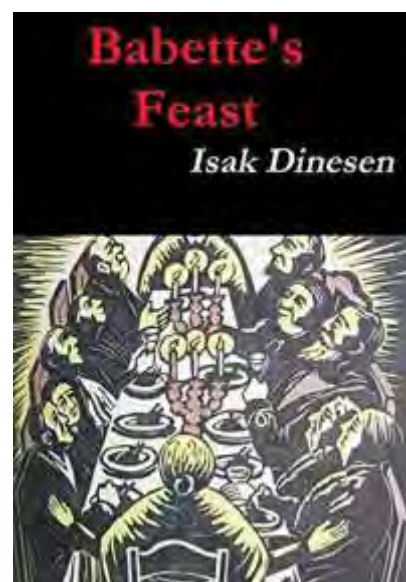
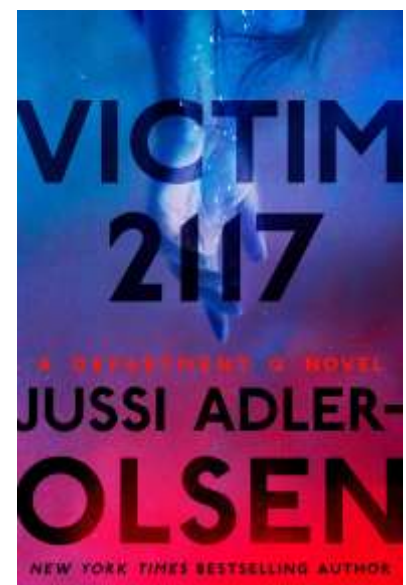
In September, the book of choice was *This Should Be Written in the Present Tense* by contemporary Danish author, Helle Helle. From the two events centered on the book, the capacity of the series to unveil deeper understandings of the content

quickly became evident. *This Should Be Written in the Present Tense* is a seemingly simple story, which stands true for Helle Helle's other books. A surface level read misses the intricacies held between the lines, where a deceptively small sentence has the potential to hold heavy meaning for the plot.

This first book club discussion took place on September 14th and was expertly moderated by discussion leader, Nete Schmidt, a Faculty Associate in the Scandinavian Studies Unit in the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic (GNS) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Registrations for this first meeting drew engaged readers from Canada and from locations across the U.S., such as New York, Colorado, California, and Washington.

One week later, the literary event on Helle Helle's book featured a dynamic conversation between Claus Elholm Andersen, Ph.D., who is the Paul and Renate Madsen Assistant Professor of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and literary event facilitator Désirée Ohrbeck, who is a former Danish lecturer at the University of Washington in Seattle. The recording is available on YouTube via the Museum of Danish America channel. The literary event, combined with the book club discussion, allowed readers to uncover and dissect multiple perspectives of the contents of the same book.

The series is the result of an eclectic collaboration between Danish and Nordic organizations across the U.S.



Continued on page 7

## International Coastal Clean-Up

*By Leah Koch-Michael*



*Image: Participants in Klima Klub's International Coastal Clean-Up, September 11th, 2021.*

Here in the Pacific Northwest we have long been concerned with environmental sustainability and climate mitigation, as both individual citizens, and from policy perspectives. In that way, we are very much aligned with Denmark and Danish environmental values. Both Denmark and Washington state have public and government support for maintaining clean water, recycling, greener methods of transportation, and green energy.

Denmark is known for its windmills; the Pacific Northwest uses mostly hydroelectric power. We are both working on embracing green alternatives such as solar and biofuel.

However, if you are like me, you have been feeling a little anxious about climate change and environmental problems, and have been looking for ways to get involved and help in whatever way you can. With problems this big, it can seem overwhelming. But the solution is to join with others and do something, however small.

On September 11th, ten of us met at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park to participate in an International Coastal Clean-up. We were provided with supplies by Puget Sound Keeper, a local organization that is dedicated to keeping our beaches

and waterways clean. (Please check them out if you have an interest in volunteering—they do great work!). The beach was full of families and others enjoying the sunny day, and many were happy to see us. Children offered up pieces of trash they had found, and adults thanked us for our efforts.

