This year I am writing to you with a renewed sense of vitality at the Museum of Danish America. Like most of you, over the years I have held a number of nonprofit and for-profit positions. Each has had its setbacks and victories. MoDA is no different.

As 2019 was drawing to a close, the museum experienced a setback when Jakob Holm, our long-awaited new Executive Director withdrew his acceptance of the position. Tova Brandt, the Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish American Culture had been carrying the dual role of curator and interim director since February. Tova excelled in this role, performing the tasks of two high-profile positions. The staff, the board, and our members were expecting Tova to return to the single role of curator once our new director was onsite.

Museum directors often come up through the ranks of registrars and curators. An artistic executive director needs to be able to understand and articulate a curatorial vision of the museum and simultaneously secure funding on faith and through action. As circumstances unfolded, Tova developed into an admirable fit. Her new appointment as MoDA’s permanent executive director exemplifies her competence. The board and staff have the utmost belief in her abilities. We are delighted with this development.

When I joined the museum board five years ago, the National Endowment for the Arts, in a published report, noted that the only age group which saw a marked increase in museum visits were those age 75 and older. This had to change. Recent studies authored by the NEA now show adult visits to museums have significantly increased among those aged 18-24 and 35-54. Our museum demonstrates new activities, programs, and engaging exhibitions. 2019 saw the opening of the museum’s most extensive exhibition to-date – New Nordic Cuisine. It opened during the annual Sankt Hans Aften Celebration at the museum in June. Currently it is on display in Philadelphia and travels to Minneapolis later in 2020. To engage new audiences and foster repeat viewing, the exhibition is complemented by YouTube videos featuring recipes, interviews, and culinary tours.

How we engage, enlighten, and educate in the coming years will be guided by a Strategic Plan that continues to evolve. An updated Mission Statement, Values, and Vision were approved in October. The plan’s duration was revised to a three-year focus for the years 2021-2023, as we seek a better analysis of current projects and projected goals.

The museum’s connection and preservation of the past remains steadfast. The Danish Sisterhood of America held their National Convention in nearby Omaha in October. One hundred attendees visited the museum to see first-hand the cataloging of the Sisterhood archives now in the museum’s care. It was a pleasurable time for the board and the Sisters to get acquainted and share in our joint appreciation of the museum.

It is our proud heritage that gives us confidence in the museum’s future. We are committed to innovating and refreshing the museum framework in many forms while preserving the history of the Danish-American experience. Onsite exhibits with diverse appeal, traveling exhibitions, YouTube videos, online archival searches of the collection, genealogy research, and special programs demonstrate this commitment. Please share what you enjoy about MoDA with someone new. The sustainable value of our museum relies upon your continued involvement in whichever way you “visit” or engage with the Museum of Danish America.
board of directors

The 2019-2020 Board of Directors is a special group of men and women who have unselfishly dedicated themselves to the preservation of their Danish American heritage and the mission of the museum. They join an elite group of individuals who, over the past 36 years, have worked to build and maintain a museum of which all Danes, Danish Americans, and the American public can be proud.

Participating at their own expense, board members come together three times a year to share their skills and experience in providing oversight to the administration of the museum and to develop ideas and plans that will contribute to its continuing vitality. It is the practice of the board to meet each February and June in different locations around the United States, so that they may share and celebrate heritage and culture with those Danish Americans who may not otherwise be able to link directly with the museum. In 2019, the board held its February meeting in Houston, Texas, and its June meeting in Denver, Colorado, with election of new board members. In October the museum’s annual meeting was held in Elk Horn with new board members assuming their office; outgoing members present and participating.

Without the dedication, energy, and support of a strong, team-oriented board of directors, the museum staff would not be able to work effectively in managing the day-to-day operations of the Museum of Danish America.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SERVING IN 2019

Carol Bassoni, Gilroy, CA
Bruce Bro, Carefree, AZ
Beth Bro-Roof, Cedar Rapids, IA
Bente Ellis, San Jose, CA
David Esbeck, San Diego, CA
Dennis Gray, Winston-Salem, NC
Peder Hansen, Omaha, NE
Connie Hanson, Glendora, CA
David Hendee, Northfield, MN
Gerry Henningensen, Monument, CO
Glenn Henriksen, Armstrong, IA
Daniel Jensen, Columbus, OH
Marnie Jensen, Nebraska City, NE
Elly Jorgensen, Prairie Village, KS
Merlyn Knudsen, Elk Horn, IA
Chris Koford, West Branch, IA
Carolyn Larson, St. Paul, MN
Lars Matthiesen, Edmonds, WA
Toni McLeod, Mesa, AZ
Craig Molgaard, Little Rock, AR
Hon. Consul Karen Nielsen, Overland, KS
Mike Nielsen, Altoona, IA
Eric Olesen, Racine, WI
Randy Ruggaard, Hudson, OH
Anders Sand, Kansas City, MO
Carl Steffensen, Houston, TX
Karen Suchomel, West Branch, IA
Carol SVendsen, Denver, CO
Pete West, Denver, CO

EX-OFFICIO

Nils Jensen, Portland, OR
Dennis Larson, Decorah, IA
Dr. John Mark Nielsen, Blair, NE, Executive Director Emeritus
Kai E. Nyby, Fountain Hills, AZ
Tova Brandt, Decorah, IA, Interim Executive Director
MISSION STATEMENT
The Museum of Danish America explores the Danish-American experience, the historic and modern influences of Denmark on the United States, and the continuing story of how a nation of immigrants shape American identity.

VISION
- To be the foremost Danish-American museum and cultural center in the nation.
- To be a model for ethnic heritage museums in how to remain relevant in a changing world.
- To be a showplace for Danish innovation and its importance to American progress.
- To be engaging and relevant to people both with and without Danish ancestry.
- To help visitors connect past Danish immigrants’ experience with the experience of today’s Danish and non-Danish immigrants to the United States.

VALUES
We are:

Inspirational: We honor the contributions of Danish-Americans to the complex fabric of American history and culture.

Innovative: We present visitors with experiences that challenge and enlighten. We experiment with new ways of engaging audiences locally, regionally, and nationally.

Authentic: Using primary sources, we tell the story of Danish immigration in all its complexity, including success and failure, accomplishment and discouragement, longing for what was left behind and hope for a new life.

Visitor-centered: We educate and entertain visitors of all backgrounds and engage them in a dialogue about American identity through the lens of the Danish immigrant experience and the influences of modern Danish society and culture.

Promoting tolerance and respect: We build appreciation for the United States as a nation of immigrants, past and present.

Focused on preservation: We collect and preserve artifacts, documents, and stories for current and future education and scholarship.

Stewards: We focus on responsible management of human, financial, and facility resources, sustaining the museum and its mission for future generations.

Mission, vision, and values statements adopted October 24, 2019.
staff & interns

Interim Executive Director  
Tova Brandt, M.A.

Executive Director Emeritus  
John Mark Nielsen, Ph.D.

Administrative Manager  
Terri Johnson

Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American Culture  
Tova Brandt, M.A.

Curator of Collections & Registrar  
Angela Stanford, M.A.

