

Danish American Language Foundation

Preserve and Promote the Danish Language and Culture in America

P.O. Box 6005 - St. Charles, IL 60174



January 2020

PETER ØRUM

President

P.O. Box 6005

St. Charles, IL 60174

Greetings, Danish American Language Foundation Supporters and Friends,

PAUL PEDERSEN

Vice President

7N206 Hickory Lane

St. Charles, IL 60174

As many of you know, the Danish American Language Foundation was established in 1976 - with the goal of preserving the Danish language and culture in America. Queen Margrethe II was in the U.S. to celebrate the 200 year anniversary. She brought a check from newspapers, businessmen and private persons in Denmark in the amount of \$50,000.

JETTE K. NIELSEN

Secretary/Treasurer

234 Forest Avenue

Itasca, IL 60143

With the income from this investment the Danish American Language Foundation Boards have over the years supported the Danish Language papers in the U.S., Danish language classes and camps and cultural events. With these very limited funds the Danish American Language Foundation Boards naturally operated with a low profile. Things changed a few years ago when the Danish American Language Foundation Board decided to reach out to like-minded supporters and friends and to the young people who desire to bring the Danish language and culture into the future.

LEIF NIELSEN

The Danish Home of Chicago

5656 N. Newcastle Ave.

Chicago, IL 60631

As many of you know, and participated in, this kicked off about three years ago with a big event in Chicago. The Danish Consulate General helped organize this and the Danish Ambassador came from Washington D.C. to speak and lend his support. The goal was to build the endowment fund to \$250,000 in 5 years - from the original \$50,000. For the income from this capital we will be able to do five times as much as we could in the early years. We are far over half way to the goal!

DAN KJELDBJERG

Poul's Landscaping

6754 W. Indian Creek Rd.

Long Grove, IL 60047

So we are asking you to please help us to get there so we can send more youngsters to Danish school! This can be done by sending us a check or via "Pay Pal" as explained on the attached page.

JOHANNES SMITS

315 Chatham Lane

Roselle, IL 60172

We just received some very interesting news for both students and supporters: We were contacted by Delta Airlines about helping them find Danish speakers! Yes, Delta actually has jobs for Danish speakers, who of course have to be fluent in English too.

BIRGITTE NØRMØLLE

1754 N. St. Michael's Court

Chicago, IL 60614

This year we have supported eight youngsters with scholarships to go to Danish summer schools in Denmark and to language camps in the U.S. We have attached abbreviated reports for your review.

January 2020
Page Two

While we continue to support the Danish newspaper in the U.S., the Danish Pioneer, we feel it is very important to get more young people to learn and speak Danish. Therefore, we ask you to please look into the possibility of sending us a contribution to continue this worthwhile project.

Very truly yours,

Peter Ørum, President

Poul Pedersen, Vice President

Jette Nielsen, Secretary/Treasurer

Dan Kjeldbjerg

Leif Nielsen

Johannes Smits, Web Master

Birgitte Nørmølle

Here are some excerpts of reports we received from some of the students supported by the Danish American Language Foundation:

Christian Keller (4th year at Danes World Wide in Denmark) writes:

"The things that are most memorable to me over the time I was there was going to Svendborg, the self-sustaining Village, and of course Copenhagen. Learning, Danish wise, I learned a lot more Danish than I ever have at the school this year. (I think it is because I have gone to it so many times and I am pretty used to it).

I did my first night run this year as well, which was very very fun and scary. I did it with some close friends and we all had a great time and scare! It was one of my most fun experiences in all of my time coming to the Sommerskole. Then of course we had to say goodbye, by far one of my saddest moments and happiest moments in all the times I have come to Sommerskole.

I learned a lot this summer about Denmark, myself, other people, learning Danish and a lot of other things. All in all, every year the school gets better and I have more fun times. Thank you for your support."

Lydia Orum- Keller (1st year at Danes World Wide in Denmark) writes:

"When we did school what we would do is we would come in and then say 'Godmoren', then we would talk about what songs we sang and what we thought about it, then we would have one person who had the daily news and daily word and if you did the daily news then you would find a cool interesting thing and say as many Danish words you could but it's about the news. And the daily work is you have to find a word in Danish and the teacher, Johanne, told the person to write it on the chalkboard.