Eli, Sari and their two daughters worked as a team. Adrian and Boris found all sorts of interesting refuse, including a small plastic turtle! Becky, Kristen, Holly, and I meandered near each other, but looked in different areas. We found lots of glass, some old metals, and a book that had been torn up and burnt! Of course, pieces of plastic from packaging or toys was the thing we found the most. After we'd all gone up and down the beach, we reconvened in the parking lot and measured and counted our trash so we could report it toward the total of the International Coastal Clean-up. Then we celebrated with doughnuts and got to know each other a bit, before we all headed our separate ways.

Thank you to each person who came and contributed to the effort. It might be only a small way to improve our environment, but it was ten times what one person would have accomplished. Think of what we might do next time!

If you would like to know about our next Klima Klub activities, please sign up for our E-bulletin.

If you have ideas or opportunities for future Klima Klub activities, please email me at [Leah@northwestdanish.org](mailto:Leah@northwestdanish.org)

## Another Way of Viewing Animals

By Jan Bruun-Petersen



*Image: Jan, Maja and Isa Bruun-Petersen with animals from Dyrenes Frie Farm in the background.*

Denmark's industrial animal farms are very productive. If one just looks at pig production, the results are such that almost half of Denmark's agricultural exports are pig meat. This dependence on raising animals for money has a high cost for the millions of animal lives cut short to be products in supermarkets. As part of EU law on animal welfare and Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, animals are recognised as sentient beings, that feel and are intelligent. This starts to give some rights to the animals themselves not just to the owners of animals.

On the island of Funen (Fyn), there is a very different farm in the little town of Hesselager, 40 kilometers from Odense. Dyrenes Frie Farm is an animal sanctuary. All the animals

on the farm live a good, long life. They have over forty animals including chickens, pigs, horses, goats, donkeys, and geese. These animals have been rescued from the animal and food industries. But the farm can reduce animal suffering in another way. The farm can educate the public and try to get Denmark away from its dependence on the animal industry, thus cutting down on the number of animals being produced. The farm is open to the public a few times a year where people can see a different way of being with animals than just consuming them as products (the farm has its own website and is on Facebook). It can be an eye-opener when Camilla Kærslund and Kirsten van Deurs explain how

## New National Danish Book Club and Literary Event Series Launched

By Line L Larsen

*Continued from page 5*

It is sponsored by Scan Design Foundation and organized in partnership with the Museum of Danish America, Northwest Danish Association, the National Foundation for Danish America, the National Nordic Museum, American-Scandinavian Foundation, University of Wisconsin – Madison, and the University of Washington Scandinavian Studies Department.

On October 12th *The Employees* by Olga Ravn will be discussed in the book club meeting via Zoom. Thereafter the literary event for the book will become available on October 19th on YouTube. The selection for November is *Victim 2117* by Jussi Adler-Olsen and in December readers will delve into the well-known *Babette's Feast* by Isak Dinesen (Karen Blixen). *We, the Drowned* by Carsten Jensen, will be featured in January.

The National Danish Book Club and Literary Event Series will continue through May 2022.

Registration links are available online at

[www.northwestdanish.org/nationalbookclub](http://www.northwestdanish.org/nationalbookclub)

*Continued on page 10*

# From Denmark



## Jul in Esbjerg

By Leah Koch-Michael



Image: Christmas décor in Esbjerg!

In Denmark, the Julemand arrives on a boat from Greenland.

This was something I had to see, even if I was not the Julemand's usual demographic. My roommate came with me, which was fun and odd—she was from Germany and a bit jaded, so I wouldn't have thought seeing "Santa" was something she was interested in. But I suppose seeing *this* incarnation of him was different from her *Weihnachtsmann*, too.

We rode our bikes to the harbor and followed the crowds of families and children to the water's edge. Both being short in stature, we climbed up some stairs to overlook a railing and get out of the way of the excited children crowding the lip of the harbor, and the band waiting to play Christmas music. It was a very cold night. Even muffled up in my down

coat, wearing wool socks and boots, my toes never quite warmed up, and my roommate and I huddled together for warmth. We promised ourselves some *gløgg* in the Torv afterward and waited.

Finally, off in the darkness west of the harbor, we could see a boat coming toward us. It was the only one around—a large yacht—and as it got closer, we could see that it was absolutely covered in ice and snow, as well as twinkling *julbelysning*.