Archival Collections Manager  
Cheyenne Jansdatter, M.A.

Genealogy Center Manager  
Kara McKeever, M.F.A.  
Amanda Skellenger, M.A., M.L.I.S.

Development Manager  
Deb Christensen Larsen

Communications Specialist  
Nicky Christensen, B.S.

Design Store Manager  
Nan Dreher

Accounting Manager  
Jennifer Winters

Building & Grounds Manager  
Tim Fredericksen

Administrative Assistant  
Terri Amaral

Genealogy Researcher  
Wanda Sornson, M.S.

Weekend Staff  
Terri Amaral  
Jan Greving  
Rochelle Bruns  
Beth Rasmussen  
Rodger Rasmussen

Bedstemor’s House Staff  
Justice Doherty  
Haley Harris  
Trudy Juelsgaard  
Kealey Nelson

Danish Intern  
Kristine Bruun, B.A., University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark  
(Communications)  
Internships for Danes are funded through a generous grant from Scan|Design Foundation, Seattle, WA

American Interns  
Hannah Bernhard, B.S., Loras College, Dubuque, IA (Collections)  
Internship funded by the Danish Club of Tucson, AZ  
Emily Cannon, B.S., University of Washington, Seattle, WA (Collections)  
Internship funded by the Danish Club of Tucson, AZ  
Kiara Rodriguez, B.S., University of Nebraska at Omaha, (Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park)  
Kelsey Wilcoxson, B.S. & M.L.I.S., Dominican University, River Forest, IL (Archival & Special Collections)  
Internship funded by Diane Skov, Lacey, WA
City and state indicate where board members resided at the time of their service; the 13 original board members are in bold print; members that are deceased are indicated with asterisks*. Every effort has been made to ensure that all the following information is accurate. Please contact Administrative Manager Terri Johnson with any questions or corrections.

Cindy Larsen Adams, Littleton, CO 2012-2018
Birgit Andersen, Ithaca, NY 2002-2005
Dennis J. Andersen, Atlanta, GA 1999-2002 & 2007-2013, Secretary
Ed Andersen, Rochester, MN 1990-1996, Vice President & President
Erik Andersen, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 2011-2014
Judy Andersen*, Los Angles, CA 1986-1989
Ragna Bak, Alexandria, VA 1997
Norman Bansen*, Blair, NE 1983-1989
Harold Berg, Ogden, IA 1996-2002
Cora Fagre*, Loveland, CO 1985-1991
Dorothy Stadsvold Feisel, St. Michaels, MD 2012-2018
Lisa Frederiksen, Washington, DC 2001-2003
Mark Frederiksen, Falcon, CO 2006-2012, President
Marilyn Andersen Gift, Des Moines, IA 1995-2001, Secretary
Kenneth Gregersen, Ankeny, IA 2006-2008
Howard Hansen* 1988-1988
Janell Hansen, Elk Horn, IA 2007-2009
Kurt Hansen, Rosemount, MN 2008-2014
Mia Hansen, Tucson, AZ 2008-2010
Stewart Hansen, W. Des Moines, IA 2011-2013
Thomas Hansen, Blair, NE 2003-2005
Thorvald Hansen*, Des Moines, IA 1983-1988
Ernst Harboe*, Northfield, IL 1991-1994
Otto Hoiberg*, Lincoln, NE 1983-1987
Anna Thomsen Holliday, Houston, TX 2008-2010 & 2012-2018
Gail G. Holmes*, Omaha, NE 1983-1987, Secretary
William Holmquist, Long Lake, MN 2000-2003
Henrik Holmskov, Brookfield, WI 1993-1995
Vern E. Hunter, Fargo, ND, 1999-2005, President
Joy M. Ibsen, Trout Creek, MI, 1999-2005, President
Robert E. Ibsen, Kenosha, WI 1990-1991
James Iversen, Ames, IA 1985-1991, President
Ellen Westergaard Jackson*, Whiting, IA 1999-2002
Kenneth Jacobsen, Seattle, WA 2011-2013
Bill Jensen*, Urbandale, IA 2013-2014
Bridget Jensen, Houston, TX 2005-2008
Erna Jensen, Des Moines, IA 2003-2009
Harold R. Jensen*, St. Paul, MN 1983-1990, Vice President
Harold M. Jensen, Ames, IA 2002-2008
Lee Jensen, Pleasant Grove, UT 2000-2003

