

WITH
ANNUAL REPORT

americaletter



SPRING 2020 | A BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA

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ON THE COVER

The first oil painting accessioned into the collection. Oil on canvas, 1912, by Mary Christensen Debel (1888-1969) of Blair, NE.
Donated by Patricia Naughton. 1985.038.001

America Letter

Spring 2020, No. 1

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WHY “AMERICA LETTER?”

Letters that were written by immigrants to family and friends back in Denmark are called “America letters” by historians. These letters are often given credit for influencing people to come to America because they were full of details of how good life was here. We call our magazine *America Letter* because we also want to tell the good news about the museum and encourage people to join us!

director's corner

At our museum, one of the signs of spring is the arrival of school tours. Many of our local districts have made traditions of bringing students to the museum: kindergartners from Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton, third-graders from Atlantic, sixth-graders from Harlan.

This year the kindergartners were first on the calendar and visited the museum on a clear, cold, February morning. For some of the students, it was their first trip to a museum – *any* museum – and we started with a discussion of what to expect.

Our museum doesn't have dinosaurs. (Yet?) We have some art on display, but we are not an art museum. We represent history and culture, especially of people who have left Denmark and come to the United States.

The concepts of history and immigration are pretty abstract for six-year-olds, so we used the phrase "old-time things." The students went on a visual scavenger hunt for artifacts. We looked at painted portraits and discussed that in the "old time" there were no photographs. And we brought out some artifacts from our hands-on collection – authentic pieces that have been approved to be handled and passed around. These "old-time things" included wooden shoes, a 19th century man's suit, and a Danish-language book in Gothic print, all stored inside a wooden trunk.



Danish Intern Christina Damgaard Andersen assists with aprons. "Dress-up" is always a popular activity.

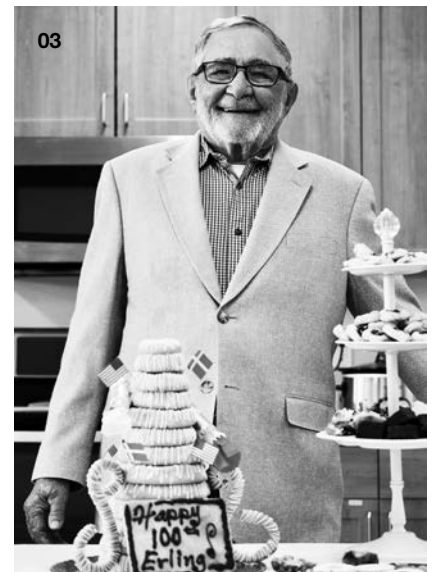
The kindergartners were great. They were enthusiastic, they followed Museum Manners (no running, no touching), and many of them said that they wanted to return right away with their families. They interacted with authentic historic objects while also having fun in a museum environment. And, as we do for all school groups, we sent them home with free passes so they can return with their families and explore further.

Schoolchildren are the visitors, members, and supporters of the future. By introducing them to "old-time things" in a fun and engaging way, we set the stage for museums to be seen as welcoming, trusted, and relevant in their lives. For all of us who love museums, let us share that passion with the young people in our circles – allowing them to experience the spark of interest that creates curious, lifelong learners.



By Tova Brandt

Editor's Note: The bulk of this edition was composed prior to the outbreak of coronavirus disease in the United States. Our doors closed to the public on March 16, to support social distancing efforts. This Director's Corner provides a glimpse of a "normal" springtime at the museum, before the pandemic.



board of directors meeting

**FEBRUARY 6-8, 2020
SOLVANG, CA**

After years of talking about it, the museum's board of directors met in Solvang, California. Some had visited before, but most had not, and it was fun to be there as a group. The schedule allowed ample free time to explore shops, wineries, restaurants and bakeries.

A special thank you to Esther Jacobsen Bates, executive director of the Elverhøj Museum, and also its board members and volunteers. They made and served

our group beautifully prepared and delicious *smørrebrød* and pastry. Esther gave a presentation on the history of Solvang in concert with their recent exhibit "Spirit of Solvang – From Danish Roots to California Colony," which she graciously kept open a few extra days for our benefit. Solvang is very tourism-driven, and its rich Danish history is worth exploring.

Our dear friend, Erling Grumstrup, who lives at Atterdag Village in Solvang, celebrated his 100th

birthday while we were there. The party, hosted by former board member Bente Ellis, was well attended by board members, spouses, staff, and a room full of Erling's neighbors and friends. It's not very often that you get to celebrate such a milestone, and we were honored to have been a part of Erling's special day!

**Our next meeting will be
Salt Lake City, June 11 – 13.**

01. President
Beth Bro-Roof
presides over the
board meeting on
Saturday, February
8, 2020.

02. Snitter
Bite-sized
open-faced
sandwiches
enjoyed at the
Elverhøj Museum.

03. Erling
A 100th birthday
party for Erling
Grumstrup was held
at Atterdag Village.

By Terri Johnson





ATTENDING, L-R: Pete West, Mike Nielsen, Merlyn Knudsen, Dennis Gray, Carl Steffensen, Dan Jensen, Carol Svendsen, Connie Hanson, Elly Jorgensen, Carol Bassoni, Tova Brandt, Toni McLeod, Marnie Jensen, Eric Olesen, Anders Sand, David Hendee, Karen Suchomel, David Esbeck, Chris Kofoed, Beth Bro-Roof, Randy Ruggaard. Present, but not pictured: Lars Matthiesen.

Board meeting photos courtesy of David Hendee

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 Nils Jensen, Portland, OR

scan design foundation intern

For many years the Museum of Danish America has benefited from a relationship with the ScanDesign Foundation which enables the museum to host students from Denmark for approximately six months. Christina is the most recent Dane to have joined our team.

"February 10, 2020 was my first day at the Museum of Danish America. I have dreamed of visiting Elk Horn for several years, so I am very excited to be here. I am originally from Copenhagen and in January I graduated from the University of Copenhagen with a Masters in Religion and History. I am pursuing a career in the museum field, and I have previously worked at different museums in Europe. Being here is my first experience working in an American museum. During my internship I will work with Tova in the exhibitions department."

Christina returned to Denmark on March 14, in line with the Danish government's recommendations and precautions regarding COVID-19.

Read about former interns later in this edition. Follow the intern blog: danishmuseuminterns.tumblr.com



**Christina
Damgaard
Andersen**

new staff

HELP US WELCOME:



Amanda Skellenger

I grew up in Stuart, Iowa, which is where I still reside. I attended Simpson College where I earned a BA in Elementary Education. From there, I became a teacher librarian and remained in the school for 10 years. As I worked, I earned my MA in School Library Studies from the University of Northern Iowa, and in January 2017 decided to pursue an MS in Library and Information Sciences with a concentration in Archive Management from Simmons University in Boston. I left teaching to accept a position as an Assistant Librarian at a public library and to work on my degree, which was completed last month. Also in December, I became the **Genealogy Center Manager**, which is research that I have participated in for many years. I am enjoying my time at the Genealogy Center and look forward to the years to come!



Shelli Larson

I started my new position, **Development Associate**, in January. I am a lifetime resident of Shelby County. I graduated Harlan High School, then attended Iowa State University (Go Cyclones!) and earned a BA in Education and a BS in Dietetics. After working for a few years in Des Moines in the healthcare field, I married and moved back to Harlan. I've worked for some amazing local businesses over the years, helping them in the Human Resources, Public Relations, and Marketing areas. I look forward to meeting you!



Kelsey Wilcoxon

Hej allesammen! I hail from the greater Chicagoland area. I graduated with a BA in Painting and Drawing from Dominican University in 2016, returning a year later to pursue graduate studies. In 2019 I obtained an MA in Library Information Science, specializing in Archives and Cultural Heritage. Because of my interest in museums - specifically, cultural heritage institutions - and my involvement in the Danish Sisterhood of America (Shout-out to Dagmar Lodge #4!), I was excited to learn about internship opportunities at the Museum of Danish America. Thanks to the support of Diane Skov and the Danish Club of Tucson, I was able to start as the **Archives and Special Collections Intern** in December. I am looking forward to the work I will be doing throughout the spring of 2020 and the opportunity to work alongside the welcoming and knowledgeable staff of MoDA.

migrant



We all have migrant DNA somewhere inside ourselves. We are all descended from migrants. The Denmark we know today was created and shaped by migrants who went there, while Danish migrants have set sail and put their stamps on the outside world.

