



America Letter

THE DANISH IMMIGRANT MUSEUM

An International Cultural Center

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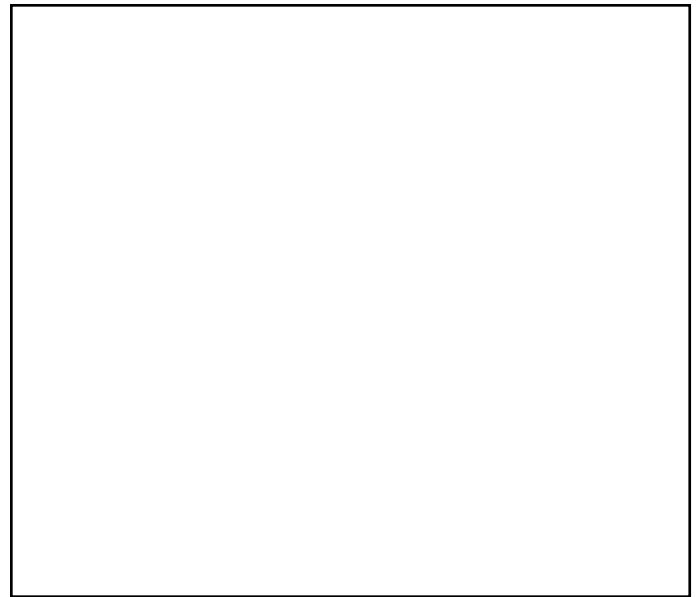
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Nadjeschda Overgaard receives National Heritage Award

Nadjeschda Overgaard, several members of her family, and a television reporter from Denmark traveled to Washington D.C. in early October for a very special evening at which Mrs. Overgaard received a 1998 National Heritage Fellowship. This prestigious honor, from the National Endowment for the Arts, recognizes folk and traditional artists from a wide range of disciplines. Mrs. Overgaard was recognized for her Hardanger Needlework, an art form she has spent a lifetime perfecting. First Lady Hillary Clinton personally presented Nadjeschda's award and a check for \$10,000 at a special ceremony at the White House. The week's events included a dinner at the State Department and a concert at George Washington University. Other award recipients were a Greek chanter, a Native American silversmith, a gospel and blues musician, to name a few

Nadjeschda was born in Siberia in 1905 of Danish parents, Carl Lyngge and Anna Schjodt Lyngge. Carl was in Russia establishing creameries to enhance the market for Danish dairy equipment. The family returned to Denmark in 1910 so that the children could go to school in Copenhagen. In

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Nadjeschda Overgaard, receives the National Heritage Fellowship award from the First Lady and NEA Chairman Bill Ivey in a White House ceremony sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts on October 5, 1998.



Danish American Heritage Society relocates its headquarters

The Danish American Heritage Society was founded in 1977 to explore and record the history of Danish immigrants to North America. The society publishes twice each year a historical journal, *The Bridge*, which contains scholarly and popular articles, stories and translations. Until October 15, 1998, the society was headquartered in Junction City, Oregon. The most recent president was Gerald Rasmussen of Junction City and the editor was Egon Bodtker of Salem, Oregon. The other most recent members of the board of directors were residents of the states of Oregon and Washington and included Founding President Arnold Bodtker, George Norman, Victor Nielsen, Roelie Goddik, Allan Nyegaard, Elsie Norman and Kirsten Jensen.

The Society's board of directors voted to elect an entirely new set of officers and members of the board in order to move the operation closer to the other three scholarly Danish American Institutions, i.e., Dana College, Blair, Nebraska;

Grand View College, Des Moines, Iowa; and The Danish Immigrant Museum, Elk Horn, Iowa.

The new Board of Directors consists of six members who represent those three institutions plus six members at large. The new officers are President James Iversen, Ames, Iowa; Vice President John W. Nielsen, Blair, Nebraska; Secretary Peter Petersen, Canyon, Texas; and Treasurer Rodolf Jensen, Ames, Iowa. The new editor is John Christianson, Decorah, Iowa and the newsletter editor is John Mark Nielsen, Blair, Nebraska. The other new members of the board of directors are Thomas Thomsen and Thorvald Hansen, Des Moines, Iowa; Signe Betsinger, Rochester, Minnesota; Barbara Lund-Jones, Elk Horn, Iowa; and Borge M. Christensen, and Sybil Duus Needham, Tucson, Arizona.

If information about the Society and possibility of membership is desired, the new address is Danish American Heritage Society, 4105 Stone Brooke Road, Ames, Iowa 50010.