former board members

Victor Christensen*, Washington, DC 1983-
Marie Meilandt Dahlman*, Loma Rica, CA 1998-
Ane-Grete Delaney, Wayzata, MN 2006-2012
Pam Doreau*, Palm Coast, FL 1985-1989
Anne-Marie Douglas, Chicago, IL 1999-2005
Diane Doyle, Palm Coast, FL 1983-1985
Jan Eakins, Des Moines, IA 2003-2004
Bente Ellis, San Jose, CA 2013-2019
Nick Ericksen, Omaha, NE 1991-1997
Gordon R. Esbeck, Tipton, IA 2001-2007
Cora Fagre*, Loveland, CO 1985-1991
Dorothy Stadsvold Feisel, St. Michaels, MD 2012-2018
Lisa Frederiksen, Washington, DC 2001-2003
Mark Frederiksen, Falcon, CO 2006-2012, President
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Ernst Harboe*, Northfield, IL 1991-1994
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William Holmquist, Long Lake, MN 2000-2003
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Bill Jensen*, Urbandale, IA 2013-2014
Bridget Jensen, Houston, TX 2005-2008
Erna Jensen, Des Moines, IA 2003-2009
Harold R. Jensen*, St. Paul, MN 1983-1990, Vice President
Harold M. Jensen, Ames, IA 2002-2008
Lee Jensen, Pleasant Grove, UT 2000-2003
Nils Jensen, Portland, OR 2001-2004
Roland Jensen*, Des Moines, IA 1985-1993
Tor Jensen, Willimette, IL 1992-1995
Torben Jeppesen, Odense, Denmark 1998-2003
Kristi Planck Johnson, Bethesda, MD 2009-2015
Margaret Johnson*, Santa Clara, CA 2000-2003
Carol Jorgensen*, Dike, IA 1996-2002
Julie Jorgensen, Wayzata, MN 2002-2007, Secretary
Lis Jorgensen, Gilroy, CA 1990-1998
Howard Juel*, Kimballton, IA 1983-1987
Orville Juhler*, Harlan, IA 2002-2005
Katrine Vange Keller, Wilmette, IL 1995-1998, Secretary
Peter G. Kelly, Glastonbury, CT 1998-?
Peder Kirkegaard*, Lake Geneva, WI 2006-2007
Svend Koch*, Cedar Falls, IA 1993-1999
Lowell Kramme, Des Moines, IA 1993-1999
Garey Knudsen, Hutchinson, MN 2012-2018, Vice President, President
Hugh Larsen*, Ontario, Canada 1985-1986
Kenneth Larsen, Calistoga, CA 2009-2015, Treasurer
Kurt Klarskov Larsen*, Oneonta, AL 2003-2009
Carolyn Larson, St. Paul, MN 2013-2019, Secretary
Dennis Larson, Decorah, IA 1985-Ex-officio
Bent Lerno*, Simi Valley, CA 1995-2001
Eivind Lillehoj*, Kimbalton, IA 1995-2000
Steven Lund, Yuma, AZ 2008-2011
Marion Marzolf, Ann Arbor, MI 1985-1987
Clark Mathisen*, Omaha, NE 1999-2005 & 2009-2011, Treasurer
Cynthia McKeen, St. Paul, MN 2008-2014
Carol Mills, Dubuque, IA 2009-2012
Craig Molgaard, Little Rock, AR 2013-2019
Dagmar Muthamia, Long Beach, CA 2002-2008 & 2012-2018, Secretary & President
Norma Lange Nelson*, Elk Horn, IA 1996-2002
Clayton Nielsen*, Racine, WI 1991-?
Peter Nielsen, Naples, FL 2015-2016
Ruth Herman Nielsen*, Omaha, NE 1992-1998, Secretary
Virginia Nielsen*, Elk Horn, IA 1989-1995
Brent Norlem, Monticello, MN 2013-2016
Kay Esbeck North*, Ames, IA 2007-2012, Vice President
Mark Nussle, Palos Park, IL 2005-2011, Vice President
Kai Nyby*, LaPorte, IN 2001-2007, President
Benedikte Ehlers Olesen, Eugene, OR 2004-2012
Erik Olsen, Mesa, AZ 1995-1999
Marian “Mittie” Ostergaard, Mission Viejo, CA 2010-2016
Tom Paulsen*, Bellevue, WA 1994-2000
Curt Pedersen, Tucson, AZ 2001-2005
Edwin Pedersen*, Luck, WI 1993-1996
Jesper Packert Pedersen, Washington, DC 2011
Leroy Pedersen*, Elk Horn, IA 1993-1999
H. Rand Petersen, Harlan, IA 1985-1991
Marc Petersen, Omaha, NE 2003-2009, President
Peter Petersen, Canyon, TX 1985-1993, Secretary
Melvin Pihl*, Canby, OR 1987-1993
Henrik Fogh Rasmussen, Springfield, IL 2010-2015
Lynette Skow Rasmussen, Johnston, IA 2006-2012
Lisa Riggs, Elk Horn, IA 1983-1990, Treasurer
Eva Robinson, Butler, PA 2008-2010
Tom Rosen, Fairmont, MN 1998-2001
Anelise Sawkins, Minneapolis, MN 2002-2008
Jerry Schrader, Elk Horn, IA 2011-2017
Rose Grindheim Sims, Ridge Manor, FL 1997-1999
Linda Sloth-Gibbs, Yuma, AZ 2003-2009
Flemming “Eric” Smitsdorff, Racine, WI 2010-2015, Secretary
Ole Sønnichsen, Bjert, Denmark 2015-2018
Bob Sorensen* 1987-?
Howard Sorensen, Elk Horn, IA 1990-1996
Harriet Albertsen Spanel*, Bellingham, WA 2005-2011, President
Chris Steffensen*, Hoffman Estates, IL 1985-?
Linda Steffensen, Hoffman Estates, IL 2012-2018
Poul Steffensen*, Omaha, NE 1986-?
Mark Strandskov, Mt. Pleasant, MI 2009-2015
Helen Stub, Minneapolis, MN, 1991-2000, Secretary
Janet Thuesen, Sausalito, CA 1996-2002 & 2006-2012, Vice President
Swend Toftemark, Eugene, OR 1994-2000
Robert J. Wallace*, Kansas City, MO 1988-1992
Daniel Warren, Fairmont, MN 2015-2016
Donald Watkins*, Lawrence, KS 1983-1987
Wilber Williamson*, Des Moines, IA 1988-1995
Lorraine Mattson Zembinski, Elm Grove, WI 1993-1994
THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA

Condensed Financial Statements
Years Ended August 31, 2019 and 2018

Condensed Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Investments</td>
<td>5,878,221</td>
<td>5,640,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>85,544</td>
<td>79,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and Equipment (Net)</td>
<td>4,599,445</td>
<td>4,539,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>10,563,210</td>
<td>10,259,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Payroll Taxes</td>
<td>2,552</td>
<td>14,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lines of Credit</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>2,552</td>
<td>114,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>10,560,658</td>
<td>10,145,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>10,563,210</td>
<td>10,259,972</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Condensed Statement of Revenue and Support, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis for Years ended August 31,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and Support</td>
<td>1,530,447</td>
<td>861,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions and Program Fees</td>
<td>15,780</td>
<td>17,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift Shop Revenue (Net)</td>
<td>59,149</td>
<td>52,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment and Other Income</td>
<td>190,250</td>
<td>529,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td>1,795,626</td>
<td>1,461,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>903,298</td>
<td>884,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Activities</td>
<td>477,361</td>
<td>475,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>1,380,659</td>
<td>1,360,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>414,967</td>
<td>100,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets - Beginning of Year</strong></td>
<td>10,145,691</td>
<td>10,044,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets - End of Year</strong></td>
<td>10,560,658</td>
<td>10,145,691</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
endowment

The Museum of Danish America’s endowments provide the opportunity for members to perpetuate their contributions and, at the same time, help guarantee the museum’s long-term financial stability. Current market value as of December 31, 2019, was $4,988,223.87.

bequests

In 2019 the museum received $902,421.82 in bequests, $5,630.66 (less than 1%) has been invested in the museum’s endowment funds, with the balance $896,791.16 (99%) used or reserved for operations, special projects, and programming immediately or in the future.

The Museum of Danish America gratefully acknowledges the following estates, trusts, and individuals:

Anonymous
Rita Neergaard Hansen, Kenosha, WI
Ingrid Kirkegaard Trust, Lake Geneva, WI
Gladys McCrory, Atlantic, IA
This past year at the Museum of Danish America was marked by challenges, opportunities, and achievements. While 2019 was challenged by transitions in staff leadership, our museum continued to meet ambitious goals in outreach, programs, and serving our national audience. Mange tak to you, our members, supporters, and volunteers, for making all of these achievements possible!

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

- The museum has active members in all 50 states! Plus the District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, and six countries: Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Norway & Bangladesh
- The major “New Nordic Cuisine” traveling exhibition opened with a festival of local food in June, kicking off a three-year national tour
- To accompany the exhibition, the museum launched a new “Nordic Cuisine” channel on YouTube to share food stories, recipe demonstrations, and restaurant tours with viewers all over the world
- The museum adopted new Mission, Values, and Vision statements to define our purpose and our direction in the coming years
- The Ingrid Kirkegaard Trust became the third largest bequest in our museum’s history, enabling us to pay off all debt and establish an operating cash reserve
- We held our first online auction through the platform Bidding For Good, raising over $10,000 for “New Nordic Cuisine”
- We celebrated the 800th birthday of Dannebrog, the Danish flag, with an exhibition that appeared in several states throughout the year
- The museum welcomed the national convention of the Danish Sisterhood, and launched a grant-funded project to organize the Sisterhood archives
- Five interns from both Denmark and the United States contributed to Collections, Communications, Archives, and the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park
volunteers

In 2019, volunteers at both the museum and Genealogy Center contributed a total of 2,737 hours. We had three fewer volunteers, but the time they donated increased over 200 hours from the previous year! Our volunteers help with genealogy research, translations, assisting museum staff by greeting visitors at the front desk, pricing merchandise for the Design Store, helping to set up, serve, and clean up at a number of museum events, data entry, mailings, and working in the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park. Staff could not do what we do on a daily basis without assistance from our devoted volunteers. Every hour of time given is deeply appreciated.

