

THE BRIDGE

Connecting People and Communities

Spirit of 125

Honor the 125 Year Spirit of The Danish Home of Chicago.



Scott L. Swanson
President/CEO

To family and friends of The Danish Home

Much like the Draken Harald Harfagre, (story below), we at The Danish Home are embarking on an amazing journey. We are pleased and proud to launch our yearlong celebration: "Spirit of 125" at The Danish Home of Chicago. This is indeed an auspicious occasion; quasiquicentennial (125 years) is a milestone shared by few. We are so proud to have had such a prestigious, respectful tradition in the community, all while operating without state or federal funding.

Please read page 4 to learn about the wonderful events we will be hosting over the

coming year. These are especially designed to be family-friendly and to appeal to folks of all ages...so be sure to get your kids and grandkids involved. There's even a special social media contest to attract and delight younger generations.

We look forward to celebrating "Spirit of 125" at The Danish Home with you, over the next year.

Sincerely,
Scott L. Swanson

A MOMENTOUS EVENT

The Danish Home Foundation Helps to Sponsor a Viking Ship's Voyage

It was a once in a lifetime adventure. The Danish Home Foundation helped to sponsor the Draken Harald Harfagre when it visited Chicago this summer.

When he learned of the impending visit, Scott Swanson determined it would be fitting for The Danish Home Foundation to help sponsor the trip. "This ship holds great cultural and historical significance for us. We were excited to be part of it," he said. "The last

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The
**Danish
Home**
Foundation
773-775-7383

Girl Scout's Award is Everyone's Pride at The Danish Home of Chicago

Songbirds at The Danish Home have something to warble about. When hawks began threatening the birds' happy abode, 13-year old Girl Scout Molly Feller set about building birdhouses for their protection.

A resident of the neighborhood, Molly approached The Danish Home last spring to see if there was anything she could do for us, that would earn her silver award with Girl Scout Troop 21008 out of Immaculate Conception School. "To get my award, I needed to look at my neighborhood for ways to help," Molly said. She met with Robin Decker, director of resident life of The Danish Home for direction.



Beginning last spring, Molly took on various tasks on our grounds: painting sidewalks, safety curbs and a garbage enclosure, spray painting fences and building bird houses. She was helped by her fellow Girl Scouts.

Friendly residents took an interest in her projects and often came out to visit her. "They wanted to know what I was working on, what grade I'm in, what I like to do. It was really nice to have conversations with them, especially since I don't have any grandparents of my own," said Molly.

Shortly after entering her freshman year at Taft High School in Chicago this fall, Molly earned her scouting award. "I had a great experience working with The Danish Home. We helped make it nicer and more welcoming and I feel like I really helped people. I know the people of The Danish Home were proud of me, and that makes me proud of myself," said Molly.

Catch the Spirit AND THE PRIZE!

Submit your Scandinavian recipes, stories, photos, jokes, family traditions and more to our Facebook page (Danish Home of Chicago) and we will post them for everyone's enjoyment. Top winners will be posted on our website (DanishHomeofChicago.org) and will be eligible for prizes.

A Viking Ship at Navy Pier

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Viking ship to come to Chicago was during the Columbian Exposition in 1893."

Touted as the greatest Viking ship of modern times, the Draken launched its Expedition America 2016 earlier this summer, traveling across the Atlantic Ocean to recreate the Viking discovery of the New World more than 1000 years ago. As part of its 2016 voyage, it arrived in Chicago in time for the city's Tall Ships Challenge. Residents of The Danish Home had the chance to visit the ship at Navy Pier. Several weeks later, a professional photographer who covered the ship's visit for a Polish newspaper, shared his pictures at a presentation at The Danish Home.

Linda Steffensen, who is on the Danish Association board of directors and very active in the Scandinavian community said, "Something like this doesn't happen very often. A Viking ship coming over is a once in a lifetime experience."

Annual Benefit Brunch

On Sunday, September 18th, approximately 100 friends, family and supporters of The Danish Home came to our Annual Benefit Brunch, held at Drury Lane Theatre in Oak Brook. The event included a fabulous brunch, the presentation of the Essence Award, and a wonderful performance of the musical revue, "Smokey Joe's Café."

The Annual Benefit Brunch is our way of supporting current and future residents of The Danish Home, honoring and perpetuating Danish traditions and engaging the entire family in a celebration for our Scandinavian culture.

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.

The Essence Award

The Danish Home Foundation was pleased to honor three distinguished organizations with its 2016 Essence Award. The prestigious honors were presented at The Danish Home's Annual Benefit on September 18th at Drury Lane Theatre. The honorees were Dagmar Sisterhood Lodge No.4, Dania Society and Danish American Athletic Club (DAAC).



Dagmar Sisterhood Lodge No. 4



Essence Award recipients Dania Society (above) and DAAC (below)



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, 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.

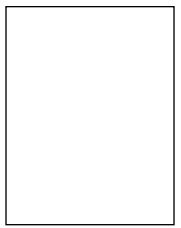
"The missions of the three organizations receiving the Essence Award, are directed at preserving Scandinavian heritage and culture and are thus, closely aligned with those of The Danish Home, and criteria for winning the Essence Award," said Scott Swanson. "As importantly, they are all involved extensively as volunteers for The Danish Home. They are our volunteers, supporters and benefactors."

"The three honorees exemplify all of the important attributes of the Essence Award. We are extremely blessed by our relationship with Dagmar Sisterhood Lodge No. 4, Dania Society and Danish American Athletic Club," said Scott.



The **Danish Home**
Foundation

5656 N. Newcastle Ave.
Chicago, IL 60631



Attend these *special* events:



**125th
KICK OFF CELEBRATION**
April 22, 2017, 11:30 a.m.
Renaissance Hotel Schaumburg

The Danish Home Auxiliary will honor our 12 founding women and the many achievements of Scandinavians at this luncheon event.



CUISINE & SPIRITS
August 10, 2017, 6:00 p.m.
The Danish Home of Chicago

Chef Stig Hansen will create some of Scandinavia's finest dishes and pair them with wine and beer to create a savory evening.

**TIVOLI GARDENS &
CASINO NIGHT**
June 24, 2017, Time TBA
The Danish Home of Chicago
Summerfest transforms to celebrate Tivoli Gardens featuring games, rides, live entertainment and more...



LILLEJULEAFTEN
An Enchanting Christmas
December 9, 2017, 5:00 p.m.
Hyatt McDonald's Campus

Young and old are welcome to this favorite Danish Home tradition of a magical "little" Christmas with gifts from Santa and carols around the tree.



Check out the *125th Anniversary Idea List* on our website for ways to help us celebrate our anniversary!

www.DanishHomeOfChicago.org