



MAY 2013

## E-News from The Danish Immigrant Museum

### What's Up at the Museum?

The weekend of April 13, Executive Director John Mark Nielsen traveled to Sheffield, Illinois, for a taping of the Danish genealogy documentary series **Ved du hvem du er?** (Who Do You Think You Are?). The Family History and Genealogy Center conducted research for the show that led the crew and its star to the United States to connect the genealogical dots. Nielsen will appear in the yet-to-be-scheduled episode on Danish television.

The Family History and Genealogy Center has been conducting **volunteer training** sessions to orient new volunteers and provide an opportunity for seasoned center volunteers to "brush-up" on their genealogical skills. Persons interested in volunteering with FHGC should contact librarian Michele McNabb at (712) 764-7008 or [librarian@danishmuseum.org](mailto:librarian@danishmuseum.org). FHGC staff and volunteers participated in the Greater Omaha Genealogical Society's spring workshop on April 27.

On Wednesday, April 17, Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish American Culture Tova Brandt and Museum Shop Manager Joni Soe-Butts were featured on a segment of KMTV 3's live program, **Omaha's Morning Blend**. With artifacts from the new exhibit *Danish Modern: Design for Living* and museum shop items in tow, the duo chatted with the hosts about the latest happenings at the museum in preparation for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual **Museum Shop Spring Open House**, held on April 20. The segment can be viewed on [KMTV's website](#). The open house was deemed successful with 100+ visitors enjoying free admission and an exhibit gallery talk.



Development Manager Deb Christensen Larsen and Danish Intern Jesper Jacobsen traveled south over the weekend of April 20 to meet with the Kansas City chapter of the **Danish Brotherhood**. Christensen Larsen gave a behind-the-scenes presentation on "A Day at the Museum." Christensen Larsen and Jacobsen were hosted by museum members Carla Hanson and Clif Hall. Christensen Larsen gave a similar presentation to the **Atlantic Friends of the Museum** on April 8.

On April 24, Nielsen and Christensen Larsen traveled to New Jersey to attend the **Rebild National Park Society**'s annual meeting. The society is named after a 200-acre park in Rebild, Denmark that was established in 1912 by Danish-Americans to have a place to annually celebrate America's Independence Day on July 4 with their Danish families and fellow immigrants. Later the Rebild organization donated the property to the State of Denmark, and it became Denmark's first National Park.

The museum building was freshened up in honor of **Earth Day** by Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton students. Around 10 students helped staff mulch and plant on the morning of April 24. In preparation for the busy summer months, including [Tivoli Fest](#) and the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Sankt Hans Aften celebration, the timbers of the museum will be receiving a new coat of stain soon. Exterior maintenance and preservation work is also being scheduled at Bedstemor's House.

## Brown Bag Lunch Series

Join us for Brown Bag Lunch programs – monthly public programs exploring topics related to Danish history and culture, museum activities, and the Elk Horn community. All programs begin at 12 noon and are FREE to the public, so grab your lunch and enjoy learning something new!

### Next program, May 9: "30 Years of The Danish Immigrant Museum"

John Mark Nielsen, the museum's executive director, was also on the founding board of the museum 30 years ago. He will lead a look back at the milestones in creating a museum that "celebrates Danish roots and America dreams."

### Upcoming programs:

June 20        Eric Smitsdorff, "Writer's Inc. – Facts & Fiction"

July 11        Jesper Jacobsen, intern from Denmark working at the Family History & Genealogy Center

August 15      Christina Roelofs, Shelby County Naturalist

### Catalog available in May – pre-order now for a discounted price!

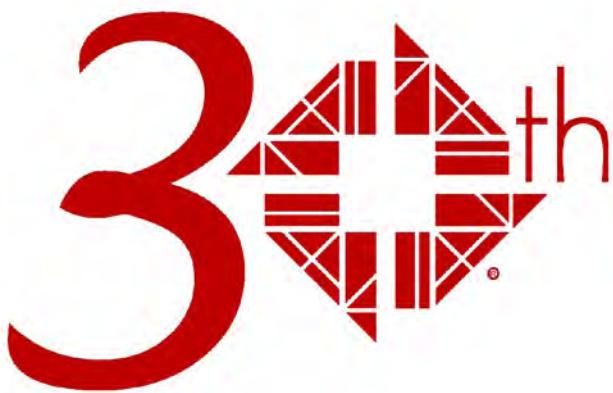
The new exhibition *Danish Modern: Design for Living* is attracting audiences from near and far. A catalog for the exhibition will be available soon, full of color photographs and essays that capture the beauty and creativity of the Danish Modern period.

Once printed, the catalog will be available for \$15 – but you can pre-order NOW for a special price of \$13 plus free shipping!

Page 7 of this edition is an order form. All pre-orders must be received by May 20. Contact [Tova Brandt](#) with questions about the exhibition or the catalog.



### Reserve the Date: June 22, 2013



The Danish Immigrant Museum will mark its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a casual tent banquet on the east lawn of the museum, reminiscent of tent luncheons held at the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations in Rebild, Denmark. The event will be held on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> with doors opening at 4:30 p.m. and the program commencing at 5:00. A casual summer meal will be served. Immediately following the banquet will be the annual Sankt Hans Aften celebration with cake and ice cream, entertainment and a bonfire!