The following are volunteers for whom we have documented hours in 2019.

**MUSEUM**
- Annette Andersen
- Marilyn Andersen
- Rosalie Andersen
- Rosa Clemensen
- Andrea Hansen
- Peggy Hansen
- Jeanette Lillehoj*
- Steve & Dianne Lawson
- Dawn Nielsen
- John Mark Nielsen
- Nancy Sand
- Howard Sorensen
- Adrienne Spyridakos

**GENEALOGY CENTER**
- Virginia Conklin
- Peter Dam-Heim
- June Haas
- Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt
- Jeanette Knudsen
- Michele McNabb
- Erik Høgsbro Østergaard
- Suzanne Rasmussen
- Nancy Sand
- Charlotte Sorensen
- Karma Sorensen
- Gayle Stuart
- Donna Christensen Thomas

*Jeanette passed away December 23, 2019. She was our Thursday front desk volunteer and has been greatly missed.

We also want to recognize members of the Atlantic Chapter of the Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum who have been long-time supporters and donors. The organization provides us with delicious cookies to serve at our annual celebrations of Tivoli Fest, held the weekend preceding Memorial Day, and Julefest, held the weekend following Thanksgiving Day.

Its members include Harvey Andersen, Ramona Andersen, Marty & Connie Boose, Janet Bornholdt, Jack & Eileen Denne, Clayton Ellingson, Dean & Verna Esbeck, Ileen Furne, Marcella Gaines, Phyllis Hoegh, Chet & Marj Holland, Nadine Jacobsen, Doris Jensen, Merlin & Sonya Mikkelsen, Beverly Nelson, Dale & Linda Nelson, Delores Nelson, Bob & Frances Nelson, Clara Pedersen, Darrell & Bertha Schroeter, and Nadine Williamson according to the most recent roster of record. Staff member Deb Christensen Larsen represents the museum.
exhibitions

Nearly every exhibition featured at the museum in 2019 is the result of partnership. Our museum thrives when we can work with peer museums, cultural organizations, and supportive individuals all over the country.

In the spring we partnered with the Jason Jacques Gallery in New York City to feature two contemporary Danish ceramic artists, both represented by the gallery. Michael Geertsen and Morten Løbner Espersen share a whimsical, creative approach to traditional ceramic vessels. Though they work independently of each other, their work shares a willingness to push the boundaries of their medium. This exhibition brought cutting-edge contemporary art to our region, inspiring school children and tourists alike.

In celebration of the 800th birthday of the Danish flag, Dannebrog, in June, the museum reached out to our friends on Facebook to invite photos and stories of how individuals use the flag in their private lives. The resulting photo slideshow accompanied our exhibition about the history of the flag, a story best told in partnership with Danes and Danish Americans.

Jacob Riis: How the Other Half Lives is a traveling exhibition produced by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Our museum was one of several host venues to share the story of Riis, the Danish immigrant who was a pioneer of photojournalism and an advocate for progressive social reform.

The largest partnership in the past year was the team that brought New Nordic Cuisine into being. Our museum staff, design consultants, fabricators, media producers, and the many sponsors of the project were all invaluable to the successful opening of this major exhibition. As it travels around the country in the next few years, our entire museum community can take pride in the results.

All exhibitions are a product of collaboration, some more obviously than others. We are grateful to the community of peers and supporters that support our program of vibrant and diverse exhibition experiences.

ON-SITE GALLERY EXHIBITIONS IN 2019

Balancing Act – Peter Fuhl
June 23, 2018 – March 17, 2019

Dannebrog, October 1943: Occupation and Resistance
September 29, 2018 – March 24, 2019

Dannebrog 800
January 2019 – February 2020

Vessel: Ceramic Art by Michael Geertsen and Morten Løbner Espersen
March 22 – September 2, 2019

Jacob Riis: How the Other Half Lives
April 6 – May 27, 2019

New Nordic Cuisine
June 22, 2019 – January 5, 2020

Kings, Queens, and Commoners
September 21, 2019 – May 31, 2020
TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS IN 2019

Danish Gymnastics in America
Danish Heritage Preservation Society, Danevang, Texas
The Danish Home, Chicago, Illinois

Dannebrog 800
The Danish Home, Croton-on-Hudson, New York
Danish American Cultural Retreat, Menucha, Oregon
Northwest Danish Association, Seattle, Washington
Heartland District Convention, Des Moines, Iowa

Denmark – America’s Smallest and Biggest Ally
Luck Historical Museum, Luck, Wisconsin

Hygge
Nordia House, Portland, Oregon
Danebod Folk School, Tyler, Minnesota
Lincoln Public Library, Lincoln, Nebraska
Franklin Public Library, Des Moines, Iowa

Jens Jensen: Celebrating the Native Prairie
Wallace Centers of Iowa, Greenfield, Iowa
Dane Hall, Waupaca, Wisconsin

Schleswig-Holstein: Turmoil on the Danish-German Border
Hjemkomst Heritage Center, Moorhead, Minnesota

Skäl! Scandinavian Spirits
City of Greeley Museums, Greeley, Colorado
American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sport for Sports’ Sake
Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, Omaha, Nebraska
Once again, our donors have been generous. In 2019, the museum accepted almost 200 new artifacts for the collections. A few of the highlights are a large felt banner used by the Danish American Athletic Club in Chicago from the 1960s to the 1980s, a medal issued by the Pennsylvania Railroad in recognition to a first-generation Danish American who served in World War I, quilts made by a talented Danish fabric artist who immigrated to Arizona, and a set of cycling clothes that a Danish rider used as he rode across the United States in 2016. Photographs, wedding dresses, household items, and Danish Sisterhood of America pieces are among the dozens of new collections now entrusted to the museum. Thank you for your continued and kind support.