The Julemand and his *nisser* waved as they came closer, and the children cheered as it coasted to a stop at the harbor's edge. Several of the Julemand's *nisser* helped tie the boat up, and put out the ramp. With his sack, the Julemand came down into the waiting crowd of children, as their parents stood back. With

the help of the *nisser*, he began pulling presents from his bag and passing them out to the children, who though visibly excited, were very polite in waiting, asking questions that I couldn't hear, and looking very happy to be meeting the Julemand himself.

My roommate and I came down from our perch at this point, because even though we were definitely too old to get handed a present, or to ride the *juletog* up the hill, we still wanted a closer look at the man himself and his boat. He looked just like the Santas I'd seen my whole life, and whoever played the role this year twinkled appropriately, smiling through his beard and leaning down to hear questions from the children. I still don't know how they got so much ice on that boat, but I loved the commitment!

We followed the *juletog* up to the square, got our (completely necessary for our frozen extremities) *gløgg* and *æbleskiver*. The whole Torv had been transformed into an ice skating rink and that's where the band, the *juletog*, and the Julemand arrived to continue the festivities.

Christmas time in Denmark was one of my favorite experiences, and judging by the attendance of the *Julemarkeder*, I am far from alone in this. It is a wonderful way to make the winter a little less dark and cold. Part of what makes Denmark's celebration special is, I think, that both the children and the adults celebrate it with abandon—no irony, just *hygge*!



# NW Danish Calendar



**We are working on restarting in-person events! Sign up for our e-bulletin to receive the most recent updates:**  
[www.northwestdanish.org/e-bulletin/](http://www.northwestdanish.org/e-bulletin/)

## October 2021

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
					1	2 Intermediate Danish (S) Beginner Danish (S)
3	4	5 Dansk II & III (P)	6 DBIA Zoom	7 Adv. Dansk (P)	8	9 Intermediate Danish (S) Beginner Danish (S)
10	11	12 Nat'l Danish Book Club Dansk II & III(P)	13	14 Adv. Dansk (P)	15	16 Intermediate Danish (S) Beginner Danish (S)
17	18	19 Nat'l Danish Literary Event Dansk II & III (P)	20	21 Adv. Dansk (P)	22	23 Intermediate Danish (S) Beginner Danish (S)
24	25	26	27	28 Adv. Dansk (P)	29	30 Intermediate Danish (S) Beginner Danish (S) Filmaften: Journey to Utopia (S)

## November 2021

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
31	1	2 Dansk II & III (P)	3 DBIA Zoom	4 Adv. Dansk (P)	5 Fredagscafe (S)	6 Intermediate Danish (S) Beginner Danish (S)
7	8	9 Dansk II & III (P)	10	11 Adv. Dansk (P)	12	13 Intermediate Danish (S) Beginner Danish (S)
14	15 Juleauktion Starts	16 Nat'l Danish Book Club Dansk II & III (P)	17	18	19	20 Intermediate Danish (S) Beginner Danish (S)
21	22	23 Nat'l Danish	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## December 2021

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
			1 DBIA Zoom	2	3 Fredagscafe (S)	4 Filmaften: Gooseboy (S)
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Julestue (S)	13	14 Nat'l Danish Book Club	15	16 Nat'l Danish Literary Event	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Glædelig jul!	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**(P)= Portland (S) = Seattle (E) = Eugene**

For more information on these events, programs, and activities, please visit our website:

[www.northwestdanish.org](http://www.northwestdanish.org)



# Donations: July to September 2021—Thank you!



**Donations are cumulative from July 2021 to September 2021.**



**Gifts to NWDA  
July 2021-September 2021**

## **Great Dane**

Benevity Community Impact Fund

## **Bold Dane**

Owen Winter

## **Noble Dane**

Cathy Burton

Peter Carroll

Irma and Don Goertzen

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Joseph Matsen

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Gary Korsgaard

Anne Marie Lorck

Patti Olsen

Judith Kitley

## **Dane**

Leah Koch-Michael

Ulla Rudd

## **Restricted Contributions Himmelbjerget**

Danish Sisterhood Hygge

Lodge #188

Morgann Johansen

Joyce Johnson

Jorn and Deanna Mortensen

## **Danebo Rent**

Nils Jensen

## **In Kind**

Hans M Rasmussen

## **Auction**

Janne Larsen

Line Larsen

Burke Museum

Ivar's and Kidd Valley Restaurants

Majestic Bay

Museum of Flight

OOLA Distillery

Pagliacci's Pizza

Rick Steves'

Tacoma Art Museum

The Mariners

Viking Soul Food

Wolf Haven International

## **Another Way of Viewing Animals**

*By Jan Bruun-Petersen*

*Continued from page 7*

the animals on the Dyrenes Frie Farm live, compared to how animals live in the animal industry. Hopefully this will change the way some view their relationship with animals. As a vegan, I have done volunteer work on the farm and try to visit as often as I can with my children. It is especially nice to see children there on the Open House days. Just last year, they rescued a pregnant cow named Hilde who later gave birth to calf Ferdinand.