Dignitaries on the program include Governor Terry Branstad (invited) and Ambassador Peter Taksøe-Jensen (invited). *Danish Modern* exhibition consultant and catalog essayist Mark Mussari will be leading a presentation in the afternoon. We will be entertained by the Danish Troubadour Flemming Behrends of Olympia, Washington, Glenn Henriksen of Armstrong, Iowa, and Danish folk dancers from the Danish Villages.

*Invitations will be mailed to museum members soon....watch for yours!*

Interns [Natalie](#) and [Jesper](#) were recently interviewed by KJAN radio. Click on their names to listen!

## Outdoor Exhibit Construction Continues

Construction on a new outdoor exhibit area for the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park began April 3. Located along the walking path on the museum grounds, the exhibit area is a pergola that will host interpretive panels about Jens Jensen's life and career as a landscape architect. More panels and outdoor fitness equipment will be installed this summer. Watch for photos of the progress on our [Facebook page](#).

## Victor Borge Legacy Award Recital

The Danish Immigrant Museum hosted the 2013 Victor Borge Legacy Award Recital featuring four young pianists and a full audience on Sunday, April 21. The performers were all winners of the award competition and played memorized piano solo repertoire on Borge's first piano, part of the collection of the museum.

Award winners were selected through two competitions in conjunction with the South West Iowa Music Teachers Association and the Omaha Music Teachers Association. First and second place winners received awards of \$1,000 and \$500 respectively. In addition, winners submitted a 500-word essay about the legacy of Borge that was judged for an additional \$500 cash prize. Awards were made directly to the students with the hope that it will be used for ongoing musical study. The contest is sponsored by R. James and Janet Borge Crowle (Borge's daughter) of Saint Michaels, Maryland, and by the Eric and Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust in Crystal Lake, Illinois.

The young women performing at the recital included  
1<sup>st</sup> place, Omaha region: Ye (Cassie) Huang of Omaha  
1<sup>st</sup> place, Southwest Iowa region and winner of the essay competition: Mallory Huggins of Council Bluffs, IA  
2<sup>nd</sup> place, Omaha region: Gelilah Johannes of Omaha  
2<sup>nd</sup> place, Southwest Iowa region: Katie Payne of Woodbine, IA



Recital attendees were among the first to view a new touch-screen kiosk that has been installed near Borge's restored piano. The kiosk includes video clips from Borge's appearances on television and serves as an effective tool to celebrate the legacy of the Danish immigrant pianist and comedian. The interactive display was made possible by museum donors Rand and Mary Louise Petersen of Harlan, Iowa.

Huggins wrote in her winning essay, "Music and humor really joined forces to earn Victor Borge the moniker 'Clown Prince of Classical Music' because he didn't sacrifice either in his performances. Nearly every sentence he speaks is a joke and his actions complement his words to make comedic gold."

The museum has a traveling exhibit about Borge that is loaned to various organizations several times per year. The recital is the third for the contest, in its second year.

**The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams.**

Your membership support makes possible the museum's many activities.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about membership [benefits](#). Join for as little as **\$30/year!**

# Family History and Genealogy Center Notes

Now on summer hours at our location on 4210 Main Street! Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm; Saturday, 10:00am – 5:00pm. Admission is free for museum members, \$5 non-members. Visitors are always welcome, but if you wish research assistance we strongly urge you to make an appointment via [genealogy@danishmuseum.org](mailto:genealogy@danishmuseum.org) or call 712.764.7008.

## Summer Gifts for “Tree-Climbers”

The museum shop and FHGC have a number of new books and other items for sale of interest to individuals researching their ancestors, planning a family reunion, or looking for that special gift for a child. These include the following:



**Repro. 1898 Map of Denmark (11"x14"), \$10.75**

**Cite Your Sources sticky notes, \$5.50**

**Bib - “I'm the newest sprout on our family tree” \$10**

**Growth chart with family tree, \$13.95**

### Not pictured:

*Give Your Family a Gift that Money Can't Buy* (5<sup>th</sup> edition); “Our Family Tree” posters with blanks for four Generations; “Danish Roots – American Branches” t-shirts (S, M and 2X only); “Danish Roots – American Branches” bumper stickers

## Museum Volunteers Honored at Banquet

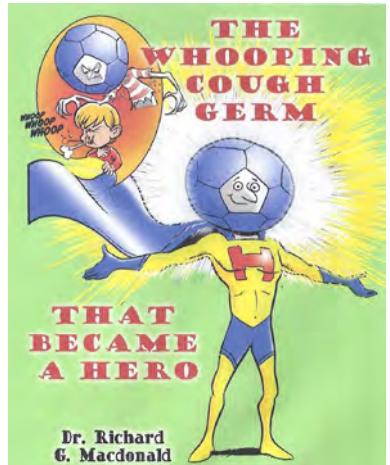
According to the American Alliance of Museums, over one million hours are given each week by volunteers in museums across the country. Did you also know that we have the BEST volunteers ever? The museum’s annual volunteer banquet was held at The Danish Inn on Monday, April 29 to honor those who give their time to further the mission of the museum and community. Around 80 volunteers and staff were in attendance at the banquet. John Mark presented a program about the museum including the unveiling of new signage and other additions to the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park and museum expansion plans.