**ARTIFACT DONORS**

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The purpose of our museum, among other things, is to tell the continuing story of the Danish immigrant experience and influence. As a way of paying tribute, the Wall of Honor was established, listing the name of the immigrant, year of entering the United States, and primary place of settlement. Their stories and family histories, if available, are part of a growing repository connected with the Museum of Danish America’s Genealogy Center. Listed below are the names of the immigrants placed on the museum’s Wall of Honor in the year 2019:

**GRETA JAKOBSEN ALGEO** (1950) Fargo, ND – Wayne & Anna Haverland, Walcott, ND; Jenny Mackenzie, Fargo, ND

**JORGEN BO-HANSEN** (1964) Palatine, IL – Charles Tsatsos, Waterloo, NE

**ANN-MARIE (BO-HANSEN) TSATSOS** (1964) Waterloo, NE – Charles Tsatsos, Waterloo, NE

**KAJ SELCHAU FOGET** (1962) Madison, WI – Michael & Kiersten Foget, Madison, WI

**KAREN KIRSTINE ‘CHRISTINE’ (ANDERSEN) HEMMINGSEN** Founder of the Danish Sisterhood (1873) Marquette, MI – Supreme Lodge of the Danish Sisterhood of America

**RASMUS JENSEN** (1898) Ruthton/Tyler, MN – Maureen Steenblock, Austin, MN

**GEORGE C. KNUDSEN** (1913) Jacksonville, IA – Marjorie Powell, Council Bluffs, IA

**THYRA ULRIKKA JAKOBSEN NAGEL** (1949) Wyndmere, ND – Jenny Christine Jakobsen Mackenzie, Fargo, ND

**J M PEDERSEN** (1911) Coulter, IA – Deone Pedersen & David Pedersen, grandchildren, Iowa City, IA

**JOHN F. RASMUSSEN** (1964) Hicksville, NY – Supreme Lodge of Danish Sisterhood of America

**PETER BERNHARD MARIUS SORENSEN** (1911) Kimballton, IA – Robert Sorensen, Walnut, IA; Marian Froker, Exira, IA

**GEORGE C.F. STAUNING & MAGDOLINA BECK STAUNING** (1892) (1887) Brooklyn, NY – Susan Stauning Lenigan, Clifton Park, NY

**MADS PETER RIKART STRANDSKOV & LAURA BARNER STRANDSKOV** (1871) (1877) Dagmar, MT – Lorraine Jensen, Grand Junction, CO
This past year was another busy one for the Genealogy Center. We welcomed many visitors from all over the US and Denmark. In all, 544 individuals visited the Genealogy Center in 2019. The backlog of research projects has been drastically reduced, and at the end of the year, only a couple of new projects remained in the queue. Genealogy staff completed 65 research projects out of 71, which were received from across the country. Within that 65, 32 were translation projects.

Because the number of projects to be completed is very low, everyone has been working on creating and updating immigrant files. The genealogy staff and volunteers added 178 new files to our immigrant database and updated or augmented 487 files. For the existing files, this included finding birth and death dates, as well as ensuring there are documents verifying the identity of the immigrant and his/her family members.

Genealogy Center volunteers have been very dedicated and have worked hard throughout the year. They have donated over 2,100 hours to improving the Genealogy Center’s resources, assisting with projects, and keeping the center supplied with sweet treats and coffee. We’re very appreciative of the work they do.

Finally, a very special thank you to Wanda Sornson for being the acting Genealogy Center Manager after the departure of Kara McKeever, and prior to the hire of Amanda Skellenger; and to Cheyenne Jansdatter for helping Wanda and assisting with the accessioning and cataloging of materials in the Genealogy Center.

It is encouraging to see interest in genealogy and family heritage grow among all ages with the rising popularity of DNA tests and family history television shows. We look forward to what 2020 will bring for our Genealogy Center. We couldn’t do it without the generous support of patrons, donors, and volunteers.

In 2019 we received and/or processed donations from the following individuals and institutions:

Frans Ørsted Andersen, Odense, Denmark
Lillian Andersen, Kenosha, WI
David Bartlett, Waunakee, WI
Karen Beall, Santa Fe, NM
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Daneville Heritage Museum, Viborg, SD
Danish American Archive & Library, Blair, NE
Jan Fajen, Elk Horn, IA
Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, Ontario
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Michael Van Ness, N. Canton, OH
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Mildred Wilcox, Cherry Hill, NJ
Udine Wilton, Nebraska City, NE
Barbara A. Yelverton, Vermillion, SD

January 2019
MoDA began filming for the Nordic Cuisine YouTube channel.
merit of recognition

THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA PERMANENTLY RECOGNIZES TWO GROUPS OF FRIENDS AND MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES THROUGH OUTSTANDING SUPPORT, BOTH WHILE LIVING AND IN THEIR ESTATE PLANS. THESE GROUPS ARE KNOWN AS LIFETIME LEGACY GIVING AND HERITAGE BUILDERS.

lifetime legacy giving

Recognition includes five categories of giving. In alphabetical order, this reflects cumulative giving of $25,000 and more from individuals or their estates, foundations, trusts, and organizations. These names are inscribed on a large plaque at the entrance of the museum.

During the calendar year of 2019, the Board of Directors was pleased to add the names of
- Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, AZ (Bronze)
- Erna C. Jensen, Des Moines, IA (Bronze)
- Ingrid Kirkegaard Trust, Lake Geneva, WI (Platinum)
- Karen K. Suchomel, West Branch, IA (Bronze)

And in addition, we acknowledge this donor having achieved a new level of lifetime giving:
- Humanities Iowa, Iowa City, IA (Silver)

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- Ingrid Kirkegaard Trust, Lake Geneva, WI
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- Bruce R. Lauritzen Family, Omaha, NE
- Charles W. & Norma J. Wilson Foundation, Inc., Red Oak, IA

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the heritage builders

Over the past 36 years, the Museum of Danish America has accomplished much because of special friends and members who have provided for the museum in their estate plans. During 2019 one new Heritage Builder plaque was added to the recognition board, and it is indicated in bold. With their permission while living or with the permission of their estate’s executor, the names of Heritage Builders are permanently inscribed on a plaque in the museum.

Anonymous (5)
Dennis J. Andersen, Atlanta, GA
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During the course of each year, the Museum of Danish America invites its supporters to make contributions to special projects and restricted funds. The individuals, business, or foundations listed below contributed to these appeals in 2019 (and reflected in the Honor Roll of Contributors). Donors to the Summer Appeal and End-of-Year Appeal are included in the Honor Roll of Contributors.

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Danish Sisterhood Heartland District Johnston, IA
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Danish Sisterhood Dagmar Lodge #4, Chicago, IL
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #19, Tacoma/Olympia, WA
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #20, Kenosha, WI
Danish Sisterhood Ellen Lodge #21, Denver, CO
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Danish Sisterhood Frihed Lodge #153, Hartford, CT
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CURATORIAL
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Union County Genealogical Society, Creston, IA

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(Current & Former Board Members)
Technology
Visual Storage computer station
Audrey Kofoed Foundation & Family, West Branch, IA
Back up battery supplies for museum computers
Audrey Kofoed Foundation & Family, West Branch, IA
Back up batteries for Genealogy Center computers
David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA
Communications & Marketing
Publication-quality camera and lens
J. Brent & Shirley, Norlem, Monticello, MN

E-newsletter (one month)
Jon Frega & Elly Jorgensen, Prairie Village, KS
Design Store
Camera for adding photos to store website
Kai & Starr Nyby, Georgetown, TX
Exhibitions and Programs
Travel expenses for Danish artist to visit Elk Horn
Audrey Kofoed Foundation & Family, West Branch, IA
One year of Brown Bag Lunch programs
Audrey Kofoed Foundation & Family, West Branch, IA
Camera for Collections
Audrey Kofoed Foundation & Family, West Branch, IA
Genealogy Center
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International DVD player
David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA
Additional filing cabinets for vertical Family Files
David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA
Office lights for GC Manager’s office
David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA

