

# THE BRIDGE

*Connecting People and Communities*



Scott L. Swanson  
President/CEO

Dear Family and Friends of The Danish Home:

January is the time to reflect on the past year and plan for the New Year. At The Danish Home, we are doing just that. In this issue of The Bridge you will find stories about our very successful Annual Benefit and Brunch at Arlington Park Racetrack. I hope you join us this coming September.

We are also sharing news about the Women's Auxiliary and our most recent Essence Award recipient, the Steffensen Family of The Danish Pioneer.

We are also proud of our outreach effort to help Danish and Scandinavian cultures thrive. The Hope Chest is developing partnerships with organizations to help build a stronger base of supporters for each organization.

On a personal note, I have to say I love the winter here at The Danish Home. The holidays are celebrated for many weeks and our beautiful community is adorned with exquisite holiday decorations. We hold religious services, take many wonderful holiday outings and host fabulous entertainment.

Now that 2015 is underway, there's no post-holiday lull. The winter months continue to be filled with warm friendship and camaraderie, great activities and outings and wonderful home cooked meals. Frankly, it doesn't get any better than this!

On behalf of The Danish Home residents, staff and board of directors, I wish you a happy and healthy 2015 and a wonderful winter.

Sincerely,

Scott L. Swanson

## LIFE AT THE DANISH HOME

### *Alle Baader Helpen*

The English translation is "All contributions however small are of use," or in American vernacular, "Every little bit helps." This Danish proverb describes the thought behind The Danish Home Foundation's newest initiative.

As you may recall, approximately a year ago we launched The Hope Chest. This blog shares the history and legacy of Danes in America, and the contributions that they've made and continue to make. We are pleased to announce that we are now entering Phase II of The Hope Chest initiative, by expanding into partnerships with Danish organizations and the Danish-American community.



We recognize the difficulty each Danish and Scandinavian organization has with limited resources available to sustain their missions. Our partnerships will help all of these organizations so

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**No-hibernation Zone**

The Danish Home of Chicago is a no-hibernation zone. Robin Decker, Resident Life director for The Danish Home is charged with the responsibility of making sure that the residents are active, and involved.

“We have five to seven different activities planned throughout the day at all levels of care,” said Robin. This includes games, entertainment, exercises, movie showings (with popcorn) and outings. “We have many different offerings so we have something that appeals to everyone,” said Robin. “We encourage participation and socialization.”

“Activity at all times of the year is important for everyone. Our programming is designed to help maintain the residents’ wellness, strength and independence,” said Robin. “We keep them from hibernating!”

**All Bets Were on Arlington Park Racetrack**

On Sunday, September 21st, more than 130 friends, family and supporters of The Danish Home came to our Annual Benefit Brunch, held at the beautiful Arlington Park Racetrack. The event included a fabulous brunch, exciting horse races and more.

The Annual Benefit Brunch is our way of supporting current and future residents of The Danish Home, honor and perpetuate Danish traditions and engage the entire family in a celebration of our Scandinavian culture. This year’s event raised more than \$25,000 for the Foundation.

Thank you to all of our generous supporters who celebrated with us. We are deeply grateful to the people and organizations that support The Danish Home Foundation. Look for the Save the Date postcard in your mail with details about this year’s Annual Benefit Event.



*Friends, family and supporters of The Danish Home enjoyed the day at beautiful Arlington Park Racetrack.*



**Alle Baader Helpen**

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they may continue the good work they are doing to preserve our shared Scandinavian heritage and culture.

We have launched a monthly e-newsletter, which features partner organizations, a blog post and event, and links to all partner organizations. This will permit our partners to promote their mission, recruit new members,

increase traffic to their websites and subscriber base, and more. The Danish Home will provide the vehicle for this. In return, the partner organizations will email The Hope Chest newsletter to their membership, and help promote The Hope Chest on their website and social media.

We are excited that these partnerships will help unite and strengthen the ties between Danish organizations and the Danish-American community in an unprecedented way.

## 2014 Essence Award

The Essence Award, which was first introduced in 2012, is bestowed annually on a person or group of people integral to preserving the legacy of the Danish community...the essence of The Danish Home Foundation, through their commitment, compassion, caring and giving. The Danish Home has a long tradition of being blessed by people and organizations that are deeply and generously committed to donating their time, talents, financial gifts and advocacy. The Steffensen family was most recently honored with the 2014 Essence Award for The Danish Pioneer.



*Pictured above from left to right: Scott Swanson, Elsa, Linda and Elizabeth Steffensen and Jeff Anderson*

Launched in 1872, The Danish Pioneer Newspaper is the oldest Danish

community newspaper in North America. Chris Steffensen who was born in Vinderup, Denmark, served as the editor. His wife Elsa, who was born in Silkeborg, Denmark, is the publisher; daughter Linda Steffensen took over as editor-in-chief and her sister Elizabeth Steffensen is the Webmaster.

“In 1982, the Steffensen family took over The Danish Pioneer, keeping alive an important piece of history. The Danish Pioneer Newspaper has a long tradition of keeping Danish immigrants informed of what’s happening within the Danish community for 140 years,” said The Danish Home Foundation President/CEO Scott Swanson. “The Danish Pioneer Newspaper has helped to ensure continuity in the very important connections between individuals of Danish descent for many decades.”

The Steffensens have other important roles elsewhere throughout the Danish community. In addition to serving on the board of directors of The Danish Home of Chicago, Linda is on the national board of the Museum of Danish America, Scandinavian Park, the Midwest Danish American Chamber of Commerce, and the Rebuild National Park Society. She is secretary of Dania Ladies Society, an auxiliary member of DAAC, Danish Brotherhood Lodge #35, Danish Sisterhood Dagmar Lodge #4 and the Women’s Auxiliary. Linda has also received the high honor of being named “Mayor for a Day” in Aalborg Denmark.

## Aebleskiver (round filled Danish pancakes)

### Ingredients

- 3 eggs, separated
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon cardamom, cinnamon or nutmeg
- 2 tablespoons melted butter (plus more for greasing the pan)



### Directions

- Beat egg whites until stiff; set aside.
- Beat egg yolks and buttermilk together.
- Sift dry ingredients together and add to liquid mixture.
- Add the melted butter and mix together until smooth.
- Fold in beaten egg whites.
- Fill pan cups about 1/4 full of oil and heat.
- Fill pan cups with batter. If you are adding jam, jelly or apple-sauce to the middle add it now, only about a 1/4 teaspoons.
- Bake until the edges are bubbly. Turn (using a fork, knitting needle, or toothpick) and continue turning until evenly browned and toothpick inserted into center comes out clean.
- Sprinkle with powdered sugar or cinnamon and sugar.

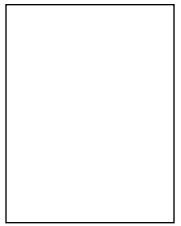
# HELPING HANDS

## Auxiliary Benefits The Home



In October, the Women’s Auxiliary of The Danish Home hosted its 2014 Annual Membership Meeting and Brunch. More than 115 people attended, including members, families, friends and residents. This was a great opportunity to get together while supporting an excellent cause, meeting new residents and learning firsthand about The Danish Home.

The 200-member Women’s Auxiliary provides support to The Danish Home in whatever way it can, through volunteer service. Additionally, the Women’s Auxiliary raises funds to support residents of The Danish Home.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, April 11**

Women's Auxiliary Spring Benefit Luncheon

**Saturday, May 30**

Smørrebrød Benefit Luncheon

**Sunday, June 28**

Annual Danish Summer Festival

For more information contact  
April at 773-775-7383, extension 4.