Denmark wants to continue to be a leader in being climate-friendly through its extensive use of wind turbines. But Denmark would become a leader in regards to Animal Welfare and be even more climate-friendly, if it instead starts to convert the land used for animal production and producing animal feed to be used for growing plants for us humans to eat.

### **Write for The Little Mermaid!**

Write about your experience at Danish events in the PNW or other topics related to Denmark or Danish culture.

Contact us at  
seattle@nwdanish.org or  
(206)523-3263 if you are  
interested in writing for  
our publication.

**A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has donated to NWDA. We would not be here without your support!**

## Other



### DACR 2021: A Virtual Success

By Gabrielle Clement

*Continued from page 4*

On Sunday, Diya Nagaraj took the stage again to kick off the last day of DACR 2021. She shared the innovative history surrounding Danish porcelain manufacturing and design from 1885 to 1920. Bing & Grøndahl and Royal Copenhagen were two especially coveted companies during that peak period and are still around today! Then, it was Dave Nordin's turn to talk about Vikings. Nordin gave riveting presentations about the wide reach of the Norse language across the world and the history of the Gokstad Viking replica ship, which traveled around the globe in 1893 from Chicago to Geneva.

From photographs taken in 19th-century Idaho to the Nordic Bronze Age, abundant opportunities to explore Danish and Danish American culture were available this year. DACR is an essential event that helps keep Danish culture alive and thriving in the Pacific Northwest. Thank you to all our volunteers, participants, speakers, and entertainers.

The date has been set for the 2022 Danish American Cultural Retreat! Save the dates for next summer: **June 24th to June 26th, 2022**. If you are interested in joining our volunteer team for next year's conference, please email [seattle@nwdanish.org](mailto:seattle@nwdanish.org) or call (206) 523-3263

### Donate your time: Volunteer with us!

**Writing/Editing**—Assist with The Little Mermaid, including writing articles of interest to the Danish community.

**Building Maintenance**—Join a Work Party to help with repairs and other building maintenance.

**Event Help**—Assist with activities and programs as needed. Duties may include event set-up, staffing, and clean-up.



Sign up to volunteer,  
we would love your help!  
[northwestdanish.org/volunteer/](http://northwestdanish.org/volunteer/)  
or contact us at 206-523-3263 | email [seattle@nwdanish.org](mailto:seattle@nwdanish.org)

### NORTHWEST DANISH NETWORK

The Northwest Danish Network is an online networking platform for the Danish community in the Pacific Northwest. Are you looking for a job, a new hire, housing, or some other connection? The Northwest Danish Networking Platform allows you to find the connections you need in our community.

Visit [www.northwestdanish.org/network/](http://www.northwestdanish.org/network/)



**Do you have an opportunity you would like to share on the platform?**

Contact us: [Email Line@nwdanish.org](mailto:Email Line@nwdanish.org)

### All Donations are Tax-Deductible!

The Northwest Danish Association is a 501(c)(3) organization registered in the State of Washington (Tax ID: 91-0565541)

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# Northwest Danish Association



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Visit our website: [www.northwestdanish.org](http://www.northwestdanish.org)

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## SAVE THE DATE:

FILMAFTEN—October 30th  
FREDAGSCAFE—November 5th  
JULEAUKTION Starts November 15th

## Monthly Events (subject to change)

- Work Party — First Tuesday, Seattle (except July & August)
- DBIA & DSS — First Wednesday, Seattle (except July & August)
- Fredagscafe — First Friday, Seattle (except January & July)
- Torsdagsklubben — Third Thursday, Seattle (except July & August)

Watch our e-bulletins each week for specific times and dates of programs. Note: Monthly events are subject to change. Some programs do not run in the summer.

# The Little Mermaid

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Oct Nov Dec 2021 #2021/2022 Volume 2

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