GRANTS
Archive Department
Danish Sisterhood Archive Project
Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, Des Moines, IA
Curatorial Department
Curatorial Lighting
Shelby County Community Foundation (Omaha Community Foundation), Omaha, NE
Traveling Exhibits
New Nordic Cuisine
Humanities Iowa, Iowa City, IA
Nordic Council of Ministers, Copenhagen, Denmark
Jacob Riis
National Endowment for the Humanities,
Washington, DC
General Operations
Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, Des Moines, IA
Internships
Danish Interns
Scan Design Foundation, Seattle, WA
matching gifts

The Museum of Danish America wishes to thank these members for initiating matching gifts from the following corporations and foundations:

- **Assured Life Association**
  - William & Marilyn Gift, Clive, IA
  - Richard & Karen Nelson, Albert Lea, MN

- **The Boeing Company**
  - Dagmar Muthamia, Long Beach, CA

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Danish American Club of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI area
First Baptist Church of Elk Horn, IA
Annette Sorensen, Vero Beach, FL

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Rescue and Refuge: The Holocaust in Denmark
Dennis Andersen, Atlanta, GA
Julefest 2019 Admission
Jon Frega & Elly Jorgensen, Prairie Village, KS
Hoover’s Hometown Days
The Kofoed Family, West Branch, IA
Sankt Hans Aften
Annette Andersen, Kimballton, IA
Tracy Christensen, Elk Horn, IA
Danish Mutual Insurance Association,
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Landmands Bank, Audubon, IA
Marne Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn, IA
Julie McKeever, Defiance, IA
Shelby County State Bank, Harlan & Elk Horn, IA

Tivoli Fest 2020 Admission
Jon Frega & Elly Jorgensen, Prairie Village, KS

Internships

American Interns
Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, AZ
Diane Skov, Lacey, WA

WEBSITE UPGRADE
David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA
The Museum of Danish America is the grateful recipient of gifts made in memory of deceased friends and relatives.

Bob Andersen
Charles Andersen, my brother
Dwight Andersen
Harold & Esther Andersen
Richard L. Andersen, my husband
Richard Lee Andersen, Harlan, IA, my husband
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Robert Lee Andersen
Robert Lee Andersen, Des Moines, IA
Robert Lee Andersen, my dad
Tony Bell
Tony Bell, my husband
Alfred Berggren
Lars Peder Boerre
Martha Bonnesen
Anne C. Howell-Andreasen Boyle
Neal E. Bro
Neil Bro
Robert W. Brown
Emily S. (nee Lykke) Butler
Ron Carlson, long time member of the Denver Danes
Jens T. Carstensen
Cecily Castenskiold
Cecily Castenskiold, my wife
Darrell Christensen of Fargo, ND
Etlar Simon Christensen
Lotte Christensen
Lotte Christensen, my wife
Myra D. (nee Vig) Christensen
Raymond Christensen, Rosemount, MN, my father
Russell Christensen, Royal, Iowa
T.K. Christensen
Virgil Christensen of Harlan, IA, my dad
Susan Clark, my daughter
Louis & Margaret Clausen
Glen Clemsen
Glen Clemsen, my husband
Rusell & Alice Jane Clemsen
Shirley Jean Christensen Regnier Congour
Marlys E. Cook
Marlys E. Cook, my wife
Maryls Cook, on behalf of our employee, David W. Cook, and Deere & Company
Lillian Irene Eggers
Hans & Mathilde Farstrup
Irene Gnata, my mother
Rita Ann Jessen Grudle
Lowel J. Haahr
Lois Girtz Halley
Bent & Lydia Hansen
Cleo & Esther Hansen
Erik & Greta Hansen's family in Denmark
Ingrid Hansen
Lyle Hansen of Guthrie Center, IA
Marge Hansen
Marge Hansen, my wife
Roger Hansen of Carroll, IA, my father
Jody Hanson
William Hartranft, my husband
Jerri Hemmingsen
Geraldine Ann Hemmingsen, my wife
Emery & Izy Hoegh, my parents
Olivia Elizabeth Ibsen, Urbandale, IA
Betty Ingerslev
Fred Jacobsen
Herbert M. Jacobsen
Charles W. Jensen
Clinton & Lyria Jensen
Clinton & Lyria Jensen and Chris & Gladys Knudsen
Grethe Jensen, Charter Member of the Denver Danes
Kenny Jensen
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Delores Jespersen, Des Moines, IA
Dr. Gary Wayne Jorgensen, Harlan, IA
Iver & Marie Jorgensen
Karen M. Kadgihn
Betty Kankelfitz
Elizabeth C. 'Betty' (Nielsen) Kankelfitz
Orville Kerkhoff, my father
Tage Ketelsen
Ingrid Kirkegaard
Swen Verner Koch
Svend V. Koch, Cedar Falls, IA
Esther & Magnus Krejberg
Dale Krog, Tracy, MN
Dale Krog of Tracy, MN, my husband
Glenn Krog, Lake Benton, MN
Irene R. (Petersen) Ladd
Marius Landbo
Aage J. Larsen of Humboldt, IA
Allan Larsen, my husband
Allan Larsen
Edith Larsen
Edith Larsen, my mother
Ezra B. Larsen
Kurt Klarskov Larsen
Kurt Klarskov Larsen, my husband
Paul M. & Johanne Larsen
Dorothea Laursen
Jeanette Lilhej
Maurice Lykke, Fargo, ND
Maurice Lykke, a “Happy Dane”
Milton Madsen, member of the Denver Danes
Memorials, continued

Robert & Mabel Madsen, my parents
Gladys McCrory
Gladys Holland McCrory
Ellen Mary Valborg Henriksen McKinzie, my mom
Elsie Rasmussen McNabb
John Molgaard
Thyra Ulrikka Jakobsen Nagel
Fred, Tess, Richard, Karma Nelsen
Charles E. Nelson
Larry Nelson
Andy J. Nielsen
Rose Ella Nielsen
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Glenn Olsen
Glenn Robert Olsen
Ole & Marie Olsen, my parents
William A. Olsen, longtime museum member
Don Olson of Holyoke, CO
Irma Ørum
Helen Parker, Council Bluffs, IA, my mother
Rita Ruggaard & Family
Lene Sepstrup
Rita Ruggaard
Eva Sindberg, my wife
“Antique” Mabel Stahl
Marion Svendsen
Monroe & Emma Swendiman, my parents
Judy Thomsen's father's 2-year anniversary of passing
Ruth Anderson Turney
Inge Heiberg Walliker
Gerda Westenberger (Henriksen)
Scott Whitehead
Jacob & Dorothea Wolff
Jeanne Vig Zimmerman