But what is it like to live as a migrant and leave behind that which is familiar in favor of something new? Are there similarities in the experiences migrants have had, which transcend time, place, and culture? For example, would Turkish and Romanian migrants in today's Denmark recognize any of the challenges that Danish migrants faced in the United States more than 100 years ago?

AN ARTICLE ADAPTED FROM THE TEXT OF *MIGRANT*, AN EXHIBITION DEVELOPED BY THE IMMIGRANT MUSEUM IN FARUM, DENMARK, ON VIEW AT THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2021.

01. Turkish-Danish

Photo by Diana Velasco, included in the exhibition.

02



The answer is yes. If we compare the Danish experience of immigrating to the United States, Argentina, and Australia with the Turkish and Romanian experience of immigrating to Denmark, we find many common features. Naturally there are differences as well.

In general, it is the dream of a better life that impels a migrant to leave his or her homeland. Such was the case all those years ago, when approximately 300,000 Danes sought happiness in America, and it is the same dream that is precipitating the current Romanian wave of migration to Denmark. It is certainly no easy task to migrate. The migrant has to struggle with the likes of

language, cultural differences, and homesickness. The dream of a better life does not always come true.

On the basis of five thematic sections, the exhibition *Migrant* explores what the act of migration has in common across time and place. We encounter the migrant and the migrant's children and descendants, telling their stories through letters, recollections, and interviews.

Migrant was part of a major research project, MiClue, which in 2013-2017 investigated the similarities and differences in five cases of labor migration. Its summary findings are included here. The five cases were:

- Danish emigration to Argentina (approx. 1850-1930)
- Danish emigration to the United States (approx. 1850-1920)
- Danish emigration to Australia (approx. 1950-)
- Turkish immigration to Denmark (approx. 1960-)
- Romanian immigration to Denmark (approx. 2007-)

The cases indicated that the main incentive for labor migration is the dream of a better existence: not just for the migrant, but also for the migrant's descendants.

Poverty, a lack of prospects, and unemployment play a major role in terms of a migrant's decision

02. Sailing, 1948

Chris and Eva Christensen and their sons on the deck of *MS Batory*. 1986.119.002

02. Green card

Issued for Inger Caroline Christensen in 1938. 1994.256.006



to leave his or her country of origin. The notions of job security, financial stability, and better prospects in the new country are attractive.

While the motivation for leaving was – and continues to be – similar in all cases, the five cases also feature clear differences. For one thing, transport options such as airplanes, buses, and cars make it much easier to travel now. In a sense, the digital revolution has also made the world smaller and more accessible. Today, the internet makes it much easier than before to find information about the country, the town, and the labor market that await a migrant.

Once they have arrived, modern communication technology such as Facebook, Skype, and Viber have also made it easier for migrants to maintain contact with their former countries. In the past, migrants depended chiefly on the long, drawn-out process of letter writing.

As far as Danish migrants to Argentina, the United States, and

Australia were concerned, they were generally well-received. This meant that they could easily get jobs, advance, and achieve higher social status in the new country – something from which the descendants of Danish migrants have also benefitted. Turkish and Romanian migrants do not necessarily experience the same goodwill in today's Denmark, and this can have a negative impact on integration, even for their descendants.

MiClue looked not only at the labor migrants, but also at their descendants. The five cases reinforce the point that, in general, integration is something that takes place over generations. So, in that sense, the descendants of migrants also play an important role in the equation. In the attempt to find their place in the society, migrants and their descendants often have to navigate between two cultures: that of the old and of the new. This can be a real balancing act, and several descendants experience identity crises along the way.

DANISH MIGRANTS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Today we hear a lot of news about migrants flocking to Europe, but more than a century ago, the situation was the reverse. Between 1850 and 1920 there was a European immigration boom, and approximately 30 million Europeans migrated to the land of opportunity – the United States. Out of the many millions of aspiring migrants, some 300,000 were of Danish origin.

The majority of Danish migrants, who were pursuing the dream of a better life, were agricultural workers, domestic servants, and craftsmen. In general they came from the lower social classes, who were plagued by misery and poverty, leaving behind a Denmark where there was not really room for them.

The dream of becoming a landowner, a farmer, was particularly attractive to the Danes. In 1862 the American Homestead Act became law. It offered free land to settlers if they lived on the lot for a number of years. But cultivating the prairie was tough work.

Many Danish migrants settled in the Midwest, including Illinois, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. This led to the emergence of Danish colonies or communities where Danes established homes together with fellow migrants. Towns such as Dannebrog, Danevirke, New Denmark, and Elk Horn are all examples of this phenomenon, and you can still visit them in the United States today.

04. Montana

Fredrick Sorensen at his son Joe's homestead in the 1920s.
2002.008.009

In communities such as Elk Horn, the descendants of the first migrants still maintain and reinterpret Danish practice and traditions. For example, they practice traditional folk dancing, sing Danish songs, eat *æbleskiver* and *medisterpølse*, and organize Danish-themed festivals. Several have traveled to Denmark to meet relatives and get a taste of the old country.

Nonetheless, the majority of the approximately 1.5 million Americans living today who are descendants of Danish migrants have lost their connection to their Danish roots. English replaced Danish at the dinner table, and the migrants' children married spouses with other ethnic backgrounds. As a result, the migrants' descendants have become increasingly American.

DANISH MIGRANTS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS IN AUSTRALIA

After World War II, the Australian government launched a comprehensive recruitment campaign to attract migrants from Europe. Australia had an urgent need for more labor, and between 1948 and 1968 about 2.4 million people immigrated to the country. During that period, between 7,000 and 10,000 Danes chose to immigrate to Australia. Young people and families in particular sought jobs and new prospects "down under."

Danish migrants were generally well-received in Australia, and this had a positive impact on the process of integration. However, moving so far away is still an upheaval, and many have maintained contact with family

and friends in Denmark. Immigrant communities have also emerged, for example in Melbourne, in which people of all generations speak Danish and uphold Danish traditions.

DANISH MIGRANTS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS IN ARGENTINA

Between the mid-19th century and around 1930, about 13,000 Danes migrated to Argentina. However, only about 60 percent of those Danish migrants settled permanently in the country. Over the generations they have become an integral part of Argentinian society.

Many Danish migrants settled in the area known to Danish Argentinians as the "Danish Triangle," composed of the cities of Tandil, Tres Arroyos, and Necochea. However, some settled in the capital, Buenos Aires, the first port-of-call for all Danish immigrants after their very long, often rough voyage across the Atlantic. Most of the thousands of Danes who traveled there in the following decades also settled

in the Triangle. That was mainly due to the network of contacts who could help them find work and guarantee them a sense of community.

The main reason for the emigration was poverty and unemployment in Denmark. Many of the Danish migrants found work in farming, the kind of work they had often done back in Denmark. They quickly gained a good reputation as reliable and stable workers and were therefore much sought-after. Their employment as farm workers enabled the migrants to save some money, so at a later point they could lease or purchase their own land. Some of the Danish immigrants became farm owners, and some of them were highly successful. In most cases the farms were passed to following generations, and, to this day, there is still a great deal of agricultural land that is owned by descendants of Danish migrants.

Many Danish migrants were keen to maintain their links with Danish culture. They established



05. Passport 1927
Carl Thomsen and daughter Mary. Book includes a stamped immigration visa.
1999.021.004

Danish Lutheran churches with their own clergy, published Danish newspapers, went to Danish schools, and got together in Danish clubs and associations. Both the language and cultural practices have been passed on and maintained from generation to generation, and Danish heritage has been cultivated and preserved. For most Danish Argentinians, Christmas is the quintessence of Danishness. They organize Christmas markets, eat roast duck and rice pudding, and dance around the Christmas tree, which is decorated in the best Danish style.