When it was time to go home the next day we had to sing songs in front of everyone's parents and then we could show our work. I really enjoyed going to summer skole and I hope I can go again next year!"

Daniel Olesen (Balle Dansk Sommerskole):

"I had a lot of fun at the Balle Dansk Sommerskole this year. I got to see a lot of old friends and make some new ones as well. I learned lots of Danish in a welcoming and relaxed school environment and enjoyed myself participating in the many activities, such as Battle, an obstacle course, and arts and crafts. We also went on trips to a place called Den Gamle By, where we learned how people lived in the old days, and Tivoli, a very fun amusement park. Students from past years may view the switch from Ringe to Balle as a disadvantage, but I chose to view it as a good thing, and had fun with my friends exploring the campus. I had my highs and lows during my time at Balle, but a wise person told me to not look down on myself for my mistakes, but instead view them as learning opportunities, which is advice I won't forget. Altogether, this year was the best one yet!"

Sebastian Olesen (Dansk Sommerskole):

"This summer at the Danish Summer School was the best year that I've been at the summer school out of the three years I've been there. I went to Bernstorffsminde School, in Fyn, for two and a half weeks, and it was the highlight of my summer. While I was there, I learned more Danish, made friends, had fun, and visited places in Denmark I hadn't been to before.

During one of the following days, I had to take a test that would show the teachers what level Danish speaker/reader/writer I was. Last year, there was no speaking test, which is something I'm not exactly good at, but I am pretty good at spelling, writing, reading and understanding Danish. That's why I was placed in such a high-level class last year. Luckily, this year I was placed into a class that was a good fit for me, because there was a speaking test. My level was "Basic Danish 3", which means you can speak, understand, write and read Danish well, but not at the same level as kids that are your age, that grew up in Denmark. In my class, we talked about many things, including parts of speech, idioms, grammar and more about the Danish language.

My trip to the Danish Summer School was everything I could have hoped for and more. I was able to make friends and learn Danish, and I had as much fun as possible in the process. By the time the Summer School was over, I had met people from France, Spain, Dubai, Britain, Schotland, Morocco, the U.S., China, Ireland, Vietnam, Italy and more. It all went by so fast, and I, by the time it was over, didn't even realize it until I was back home. I had so much fun at the summer school this year, and I really hope I can go next year as well."

Sophia Olesen (5th year at Dansk Sommerskole):

"Out of all 5 of the years I've gone to the Danish Summer School, this year has been the best one yet. But don't get me wrong, every year has been amazing. As a third culture kid, I've always really struggled with where my home is. Being Danish and Filipino while living in the U.S. has always been a bit hard in terms of finding where I belong, and I know other people from the summer school who feel the same way – alienated by all three of their cultures. But den Danske Sommerskole is honestly one of the places I feel most at home and most comfortable. Being with other kinds who go through the same thing as me and also come from the same background is somehow very comforting, so we all get along really well.

But the summer school isn't just a middle place to see someone who lives too far from you. We also attend classes where we learned about Denmark, its culture and of course, the Danish language. These classes are actually really helpful, because we are sorted into classes based off of our knowledge level of Danish. That has been very helpful because learning with people who are the same level as you makes the classroom a place where you aren't afraid to make mistakes. The classes effectively help you learn about Danish words, grammar and culture. This year, I attended the oldest school, Vejstrup. At this school we have the option of two other programs, instead of taking normal classes. You are able to take the 9th grade exam, or you are able to take a program called "Tilbage til Danmark", or "Back to Denmark". It's a program for kids who will be moving back to Denmark sometime soon, and that's the program I was in this year. I won't be moving back to Denmark for a few years, but I do hope to move there for University."

My favorite part about summer school, besides meeting new people and seeing old friends, is our trip to Copenhagen. We go on a culture trip with our class, and then take the rest of the day to go to Tivoli, a really fun amusement park in Copenhagen. Overall the Danish summer school is one of the best experiences of my life. I've gone back for 5 year and each year it gets better. Genuinely, I miss the three weeks of summer school for the rest of the year, and count down the days with my friends. To me, Den Danske Sommerskole is kind of like my true home."