Andrew & Rosa Rosenkild
Mrs. Rita Ruggaard
Rita Ruggaard
Rita Ruggaard, Fountain Hills, AZ
Leroy Sand, my brother
Leroy Sand, my husband
Albert Martin Jensen Schjodt
Geraldine Elizabeth Nash
Schubeck, my mother, who died on July 20, 2019, at the age of 103
Betty Hoegh Schukei & Family
Lene Sepstrup
Miriam Showalter
Bernhard Sindberg, my “Uncle Barney”
Eva Sindberg, my wife
“Antique” Mabel Stahl
Marion Svendsen
Monroe & Emma Swendiman, my parents
Judy Thomsen's father's 2-year anniversary of passing
Ruth Anderson Turney
Inge Heiberg Walliker
Thelma Esbeck Wehde
Gerda Westenberger (Henriksen)
Scott Whitehead
Jacob & Dorothea Wolff
Jeanne Vig Zimmerman

William 'Bill' Petersen & Myra (Jensen) Petersen of Solvang, CA
James Peterson
James M. Peterson,
Minneapolis, MN
James M. Peterson, my father
Louise Jorgensen Byriel Rattenborg
Ragna Veilegaard Reid
Sharlene Roge
in honor

The Museum of Danish America receives many contributions as gifts to honor family and friends on special occasions. In 2019 the following people were honored:

Judith Andersen of Baxter, MN’s birthday
Ruth Randall Benson, PhD., my friend
Folmer Bonnesen
Ellen C. Bourquin’s 90th Birthday
Tova Brandt wearing 2 hats!
Loren Christensen of Vines & Wines speaking at Atlantic Friends of Museum meeting
George & Ollie Christensen, Clarice E. Christensen, Lloyd G. Christensen & Virgil L. Christensen, my lifelong friends
Joyce Christensen, deb’s mom
Joyce Mitten Christensen, my mom
The Dahlgard Family of Lennox-Beresford, SD
Charles Frederiksen
Vernon Frost
Marilyn Gift making a kransekage for our child’s baptism
Monte Hoegh
Chelsey Holland & Paul Page’s marriage, 4 May, 2019
Jim & Marge Iversen
Cheyenne Jansdatter, who works so hard for MoDA!
Erna C. Jensen
Dagmar Johnson
Garey Knudsen, my husband
Deb Christensen Larsen
Jeanette Lillehoj’s 90th birthday
Jane Marie’s 7th birthday
Julie Jensen McDonald
M.C. McNabb (former MoDA genealogy center)
Museum of Danish America Volunteers
Museum’s amazing staff!
Brent & Shirley Norlem
Brent & Shirley Norlem, my parents
Adeline Ostby, my great granddaughter
Gerald & Sigrid Rasmussen
Paul Roge
Janet (Peitersen) Schroeder, my mother
The Skow Family of Monona County, IA
Ken Thomsen
special memberships

Throughout 2019 the Museum of Danish America attained 197 new memberships, complimentary memberships, reciprocal memberships, or received contributions toward gift memberships for the following organizations or individuals:

American Swedish Historical Museum, Philadelphia, PA
Gwendolyn Andersen, Rockville, MD
Lloyd & Phyllis Andersen, Saint Germain, WI
Lois Anderson, Minneapolis, MN
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Bjorn Christopherson, Decorah, IA
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Laurel Haas, Olympia, WA
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Karin Plagens, Enumclaw, WA
Marjorie Powell, Council Bluffs, IA
Kathleen Raccuglia, Lenexa, KS
Cary & Cheryl Rasmussen, Osseo, MN
gifts in-kind

The following companies and individuals supported the Museum of Danish America in the calendar year of 2019 through in-kind donations:

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Anna Brones, Vaughn, WA
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Kristine Bruun, Ballerup, Denmark
Danish Windmill Corporation, Elk Horn, IA
Den Danske Pioneer (Elsa Steffensen & Linda Steffensen), Hoffman Estates, IL
Denver Danes, Denver, CO area
Dario’s Braserie (Dario Schicke), Omaha, NE
Sam Dreher, Des Moines, IA
Elske (David & Anna Posey), Chicago, IL
David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA
For True Foodies Only (Joanne Carter), Paris, France
Chris Fredericksen, Elk Horn, IA
Gastrolux Cookware (Johan Moeller Jensen), Kennesaw, GA
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Glenn Henriksen, Armstrong, IA
Toni McLeod, Mesa, AZ
Milk & Honey (Daniel & Ellen Walsh-Rosmann), Harlan, IA
William Paulson Norderhaug, Chanhassen, MN
O & H Danish Bakery (Eric Olesen), Racine, WI
Poul & Benedikte Ehlers Olesen, Bryup, Denmark
Scandy Sweets (Barry & Elizabeth Rickard), Cedar Rapids, IA
Sjoebloem Winery (Mike Sjoebloem), Napa, CA
SpringHill Suites by Marriott Denver Downtown (Brittany Maestas), Denver, CO
Pamela Smilow, New York, NY
Linda Steffensen, Hoffman Estates, IL
Karen Suchomel, West Branch, IA
Eric & Tasha Unkenholz, Rapid City, SD
Sandra Soni & Michael Van Ness, Canton, OH
Katrine E. Vange, Wilmette, IL
the honor roll of contributors

The Honor Roll of Contributors recognizes all who have supported the Museum of Danish America during the 2019 calendar year. It especially recognizes those who attained membership at the various levels with cumulative contributions amounting to $25 or more, including gifts for annual support, designated purposes, memorials, Wall of Honor, Jens Jensen Heritage Path, special appeals, matching gifts, endowment gifts, and gifts-in-kind.

Additionally, we are pleased to include on the Honor Roll, our Organization Associate members who contribute $100 or more to the museum. The Organization Associates are listed according to their giving level.

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- Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, Des Moines, IA
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- Karen Suchomel, West Branch, IA

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**Danish American Club of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI**
- O & H Danish Bakery (Eric Olesen), Racine, WI

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ANNUAL REPORT
Annual Leadership Society, continued

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Jay & Peggy Scott, Mesa, AZ
Marian Sheldon, Schuyler Falls, NY
Steven & Cynthia Shove, Gig Harbor, WA
Bob & Renee Showalter-Hanson, Silver Bay, MN
Betty Sievers, Audubon, IA
Patricia Simmons, Waterloo, IA
Sue Simon, New York, NY
Linda Skouby, Columbia, MO
Arnold & Helen Skov, Alden, MN
Vinette Skow, Hot Springs, SD
Charles & Debra Smith, Omaha, NE
Kathleen Smith, Woodbury, MN
Johannes & Kathi Smits, Roselle, IL
Anna Sorensen, LaVista, NE
Kathryn Foye & Thomas Sorensen, Milan, MI

ORDER OF FANO
under $50

Niels Aagaard, Vojens, Denmark
Mary Ahrenholz, Harlan, IA
Nuna Alberts, New York, NY
Mary Ahrenholz, Harlan, IA
Nuna Alberts, New York, NY
Wendy Allen, Highlands Ranch, CO

Nuna Alberts, New York, NY
Mary Ahrenholz, Harlan, IA
Nuna Alberts, New York, NY
Wendy Allen, Highlands Ranch, CO

Nuna Alberts, New York, NY
Mary Ahrenholz, Harlan, IA
Nuna Alberts, New York, NY
Wendy Allen, Highlands Ranch, CO
CORRECTIONS

Every effort has been made to ensure that all information contained in the 2019 Annual Report of Contributions is accurate. We respectfully regret and apologize for any omissions, misspellings, or misplacements. Please contact the Development Department with any questions or corrections.
Former intern Malene Vitus gives an update related to her 10-year anniversary. Her internship was divided: first at the Genealogy Center and thereafter in the Development Department.