The Church still plays an important role for the Danish-Argentine community today: not so much in its capacity as a religious assembly as for the cultural and social fellowship, for which the Church forms a setting. The interest in Danish cultural heritage seems to have increased amongst the younger generation.

Short or longer-term stays in Denmark are popular, particularly to attend a folk high school or a regular educational institution.

For the first Danish migrants, marriages represented an important means of preserving the sense of being Danish. It was frowned upon to marry a non-Dane; that could lead to exclusion from both one's family and the Danish migrant community. With the passage of time, however, Danish Argentinians started to mingle with Argentinian society to a much greater extent. It is no longer just descendants of Danish migrants who visit the Church, and mixed marriages have become increasingly widespread.

TURKISH MIGRANTS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS IN DENMARK

In the early 1960s a large group of labor migrants came to Denmark. Denmark was enjoying a period of growth. There was full employment and a demand for unskilled labor. So large was the demand that the Danish government had decided to invite labor migrants, or guest workers, as they were known at the time.

Most were young men with farming experience from Turkey, Pakistan, and what today is the former Yugoslavia. They came to Denmark with hopes of finding work and earning money. They had scant access to information about the society to which they had traveled, and they maintained contact with family and friends in Turkey via letters and expensive phone calls.

As the term "guest worker" suggests, the idea was that they would only stay temporarily. But that was not how things turned out for most. Many of the Turkish labor migrants remained, and, with family members who joined them and their descendants, have managed to organize themselves into a strong community in Denmark.

They have built schools and formed clubs and associations, and the latest research indicates that information and communication technologies play an increasingly important role in supporting that community. The internet provides a space or haven for the younger generation, who often find themselves torn between two sets of cultures, norms, and expectations,

constantly having to navigate between Turkish and Danish identities.

Today in Denmark there are approximately 33,000 migrants with a Turkish background and 30,000 descendants.

ROMANIAN MIGRANTS IN DENMARK

On January 1, 2007, it became possible for Romanian citizens to move freely within Europe's borders in search of work when the country was admitted to the EU. Since then, many Romanians have migrated to other European member countries. Today it is estimated that more than three million Romanians live outside of Romania, and 91 percent of those who have left Romania have been given a residence permit in the countries to which they migrated.

With hopes of creating a better life for themselves and their families, the vast majority of Romanian migrants in Denmark have left behind existences marked by a lack of work, low wages, and poor economic prospects. In Denmark, as in the rest of Europe, they work in many different industries. Many work in farming. This particular area has repeatedly been under scrutiny by unions, politicians, and the media on account of working and wage conditions.

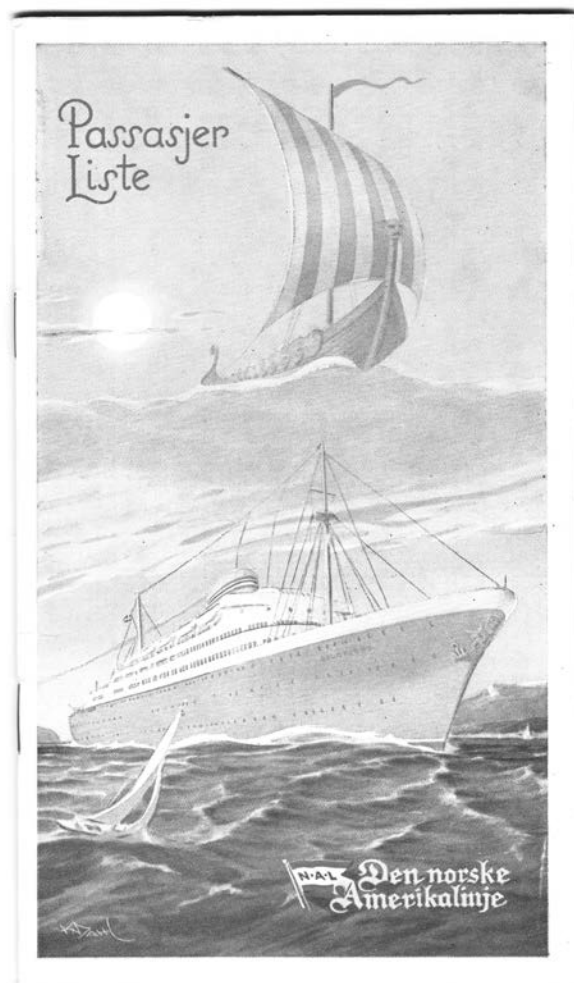
The expression "social dumping" (where foreign workers are willing to work for lower wages, thereby putting pressure on the general level of wages) is often mentioned in the context of Romanian farm workers.

The internet has made it possible to obtain current information

about job opportunities and is a platform for new labor migrant communities. In Denmark, some Romanian labor migrants in the farming sector use online networks and social media to provide information about employers, individual farms, wage standards, rights, and welfare services. The internet is used for knowledge-sharing among those who already work in Denmark, thereby serving as a kind of “Trustpilot” for migrants who are thinking about applying to work in Denmark.

The number of Romanians registered in Denmark rose from 1,551 in 2006 to 20,816 in 2016.

MiClue was a joint research project undertaken by Aalborg University, the Danish Immigration Museum (located in Farum), and the Danish Emigration Archives (located in Aalborg).



04. Passenger List
November 1955 for
the *MS Oslofjord*.
2006.062.006

collection connection

As an institution borne of immigration, the Museum of Danish America's collections reflect several generations of Danish newcomers to the United States.

There are dozens of photographs displaying individuals and families on their way or freshly arrived to their new home, and the ships that delivered earlier immigrants. There are numerous trunks, suitcases, and bags that carried belongings essential to making a life in a new country. Some of the contents also filtered into the collections – things like trade tools, clothing, household items, art, and keepsakes from the home country.

Here are just a few of the artifacts that communicate the story of migration from Denmark to the U.S.

THE TRIP

Maren Marie (Samuelsen) Therkildsen wore this **greenish-gray, two-piece dress** in 1884 as she left Denmark. The flax had been raised on her parents' farm near Horsens, Denmark and then woven into a pattern designed by Maren. She made the dress on her own spinning wheel about two years prior to her emigration. Once she arrived in the U.S. that September, she joined her betrothed, Laurids Therkildsen, who had gone ahead the year before. Five days after arriving,

Maren married Laurids and the couple settled in Tyler, Minnesota.

Kirsten H. Jensen wore this **green tweed jacket and skirt** when she immigrated in 1954. It had been tailor-made for her in Copenhagen. Kirsten was born in June 1934

and arrived in the U.S. aboard the *Stavangerfjord* in January 1956 at Pier 36 in New York City. She later settled in Colorado.

This photo from 1949 includes Agnes (Jorgensen) Johnson (holding flowers) on the docks



By Angela Stanford

01. 1882 This dress is a combination of linen and wool with brown velvet trimmings. *Gift of Sigrid Jacobsen, 1990.129.004ab.* **02. 1954** The silk lining of the jacket and skirt is a dark salmon color, as is the interior of each jacket pocket. *Gift of Kirsten Jensen, 2011.019.001ab.* **03. Photo** *Gift of Agnes Johnson, 1985.055.061.*

in Copenhagen minutes before leaving for America. She was born to Jens Peter and Johanne Maren (Jochumsdatter) Hansen. She worked with the Red Cross in Denmark before and during WWII and received the Medal of Honor from the king. After immigrating, she met a fellow Dane, married in 1953, and settled around Detroit, Michigan.

THE PROCESS

The health of individuals coming into the United States was an important factor in determining whether they would be admitted or not. Carlo Christensen's **chest x-ray** from 1955 indicated he was free of tuberculosis. Born in 1927, he traveled across the country for a time and then married in 1957 after settling in California. He was a creamery manager.