Awards were presented to volunteers reaching significant milestones including: Mardell Walter, **100 hours**; Marilyn Andersen, Joyce Christensen, Virgil Christensen, Marj & Chet Holland, **250 hours**; Elinor Olsen, **500 hours**; Earl Madsen, Suzanne Rasmussen, **750 hours**; Jo Avey, Karma Sorensen, **1,000 hours!**

## Tivoli Fest Activities at the FHGC

FHGC Tivoli Fest hours are 9am-5pm on Saturday. Take a virtual tour of Denmark at one of our computer stations, get information about how to research your Danish family; view our summer photo exhibit "Coming of Age in Denmark and the US"; or get a signed copy of Dr. Richard G. Macdonald's children's book, *The Whooping Cough Germ that Became a Hero*, which tells the story of how the author's parents, Dr. Hugh and Edith Jersild Macdonald, adapted the version of the whooping cough vaccine originally developed in Denmark and then tested it on their own four children in 1933.



## LEGO – Designs adults will LOVE!

Our new LEGO line in the Museum Shop takes the LEGO experience a step further with products that make storage and organizing as well as school lunches, picnics and family outings part of the LEGO adventure. Made first and foremost with children in mind, the LEGO range is sure to please parents as well as any Adults with a soft spot for the LEGO world. **Members, don't forget about your [Museum Shop discount!](#)**  
**Call the Museum Shop to inquire: (800) 759-9192.**



**Storage Bricks** - Keeping your kids' rooms reasonably tidy doesn't have to be a hassle anymore. The LEGO brick system makes it easy and fun for the kids to tidy up. The oversized LEGO bricks are designed to stack, just like the original LEGO bricks. Use them to decorate, play, build and have fun or keep your toys sorted using them as storage boxes. The LEGO Storage Bricks come in a range of colors that appeal to both boys, girls and adults.

**Lunch** - The LEGO Lunch system consists of a lunch box, designed as an oversized LEGO brick, with smaller insertable boxes for little snacks and treats, keeping your child's favorite foods separated – no more soggy Sandwiches. A drinking bottle, with the iconic LEGO minifigure head as a lid, completes the system. The bottom of the bottle can be unscrewed for easy cleaning, making it easy to keep it free of bacteria and healthy for your children to use.

**Storage Heads** - Use the enlarged LEGO Minifigure head for storage and enjoy having this big icon in the room. The Storage Head can be used for storing LEGO bricks or other toys or you can even use it as a fruit Bowl.

## Conference Registration Open

The Danish-American Heritage Society's upcoming conference, Innovation: The Danish Way will take place at the downtown Des Moines Embassy Suites October 10-12 featuring international presenters, a variety of session topics and fun activities around the area! [Register now!](#)

## Museum Calendar, May-July

- May 9 Brown Bag Lunch Program, "30 Years at The Danish Immigrant Museum"
- May 25-26 [Tivoli Fest](#) in the Danish Villages
- May 25 [Bedstemor's House](#) opens for summer tours, 1 to 4 pm daily through Labor Day
- May 27 Memorial Day – Museum open holiday hours, 12 noon to 5pm
- June 20 Brown Bag Lunch, "Writer's Inc. – Facts & Fiction"
- June 22 Gala celebration of the museum's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Sankt Hans Aften
- July 4 Independence Day – Museum open holiday hours, 12 noon to 5pm
- July 11 Brown Bag Lunch, Jesper Jacobsen
- July 14 The Ringsted Boys Danish gymnastics team performance

## Other Upcoming Danish-American and Danish Events

- May 18 121<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebration [Danish Brotherhood](#) Kenosha, Wisconsin
- June 2 Grundlovsfest (Danish Constitution Day) in La Habra Heights, CA by the Danish National Committee of Southern California. [More info e-mail Kent Hanson](#)
- June 2 Danish Day at the Danish American Center, Minneapolis
- June 2 Grundlovsdag Festival at [The Danish Home](#), Croton-on-Hudson, NY
- June 9 Danish Sisterhood Birdshoot, St. Charles, IL. [More information e-mail Bente Rasmussen](#)
- June 22 Scandinavian Park's [Midsommar](#) Celebration, Vasa Park, South Elgin, IL
- June 23 Summerfest Picnic at [The Danish Home](#), Chicago



**Pre-order NOW** your copy of the exhibition catalog



**ORDER NOW to receive a discounted price  
AND free shipping!**

Retail price = \$15 per copy

**Pre-order by May 20 = \$13 per copy  
AND free shipping\***

The exhibition catalog will be printed by mid-May  
and pre-ordered copies will be shipped by the end of May.

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Complete form and return to

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Questions? Contact Tova Brandt at 712-764-7001, [dkcur@metc.net](mailto:dkcur@metc.net)

\*Member discounts do not apply to pre-orders. Free shipping to US addresses only.