I was looking for an internship abroad. The year before, I had been an exchange student at the University of Arizona – such a wonderful time, and I was therefore hunting a new American adventure. Actually, I was offered an internship at a huge public relations bureau in New York (tough application rounds and a lot of interviews), but when I got the offer at The Danish Immigrant Museum, as was the name at the time, I just had to take it!

IOWA WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE
John Mark Nielsen, now-former director, picked me up at the airport. It was snowing so badly that the plane could hardly land. When we arrived at the museum the next morning, it was also covered in snow, and we had to start shoveling. That was how it all started.

I spent most of my time in the Development Department with then-Development Director Bruce Bro and current Development Manager Deb Christensen Larsen. My focus was on communication and fundraising.

A LOT OF LAUGHTER AND A STEEP LEARNING CURVE
I made “What’s up” videos from the events that had taken place. E.g. meetings with the consul, Tivoli Fest, and Brown Bag Lunches. Ten years ago, that was a new way of communicating and something the museum hadn’t done before. The goal was to reach members that couldn’t come to visit the museum everyday.

Bruce Bro and I were often on the road to do fundraising and networking. One special meeting was in Chicago with the Ørum family, when they donated all the trees to the museum’s Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park. We also did very early morning meetings in Chicago by the lake with good people there who connected us to the great-grandchild of Jens Jensen. Sometimes I was invited to different Danish Sisterhood and Brotherhood meetings to tell them about myself and the museum.

Another time in Chicago we attended Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark’s 70th birthday party, which the Consulate General of Denmark had arranged. For me, the networking was essential, because later that spring I was responsible for a huge silent auction in Chicago – to benefit the museum. I was in contact with all the big Danish brands, and they made very nice donations. Besides the job at the museum, I started up a Danish class (Aftenskole), where I taught Danish culture and language. There were 10 lessons and around 10 participants in the class.

FROM IMMIGRANTS TO LORRIES
After the internship I finished my master’s thesis and got a “real” communications job at ITD, a private business association for transport and logistics companies (road freight haulers). The headquarters is on the border between Denmark and Germany, so I moved from Copenhagen to Flensburg, Germany and crossed the border each day to go to work. After three years I got a communications job in Copenhagen, in the pharmaceutical industry. That only lasted a year. Love was the reason! I got a new job at ITD again, and today my family and I live in Gråsten, Denmark, close to the royal castle where Queen Margrethe has her summer residence.

At ITD I am responsible for communications, events, and branding. For example, I am the project manager of ITD’s national safety campaign, “The Truck Caravan (Lastbilkaravanen).” I handle the press contacts, write articles, organizing and improving the image of the industry. Just like I did at the museum.

FUN FACTS
I am now 37 years old with a master’s degree in communication and rhetoric. My husband, Lars, is a press photographer. We have four boys: ages 15, 13, and 2-year-old twins. I love obstacle races and cheesecake.

Malene Vitus
Intern, February - June 2010
new online features

WE’VE 01. OPENED OUR COLLECTIONS DATABASE TO THE PUBLIC AND 02. CREATED EXCLUSIVE VIRTUAL TOURS FOR OUR MEMBERS. HERE ARE THE DETAILS.

1 OPEN ACCESS TO OUR COLLECTIONS RECORDS

What was previously only available to members at the $100 annual level and above is now accessible to all. Through the Museum of Danish America’s public collections database, View Our Collection, anyone can access the museum’s collections anytime, anywhere! There are thousands of catalog records and images of objects and other materials including furniture, wedding dresses, military uniforms and medals, tools, photographs, works of art, passports and immigration documents, books, and much more.

A longtime inventory project resulted in thorough catalog records that contain historical information about these collections as well as details like dimensions and manufacture dates. Whenever known, extensive documentation can be included in catalog records. Additionally, there are often multiple images of each piece including overview shots and details of things like maker’s marks, inscriptions, condition issues, and artist signatures.

We invite you to enjoy our collections from the comfort of wherever you may be. Content on the site increases regularly as staff, interns, and volunteers process new acquisitions and expand records for existing collections.

https://danishmuseum.pastperfectonline.com

2 VIRTUAL TOURS

Our most recent survey told us how infrequently our members are able to physically visit the museum. To enable our supporters to enjoy our ever-changing exhibitions, we have created new virtual tours of all of our spaces and exhibits. These virtual tours are accessible through all browsers, including on mobile devices. By clicking or tapping around, one may “walk” through the space, zoom in and out, and view special, bonus features such as videos. The tours are even compatible with virtual reality headsets, for a really immersive experience!

TRY IT OUT A basic tour of the museum from July 2019 is available on our website for free: https://www.danishmuseum.org/virtual-tour

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP PERK Members at the $100 annual level and above will be able to access a library of virtual tours to include the Genealogy Center, Jens Dixen cabin, Bedstemor’s House, and past and present exhibitions. This means that if you are not able to get to Elk Horn to see a temporary exhibit, it will be available for you to view and revisit online at any time.

Qualifying members will receive their passwords and access instructions via email when the tour library is launched.

https://danishmuseum.pastperfectonline.com

Membership contributions support programs and activities, as well as ongoing, specialized care for our collections. As a nationally accredited museum through the American Alliance of Museums, we strive to meet and exceed professional best practices in all that we do. Support from members helps us do that.
fiskefrikadeller

FISH CAKES/MEATBALLS
2 cups cold fish
1 tsp salt
1 cup milk
1 cup bread crumbs
4 Tbs flour
2 Tbs butter
½ tsp pepper
2 eggs
Fry in butter or fat.

From the notebook 1994.039.071, gift of the Estate of Hilda Christoffersen. Translated by Cheyenne Jansdatter.

To see the method in action, refer to the “traditional” frikadeller video on our Nordic Cuisine YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/m_bpvW_9gcE?t=173

*With the exception of pandemics.
First released in 1956, Dansk Kobenstyle enamelware is the product of an original Danish-American collaboration. Danish designer Jens Quistgaard (1919-2008) worked with American entrepreneurs Ted & Martha Nierenberg to take enameled steel from camp stoves to stylish kitchens. Quistgaard’s works are in the permanent collections of many top museums.

01. Baker, 3 Qt. Rectangle @ $135, Chili Red #2532, White #2698, Midnight Blue #2697. 02. Casserole with lid/trivet, 4 Qt. @ $135, Red #3641, White #5970, Blue #3789. 03. Butter warmer, 19 oz. @ $45, Red #5130, White #2564, Blue #5129. 04. Casserole with lid/trivet, 2 Qt. @ $90, Red #2531, White #2565, Blue #2810. Members receive a 10% discount! More to see in-store and online: www.danishmuseum.org/shop. Orders by phone to 712.764.7001.