Today, a small **Star-Spangled Banner** is given to all new citizens as they are officially granted citizenship. Rasmus Thøgersen received this flag during his naturalization ceremony on May 17, 2018. On that date, he had his final interview with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service and was sworn in at the Homeland Security office in Omaha, Nebraska. Rasmus came from Hellerup, a suburb of Copenhagen. After arriving in the U.S. in December 2013 and getting his green card the following year, he became a librarian in Nebraska before joining the staff of the Museum of Danish America as executive director for two years.

IMPORTANT BELONGINGS

Sometimes immigrants brought practical, everyday items, in part because they may not be

available in the new country. This **rullepølse press** was brought from Denmark by Mr. and Mrs. Peder Christian Jensen in 1910. They left Aalborg, Denmark and settled first in Hardy, Nebraska, and then in Michigan in 1921. Peder had been a harness maker and upholsterer in Denmark but took up farming when he arrived in the U.S. He died in Chicago in 1928.

Many immigrants knew they would have to work when they arrived in the U.S. in order to build a successful life for themselves, so tools of their trade were amongst the personal items in their trunks and suitcases. James A. Thompson was a carpenter and used **planes**, including this one, to work with wood in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was born in 1879 in Tøstrup, Denmark, learned the carpentry trade, and immigrated to Albert Lea, Minnesota in 1902. He married Kathrina Thompson in 1908 and worked as a building contractor.

Even sentimental and decorative items like this **piggy bank** made their way with immigrants. The ceramic bank was a baptismal gift to Otto Jensen, born in 1873 in Ulsted, Denmark. He and the bank immigrated in 1890, and Otto settled in Albert Lea, Minnesota. A cement finisher by trade, he later married Marie Jensen.

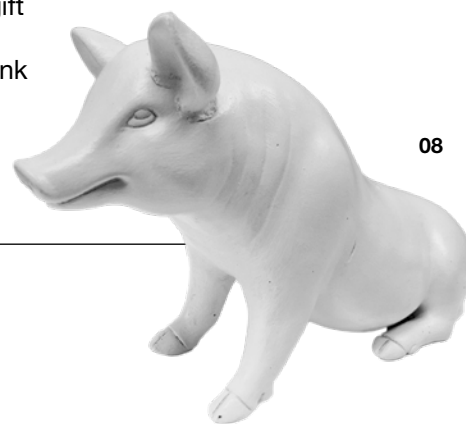


06 What's a rullepølse press?

Meat, typically pork, is seasoned, rolled, and cooked in brine before being put into this press to cool and mold into a rectangular form. When sliced, it makes a delicious sandwich topping!



07



08

04. X-ray Christensen also donated his suitcase, a vaccination booklet, and menus from the ship. *Gift of Carlo Christensen, 2006.062.003a. 05. Flag* Measures 10" × 6 1/4". *Gift of Rasmus Thøgersen, 2018.019.001. 06. Press* Gift of Jens and Marie Jensen, 1987.139.004ab. **07. Plane** Made by the A. McNeill Company of Germany. *Gift of Kenneth Thompson, 1991.148.002. 08. Bank* White ceramic, measures 7 1/4" × 12". *Gift of Pearl Swank, 2019.013.001.*

exhibition calendar



current

DANNEBROG AT 800

Multimedia Room
Through April 2020
Sponsored by the Scandinavian Society of Cincinnati

KINGS, QUEENS, AND COMMONERS: PORTRAITS FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

Main Floor Gallery
Through May 2020
Sponsored by the Danish Sisterhood Lodge #15, Milwaukee, WI

MIGRANT (01)

Kramme Gallery
Through February 2021

coming

SNAPSHOTS: TRAVELING WITH THE POET, HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

Danish artist Susanne Thea
Multimedia Room
May 23 – December 31, 2020

ART NOUVEAU INNOVATION: DANISH PORCELAIN FROM AN AMERICAN COLLECTOR

(02)
Main Floor Gallery
June 20, 2020 – January 3, 2021
Sponsored by The Danish Home of Croton-on-Hudson and the Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund

traveling

In 2020, *New Nordic Cuisine* will be at the following venues:

American Swedish Historical Museum

Philadelphia, PA
January 25 -
August 23, 2020

Norway House

Minneapolis, MN
September 11 -
November 8, 2020

Nordia House

Portland, OR
December 5, 2020 -
March 28, 2021

Major support for *New Nordic Cuisine* comes from the American-Scandinavian Foundation, Erik and Eva Andersen, and the Estate of Erik Sorensen. **National tour** sponsored by Cynthia Larsen Adams & Gary M. Adams, Embassy of Denmark in Washington, DC, O&H Danish Bakery, The Danish Pioneer Newspaper, Humanities Iowa, Nordic Council of Ministers, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, Anna Thomsen Holliday & Hal Holliday, and the Honorable Lynette Skow Rasmussen & Kurt Rasmussen.

SUBSCRIBE & WATCH

www.youtube.com/nordiccuisine



01. Trunk
Gift of Oma
Weltscheff,
1991.165.031a

02. Art Nouveau
Gilded plate,
designed by Pietro
Krohn for Bing
& Grøndahl, late
1880s.

events calendar

IN-PERSON, ONLINE, OR BOTH? COVID-19 HAS STRENGTHENED OUR RESOLVE TO MAKE MORE THINGS ACCESSIBLE WITH ONLY AN INTERNET CONNECTION. SIGN UP FOR OUR MONTHLY E-NEWS TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON EVENTS, PROGRAMS, AND CANCELLATIONS.

BROWN BAG LUNCH

*Foraging and the Fascinating
Travels of Plants*

By Rich and Marion Patterson
April 16, Noon

VICTOR BORGE LEGACY AWARD PIANO RECITAL

Enjoy classical piano music
performed by the talented winners
of this annual competition
May 2, 2 pm

BOARD MEETING

Salt Lake City, Utah
June 11-13

SANKT HANS AFTEN

Our annual celebration of Danish-
style Midsummer and the opening
of *Art Nouveau Innovation*
June 20

Brown Bag Lunch programs in
2020 are made possible by the
Kofoed Family.



Bird apartments

New houses for our
colony of purple
martins (*Progne
subis*) were installed
on March 17.

where are they now?

AN UPDATE FROM FORMER PARTICIPANTS OF THE SCANDESIGN FOUNDATION INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AT THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA



Morten Tofte

Former Exhibitions Intern,
February - June 2010

I was an intern at The Danish Immigrant Museum (as it was called then) in the late winter and spring of 2010. Living in the village of Elk Horn, Iowa, for several months and working at the museum was so different from anything else I had done. I learned a lot about museums, Danish-American culture, and history and experienced a part of America that you don't often hear about in Denmark. And I met so many lovely people.

My reason for applying for an internship at the museum was my interest in museums and museum exhibitions. Working with Tova Brandt in the exhibitions department turned out to be a really great way to learn more and get practical experience. Among many other things that I did, I remember helping with that year's exhibition, "Sampling

the Collection A to Å." I helped research, select and install artifacts, make labels, and more. It was an exhibition that was focused on the museum's own collection and organized around the Danish alphabet. For each letter - including Æ, Ø and Å - there was a single type of artifact. I think Q was for "quilts."

Another project I remember working on was a sort of "oral history" about a local business, Dania Sko, and its founders, Jens Sorensen and Howard Juel. This project resulted in an article for the *America Letter* and a video for the museum's YouTube channel. From a technical standpoint, the video was maybe a little rough (I think it was the first time I did anything with video). But watching it again now, I think Jens and Howard are really good in it, and their story is fun and inspiring.

After returning to Denmark I finished my studies at the University of Copenhagen with a thesis on museum exhibitions about immigration. I wanted to write about museum exhibitions. The immigration part was a direct result of my stay at The Danish Immigrant Museum. Today I am still an avid museum fan and exhibition goer, though I did not end up working in the field.

I now live in my birth city of Odense, on the island of Funen, where I run a small business selling drawing supplies. I still look back very fondly on my time in Iowa, and I often talk to other people about it. I hope I will be able to visit again someday.

Mange hilsener
from Denmark.

► *Series continues on page 73.*

the wejby mysteries

You might think that the position of genealogy researcher is rather a “cut-and-dried” position, maybe even tedious. It can be so; however, we sometimes become very involved in a family’s story as it is emotional for the storyteller and also the recorder.

I first met Denise Schoening of Shelby, IA on the Saturday morning of the Danish Villages’ annual Christmas celebration, Julefest, in 2017. She had been doing genealogy research on her own and decided she needed help. She had wanted to stop in at the Genealogy Center during Julefest 2016 but discovered we were closed for a funeral. (I remember the day well, as it was the funeral of my son.)

Fortunately, we had enough volunteers assisting during 2017’s Julefest that I was able to take time to help her with a search.

Denise knew that her great-grandfather was a Danish immigrant because her grandmother had numerous photos, including one of the family farm in Denmark (**PICTURED ABOVE**). Her grandmother also told her stories about the photos and the people in them. Her grandmother asked, “When I am gone, who’s going to tell the

stories or know who the people are in the pictures?”

Denise promised her grandmother that she would do it, and she asked her grandmother to label the photos as best she could.

Denise asked her grandmother from where in Denmark her father had come. Her response had been, “the northern tip in a territory called Vendsyssel-thy.” She also said that in New York, when he had been asked his name, he had said “Nels Jensen Wejby,” but the people there recorded it as “Nels Johnson.” Knowing his immigration year was 1905, Denise had searched Ellis Island records but could find no Nels Wejby. Over the next 10 years, she searched for pieces of her family history until she finally decided to reach out.

One record found by Denise was the 1917 marriage of her great-grandfather in Council Bluffs, Iowa. This entry gave his name

as “Nels Jensen Wijby.” Another marriage document recorded his name as “Nels Jensen Wyjby,” but it had an added benefit in that it named his parents: Andrew C. Jensen and Anna Elertsen. This was a powerful clue in finding the right person.

Discovering the names of Nels’s parents was very important in finding him in Denmark. But this clue also indicated why Denise had been unsuccessful in finding him. Having done considerable Danish genealogy, I was certain his name had been Americanized and possibly changed. “Nels” in the U.S. was certainly “Niels” in Denmark. The name of Wejby surely was an addition chosen by Niels or could have been a place name relevant in his ancestry.

Another record stated that “Nels Jensen Wejby” had been born January 29, 1884 in Klasturp PR, Denmark. There is no “Klasturp,” Denmark, but by using some “wild cards” in the Danish name-base



By Wanda Sornson





**NIELS/NELS
BOLVIG JENSEN WEJBY**



**ANSINE ELERTSDATTER &
ANDERS JENSEN**

site, the name of Klæstrup was found. This Klæstrup was in the parish of Jerslev in the county of Hjørring. And this county is definitely in “the northern tip of Vendsyssel,” as Denise’s grandmother had said.

A search of the censuses located 1890 and 1901 records for the family. On the 1890 census “Niels Bolvig Jensen” was six years old, and on the 1901 census, he was named as Niels Jensen with a birth of January 29, 1883. (He was actually born in 1884.) Now we had the family and the location, but there still was no reference to the name of Wejby.

The Danish church registers recorded his birth on January 29, 1884 to parents Anders Kristian Jensen and Anesine Ejlersen living in Klæstrup. But the name given to him at his baptism was “Niels Jensen,” with no mention of Bolvig or Wejby. As I was printing and translating this record, I glanced at Denise sitting next to me and saw tears running down her cheeks. She said, “I have been searching for this information for 20 years, and you found it in less than an hour.”

Niels’s emigration record confirmed our earlier findings.

This was not the end of her story, however. Denise made two more appointments to work with me. I taught her how to use the Danish websites to find records and how to look for names and dates, even if she could not translate all of the information. On her own, she found more records for her ancestor.

There remained two mysteries pertaining to the *name* of Niels Jensen. One was the surname of Wejby, the other was the name of Bolvig. The 1890 census wrote Bolvig as the middle name of both Niels and his brother, Peter. In the 1901 census, Niels was just Niels Jensen, but his brother retained the middle name of Bolvig. Perhaps Bolvig was a name associated with the family somewhere in their ancestry.

When Niels immigrated to the U.S, he continued to use the name of Nels Jensen. But in his marriage record, Niels chose to use the added name of Wejby. One reason for this could have been the commonality of the name Niels

Jensen, but where had he gotten the idea to use “Wejby?”

The birth document of Niels’s father, Anders Christian Jensen, provided a partial answer. It named Anders’s father as Jens Pedersen Wejby. Jens Pedersen Wejby died in 1839, and because he died in 1839, he never had a birthplace listed on a census.

Useful Factoid: The 1845 Danish census was the first census to identify the birthplace of individuals.

Though Jens had passed before that census, his wife was still alive in 1845, and she was recorded. She had remarried to Jacob Nielsen, and her birthplace was listed as “Vejlby.” Her 1789 birth record was located in Vejlby Parish. Although a definite birth record for Jens Pedersen was not located because of the illegibility of documents, a possible baptism was found for Jens, whose alleged father was Peder, which would confirm Jens’s surname of Pedersen.

Again, because of commonality of names, Jens may have taken the place name of Vejlby as an added

surname. Often the military would add a place name to soldiers to distinguish one from others. There was no documentation found to support this possibility.

One mystery solved, but another surfaces.

In the photos that Denise's grandmother left was a picture of a beautiful baby. Her grandmother thought this baby was her half-brother, Niels Jensen's first son. No one in the family knew anything about this baby.

Denise searched the birth records of 1905 in Serritslev, which was the last place Niels Jensen had lived before emigrating from Denmark. Sure enough, she found a birth record for another "Niels Jensen." Niels Jensen, age 21, was the alleged father. Karen Marie Pedersen, age 30, was the unmarried mother. The 1906 census of Vrejlev Parish in Hjørring County listed Karen Marie Pedersen, unmarried, and Niels Jensen, born March 26, 1905 living with the family of Peter Andersen, a tailor. Karen Marie's occupation was that of a seamstress.

Posting this information on a family tree on Ancestry.com brought a surprising result: Denise was contacted by a Marilyn Boothe in New Jersey. Marilyn had a duplicate photo of the baby, who she said was her grandfather. Denise and Marilyn also matched DNA, which further confirmed the connection.

Denise continued this line of research to discover that Niels Jensen, born in 1905, had immigrated to the U.S. and settled in Stanley, NY.

He had hoped to find his father, but he never did.

The two families – one in Iowa and one in New York – continued communicating and sharing information. In August 2019, seven members of the New York family traveled to Elk Horn. They wanted to see the museum, the windmill, and the Genealogy Center to meet the person who had unlocked their family history which helped bring them together.

Denise has continued researching her family and plans a trip to

Denmark to meet her extended family, with whom she has made contact.

Denise has discovered, from another of Niels Jensen Wejby's granddaughters, that Niels added the Wejby to his name 12 years after he immigrated to the U.S. Another Niels Jensen lived in Council Bluffs who apparently had more debt, and Niels kept getting his mail, so he added Wejby to his name.

In Danish, the letters v and w are interchangeable. Therefore, the Danish name of Wejby was often written as Wejby, and that is the spelling that Niels Jensen used to add to his name.

Denise's parting comment was: "Thank you, Wanda Sornson and the Danish Museum Genealogy Center, without your assistance this would never be possible."

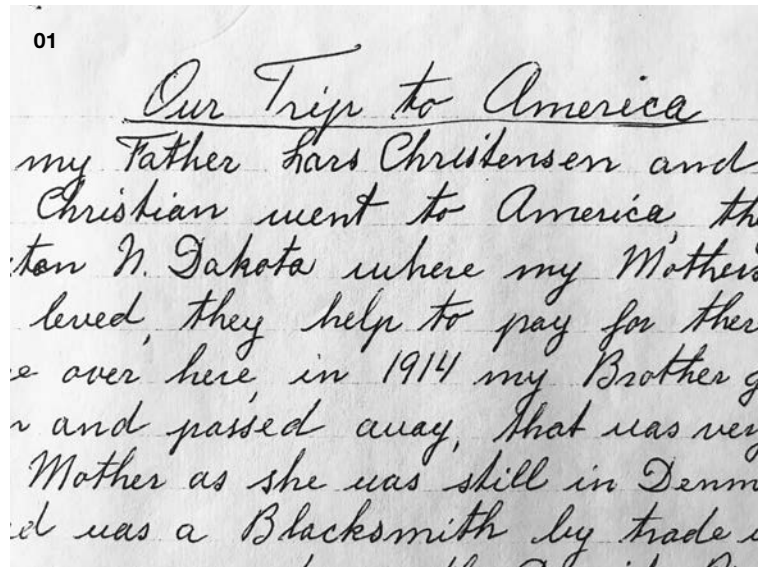
We think Denise's grandmother would be very pleased with her.



NIELS JENSEN, BORN 1905

the wall that talks

STORIES FROM THE DANISH IMMIGRANT WALL OF HONOR



While combing through hundreds of Wall of Honor files, museum volunteer Marilyn Andersen noticed, in a folder marked “Dagmar Sorene Christensen Nielsen,” an ordinary looking document which tells a tale of someone who lived through some extraordinary circumstances. The document, a handwritten essay titled “Our Trip to America,” traces the hardships of Dagmar’s immigration journey. I would like to share her story with you.

In 1915 15-year-old Dagmar Sorene Christensen stood on the wharf in Copenhagen, ready to

go on the ship SS Oscar II, bound for New York City. It was probably with a few misgivings that she said goodbye to her homeland and faced the great unknown. Her father, Lars Christensen, and older brother Christian had already immigrated to the U.S. from Denmark in 1913. The plan was for her father and brother to earn enough money to eventually bring all of the family to America, a common plan back then. They were among 300,000 Danes who immigrated to America between 1850 and 1920, and it represented more than 10 percent of Denmark’s population at that time.

Lars and Christian arrived in Flaxton, ND, where other family had already settled. Not long after, tragically, Christian died of mastoid infection. Dagmar and her mother, who were still living in Denmark, grieved this very sad news.

Dagmar’s father, a blacksmith by trade, found work quickly once arriving in America. He learned via “The Pioneer” newspaper that Fiscus, a western Iowa town, needed a blacksmith. Lars moved to Fiscus, secured a blacksmith shop, built a small four-room house, and set up housekeeping. In 1915, after two years in America, he sent for Dagmar, her



By Shelli Larson

01. Snippet

Handwritten narrative found within the Wall of Honor files.

mother Sena, and two siblings: 10-year-old sister Olivia and 5-year-old brother Emanuel. Dagmar's sister Elna remained in Denmark until 1917, when enough money was saved to bring her to America.

JOURNEY TO AMERICA

It was an arduous journey from Randers, Denmark, to Fiscus, IA for Dagmar, her mother, and two siblings. They packed their entire lives in bags and traveled to Copenhagen in an overcrowded, stinking cattle boat. The journey across the ocean was just as miserable. Their accommodations were in steerage, way down in the bottom of the ship. It was uncomfortable, crowded, and cold. They hit many bad storms at sea, and like others, Dagmar got very seasick. Disease left many fighting for their lives. Arriving on land was quite the relief.

ISLAND OF TEARS

The 12 million Ellis Island immigrants who became Americans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries made up the largest overseas migration in human history. For the 98 percent of immigrants that made it in, the experience of passing through the Ellis Island gateway was surprisingly painless and quick. In the vast majority of cases, most were in and out in three to five hours, during which time they'd answer a series of questions and undergo a medical examination. But for Dagmar and her family, it was a stressful and heartbreaking trip through the buildings on Ellis Island. They did not pass inspection and were detained.

"We were taken to a big room where men examined us like some cattle was for sale," Dagmar wrote. "We didn't understand one word they said. We sat there for hours when two men came and took Mother and our suitcases away. There we sat for a long time and we didn't dare move in case Mother came back and couldn't find us."

Dagmar and her brother and sister spent two weeks at Ellis Island, separated from their mother. "I called it 'the Island of Tears' as we cried so much while we were there," Dagmar recalled.

They had no extra clothes, no toys, no friends to keep them company. No one spoke Danish. They ate in a huge room with other women and children. "We were so hungry. We couldn't eat that soup they served it was salty and pepperi [sic] with potatoes and carrots peelings in it. Big hunks of bread were in the middle of the table but others grabbed. So we cried."

Milk and crackers were provided only to small children at bedtime. A feisty Dagmar remembered, "I wanted some of that milk so bad, Emanuel got his first then I took his sweater off him and he would go back and get some more. I didn't dare drink his milk until he came back with some for me. That was the only thing there was fit to eat. I pulled that trick every night."

They slept in a large hall lined with bunk beds and with a blanket for warmth. Dagmar didn't share how they spent their days, except to

mention how envious they were of a playground area with a green lawn, swings, and toys for little ones to play, but it was off-limits to them.

One day a man took Dagmar away, leaving Olivia and Emanuel in tears as they thought she was being taken away like their mother. Dagmar recalled, "I was taken over a bridge to a big building and there was our Mother sitten [sic] on a chair by her bed." Her mother had been taken to the island's hospital after failing her initial medical examination because of a nervous facial twitch, a characteristic she always had. Great was the worry for Dagmar and her mother. Would they be sent back to Denmark? After days of uncertainty about which way America's "golden door" would swing, Dagmar's mother was able to communicate to authorities that a close relative in New York City could identify and vouch for them. The relative, with a Norwegian minister, came to Ellis Island and vouched for Dagmar's mother. Arrangements were hastily made for Dagmar, her siblings, and mother to be reunited, admitted, and released. Finally! The difficult journey to and through Ellis Island was behind them, and the great promise of America was ahead.

A NEW HOME

The family moved themselves westward by train and horse-drawn wagon to the great plains of the Midwest—destination Audubon, IA train depot—where Dagmar's father had arranged for the local blacksmith to meet the



train every day until they arrived. Relieved and excited, they finished the last few miles of their journey to Fiscus “in a real car driven by a chauffeur in a strange uniform—overalls,” Dagmar wrote. It was a joyful family reunion, topped off with red geraniums planted in tin cans, set in the windows of their little home by a new friend, Mrs. Hans Fabricius. “It made Mother feel welcome.” Dagmar concludes her essay with a startling detail: “We had been in Fiscus a week when Father got a letter from New York telling him we were all sent back to Denmark.” It’s frightening to think how close Dagmar and her family were to deportation, prior to family intervening on their behalf.

In December of 1918 Dagmar married Christian Larsen Nielsen (born 1889 in Store Andst, Jylland, Denmark). They settled in the Fiscus, Jacksonville, and Harlan areas and had three children: Norman A. Nielsen, Myrna J. Nielsen Criss, and Harley J. Nielsen.

Dagmar’s firsthand account of her journey to America is one of thousands of histories filed at the museum, and it helps us better understand the immigration experience.



**DANISH IMMIGRANT
WALL OF HONOR
Column 65 Row 18**

Christian L. (1910) and
Dagmar S. Nielsen (1915)
Harlan, IA

02. SS Oscar II
Photo by Svend
Andersen in
Copenhagen, 1929.
1996.042.003

new additions to the wall of honor

OCTOBER 9, 2019 – FEBRUARY 12, 2020

The Danish Immigrant Wall of Honor provides families and friends with a means of preserving the memories of those who emigrated from Denmark to America. Over 4,500 immigrants are currently recognized on the Wall. Their stories and the stories of their families contribute to the growing repository of personal histories at the museum's Genealogy Center. You may find a list of the immigrants on the Wall of Honor at www.danishmuseum.org.

The information below includes the immigrant's name, year of immigration, location where they settled, and the name and city of the donor.

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

CHRISTIAN C. CLAUSEN (1907)
Exira, IA – Nina Clausen, Exira, IA

DAGMAR KATRINA RUNGE CLAUSEN (1920) Exira, IA – Nina Clausen, Exira, IA

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

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

KAREN KIRSTINE 'CHRISTINE' (ANDERSEN) HEMMINGSEN
FOUNDER OF THE DANISH SISTERHOOD (1873) Marquette, MI – Supreme Lodge of the Danish Sisterhood of America

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

MADS PETER RIKART STRANDSKOV & LAURA BARNER STRANDSKOV (1871) (1877) Dagmar, MT – Lorraine Jensen, Grand Junction, CO

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

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

By Deb Christensen Larsen



jens jensen heritage path

OCTOBER 9, 2019 – FEBRUARY 12, 2020

The Jens Jensen Heritage Path is a place to celebrate an occasion or achievement, recognize an individual or organization, or honor the memory of a loved one. Twice a year the pavers will be engraved and placed within the Flag Plaza: May and October.

These individuals have contributed a paver in the sizes of small or medium.

Shannon Couhig,
Baton Rouge, LA
Lynn Diaz, Arden Hills, MN
Megan Farnsworth, Adair, IA

Michael & Karma Nielsen,
Altoona, IA
Kurt & Consul Lynette Skow
Rasmussen, Johnston, IA



memorials

OCTOBER 9, 2019 – FEBRUARY 12, 2020

Through various funds, donors
have provided gifts in memory
of:

Lars Peder Boerre
Charles E. R. Boye
Charlie Brehm, my husband
Robert W. Brown
Cecily Castenskiold, my wife
Lotte Christensen
Raymond Christensen,
 Rosemount, MN, my father
T.K. Christensen
Virgil Christensen, my dad
Louis & Margaret Clausen
Glen Clemson
Glen Clemson, my husband
Rusell & Alice Jane Clemson
Marlys E. Cook
Marlys E. Cook, my wife
Lillian Irene Eggeress
Hans & Mathilde Farstrup
Bernal Gregersen
Rita Ann Jessen Grudle
Arnold Gude
Arnold Gude of Elk Horn, IA
Bent & Lydia Hansen
Cleo & Esther Hansen
Ingrid Hansen
William Hartranft, my husband
Geraldine Ann Hemmingsen,
 my wife
Emery & Izy Hoegh, my parents
Fred Jacobsen
Inge R. Jacobson
Janice Jacobsen
Janice Juel Jacobsen
Janice Juel Hansen Jakobsen
Charles W. Jensen
Kenny Jensen
Roland & Anitra Jensen
Russell & Morris Jensen
Dr. Gary Wayne Jorgensen,
 Harlan, IA

Orville Kerkhoff, my father
Clinton & Lyria Jensen and Chris
 & Gladys Knudsen
Svend Koch
Svend V. Koch, Cedar Falls, IA
Dale Krog of Tracy, MN,
 my husband
Shirley J. Kuhlman, longtime
 member & former officer for
 Denver Danes
Aage J. Larsen of Humboldt, IA
Edith Larsen
Edith Larsen, my mother
Kurt Klarskov Larsen, my husband
Paul M. & Johanne Larsen
Dorothea Laursen
Jeanette Lillehoj
Julius Lindhardt
Milton Madsen, member of the
 Denver Danes
Robert & Mabel Madsen,
 my parents
John C. Molgaard
Grethe Møllgaard
Rose Ella Nielsen
Byron Olsen
William A. Olsen, longtime
 museum member
Irma Ørum
Paul Marinus Paulsen
Niels M. Pedersen
Anna M. Pedersen, my wife
Ardis Petersen
Ardis Overgaard Petersen,
 who was instrumental in
 starting Bedstemor's Hus in
 conjunction with EH-Kimballton
 Arts Council

Herbert & Mabel Petersen
Jens Holm Petersen
William 'Bill' Petersen & Myra
 (Jensen) Petersen of
 Solvang, CA
James M. Peterson, my father
Louise Jorgensen Byriel
 Rattenborg
Helen Roenfeld
Andrew & Rosa Rosenkild
Leroy Sand, my brother
Marilyn Jean Schaefer
Albert Martin Jensen Schjodt
Betty Hoegh Schukei & Family
Eva Sindberg, my wife
"Antique" Mabel Stahl
Richard Stilling and
 Rebecca Stilling
Marion Svendsen
Ruth Anderson Turney
Gerda Westenberger (Henriksen)
Jeanne Vig Zimmerman

in honor

OCTOBER 9, 2019 – FEBRUARY 12, 2020

**Through various funds, donors
have provided gifts in honor of
people or special events.**

Tova Brandt wearing 2 hats!
Tova Brandt's Hygge presentation
Joyce Christensen, deb's mom
Joyce Mitten Christensen, my
mom
The Dahlgard Family of Lennox-
Beresford, SD
Charles Frederiksen
Jim & Marge Iversen
Cheyenne Jansdatter, who works
so hard for MoDA!
Erna C. Jensen
Erna C. Jensen's birthday
Garey Knudsen, my husband
Jeanette Lillehoj's 90th birthday
Julie Jensen McDonald

M.C. McNabb (former MoDA
genealogy)
the Museum's amazing staff!
Brent & Shirley Norlem, my
parents
Poul & Benedikte Ehlers Olesen
Adeline Ostby, my great
granddaughter
Gerald & Sigrid Rasmussen
Skow Family of Monona
County, IA
Ken Thomsen



Wallpaper

Detail of a wall
covering at
Bedstemor's House.

new members

OCTOBER 9, 2019 – FEBRUARY 12, 2020

**The Museum of Danish America
is pleased to identify the
following 51 individuals as its
newest members:**

Gwendolyn Andersen, Rockville, MD	Allan Knudsen, Urbandale, IA
Annelise Bacher, Bristol, RI	Larry & Sue Koehrsen, Ames, IA
Linda Brooks, Castle Rock, CO	Jeffrey & Shelli Larson, Harlan, IA
Brian Burgess, Norwalk, CT	Steve & Birgitte Lozano, Ann Arbor, MI
Bjorn Christopherson, Decorah, IA	Marie McLaughlin, Harlan, IA
Nina Clausen, Exira, IA	Yvonne Meyer, Clarkston, MI
Shannon Couhig, Baton Rouge, LA	Linda Miller, Henderson, NV
Danes Hall of Waupaca, LLC, Waupaca, WI	Kay Mitchell, Estes Park, CO
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #19, Tacoma/Olympia, WA	William & Alfreda Moore, El Dorado Hills, CA
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #100, Marlette, MI	Mollie Muller, Harlan, IA
Danish Sisterhood Frihed Lodge #153, Hartford, CT	Catherine Olesen, Greenfield, IA
Danish Sisterhood Amber Lodge #186, Brainerd, MN	Darla Peterson, Sioux City, IA
Megan Farnsworth, Adair, IA	Marjorie Powell, Council Bluffs, IA
Duane Feekin, Canyon Lake, TX	Ebbe Rostgaard, Two Rivers, WI
Kaj Foget, Madison, WI	Lisa Rovick, Minneapolis, MN
Michael & Kiersten Foget, Madison, WI	Brad & Cathy Sauter, Sheridan, IN
Craig Fulton, Ames, IA	Dan & Cynthia Schaulis, Ellison Bay, WI
Diana Glasser, Boulder, CO	Troy & Jana Spies, Clifton, TX
Larry Grill, Schleswig, IA	Charles Tsatsos, Waterloo, NE
Kenneth Hansen, Bunnell, FL	Sharon Vixo, Jamestown, ND
Rene & Pia Hansen, Pine, CO	Heather Vorm, Lincoln, NE
Warren Hill, Omaha, NE	Timothy Vorm, Lincoln, NE
Elin Jeantet, Swarthmore, PA	
Andrea Jensen, Ann Arbor, MI	
Jen Marie Jensen, Newbern, NC	
Jerry & Judy Johansen, Milan, IL	
Constance Johnson, Englewood, CO	
Erik & Christie Johnson, Canyon Country, CA	
Joyce Juhler, Riley, KS	

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP MAKES A GREAT GIFT

For lives that are already stuffed full of “stuff,” a museum membership gives back while also giving access. Even last minute, a new membership or renewal is easy to arrange, thoughtful, and rewarding. Contact us any time for gift-giving throughout the year.

organization associates

OCTOBER 9, 2019 – FEBRUARY 12, 2020

These 79 organizations have contributed memberships or gifts-in-kind of \$100 or greater or have received complimentary or reciprocal memberships in recognition of exemplary service to the museum. We acknowledge their generosity in each edition of the *America Letter* during their membership.

American Swedish Historical Museum, Philadelphia, PA
Arcus AS (Aalborg and Linie Aquavits), Hagan, Norway
Atlantic Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum, Atlantic, IA
Audubon Family Chiropractic (Douglas & Nichole Olsen), Audubon, IA
Boose Building Construction (Marty & Connie Boose), Atlantic, IA
Carroll Control Systems, Inc. (Todd & Jalynn Wanninger), Carroll, IA
Country Landscapes, Inc. (Rhett Faaborg), Ames, IA
Danebod Lutheran Church, Tyler, MN
Danes Hall of Waupaca, LLC, Waupaca, WI
Danish American Athletic Club of 1922, Chicago, IL area
The Danish American Archive and Library, Blair, NE
Danish American Club in Orange County, Huntington Beach, CA area
Danish American Club of

Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI area
Danish Archive North East (DANE), Edison, NJ
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1, Omaha, NE
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #29, Seattle, WA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #35, Homewood, IL
Danish Brotherhood Gimle Lodge #95, Eureka, CA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #268, Junction City, OR
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #283, Dagmar, MT
Danish Brotherhood Lodges, Heartland District, Iowa-Minnesota & surrounding states
Danish Brotherhood Centennial Lodge #348, Eugene, OR
The Danish Canadian National Museum, Spruce View, Alberta, Canada
Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, AZ
Danish Cultural Center of Greenville, Greenville, MI
The Danish Home, Croton-On-Hudson, NY
The Danish Home of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Danish Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, IA
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #3, Davenport, IA
Danish Sisterhood Dagmar Lodge #4, Chicago, IL
Danish Sisterhood Dronning

Margrethe Lodge #15, Wauwatosa, WI area
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #19, Tacoma/Olympia, WA
Danish Sisterhood Katherine Lodge #20, Kenosha, WI
Danish Sisterhood Ellen Lodge #21, Denver, CO area
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102, Des Moines, IA area
Danish Sisterhood Frihed Lodge #153, Hartford, CT
Danish Sisterhood Flora Danica Lodge #177, Solvang, CA
Danish Sisterhood Amber Lodge #186, Brainerd, MN
Danish Sisterhood Hygge Lodge #188, Enumclaw, WA
Danish Sisterhood Lodges, Nebraska/Colorado Districts, Lincoln, NE & Denver CO areas
Den Danske Pioneer (Elsa Steffensen & Linda Steffensen), Hoffman Estates, IL
Elk Horn Lutheran Church, Elk Horn, IA
Elk Horn-Kimballton Optimist Club, Elk Horn & Kimballton, IA area
Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, Solvang, CA
Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton Community School District, Elk Horn, IA area
Faith, Family, Freedom Foundation (Kenneth & Marlene Larsen), Santa Rosa, CA
Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, Ontario

Hacways (Helene & Nanna Christensen), Hals, Denmark
 Wayne Hansen Real Estate, LLC, Elk Horn, IA
 Harlan Tribune Newspapers, Inc. (Steve Mores & Alan Mores), Harlan, IA
 Henningsen Construction, Inc. (Brad Henningsen, Vice President), Atlantic, IA
 House of Denmark, San Diego, CA
 Independent Order of Svithiod, Verlandi Lodge #3, Chicago, IL
 Kirsten's Danish Bakery (Kirsten & Paul Jepsen), Hinsdale, IL
 Knudsen Old Timers, Glendale, CA
 Landmands Bank (Jeff Petersen, President) Audubon, IA
 Main Street Market (Tracey Kenkel) Panama, IA
 Marne Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn, IA
 Nelsen and Nelsen, Attorneys at Law, Cozad, NE
 Northwest Danish Association, Seattle, WA
 O & H Danish Bakery (Eric Olesen), Racine, WI
 Olsen, Muhlbauer & Co., L.L.P., Carroll, IA
 Oxen Technology, Harlan, IA
 Petersen Family Foundation, Inc. (H. Rand & Mary Louise Petersen), Harlan, IA
 PH-Consulting Group, Inc. (Peder & Andrea Hansen), Omaha, NE
 Proongily (Cyndi McKeen), St. Paul, MN

The Rasmussen Group, Inc. (Sandra Rasmussen and Kurt & Lynette Rasmussen), Des Moines, IA
 Rebuild National Park Society, Southern California Chapter, Los Angeles, CA area
 Red River Danes, Fargo, ND area
 Ringsted Danish American Fellowship, Ringsted, IA
 Royal Danish Embassy, Washington, DC
 Royal Danish Guard Society, Chicago, IL area
 Scan Design Foundation, Seattle, WA
 Shelby County Historical Society & Museum, Harlan, IA
 Shelby County State Bank, Harlan and Elk Horn, IA
 Supreme Lodge of the Danish Sisterhood of America
 Symra Literary Society, Decorah, IA
 Upward Mobility (Susan Vitek), Hinesburg, VT

MUTUAL BENEFITS

Sponsorships of exhibits and programs support the museum's mission while simultaneously increasing visibility for the sponsoring organization. Contact us for ideas on how your business or organization can reach out and make an impact!

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

a letter from the president

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.



By Beth Bro-Roof

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 Henningsen, *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 Kofoed, *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*

who we are

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 Wilcoxon, B.S. & M.L.I.S., Dominican University, River Forest, IL
(Archival & Special Collections)
Internship funded by Diane Skov, Lacey, WA

former board members

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
Herb Andersen*, Council Bluffs, IA 1991-1992
Judy Andersen*, Los Angeles, CA 1986-1989
Ragna Bak, Alexandria, VA 1997
Norman Bansen*, Blair, NE 1983-1989
Harold Berg, Ogden, IA 1996-2002
Signe Nielsen Betsinger, Falcon Heights, MN 1983-1990 & 1991-1996, *President*
Egon Bodtker, Salem, OR 2000-2006, *President*
Arvid Bollesen*, Tustin, CA 1990-1996
Jon Borgman, Harlan, IA 2010-2013
Bruce Bro, Phoenix, AZ 2019
Mervin Bro*, Scottsdale, AZ 1996-1999, *Vice President*
Ronald Bro, Cedar Falls, IA 2001-2007 & 2011-2017
Timothy Burchill, Jamestown, ND 2012-2018, *Vice President & President*
Jens Busch*, Austin, TX 1990-1996
Borge Christensen, Tucson, AZ 2003-2006
Carlo Christensen, Glendale, CA 2004-2010
Dan Christensen, W. Des Moines, IA 2013-2015
Jack Christensen, Yankton, SD 1991-1997, *Treasurer*
Lois Christensen, Elk Horn, IA 2001-2007
Lone Christensen, Brown Deer, WI 2007-2013
Lydell Christensen, Pittstown, NJ 1987-1993 & 1997-1999
Ross Christensen*, Waterloo, IA 1992-1993
Thomas Christensen*, Bettendorf, IA 1999-2005
Victor Christensen*, Washington, DC 1983-?
Marie Meilandt Dahlman*, Loma Rica, CA 1998-?
Ane-Grethe 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
Charles Frederiksen, Ames, IA 1989-1995 & 1997-1999, *President*
Lis Frederiksen, Washington, DC 2001-2003
Mark Frederiksen, Falcon, CO 2006-2012, *President*
Marilyn Andersen Gift, Des Moines, IA 1995-2001, *Secretary*
Karen Gray, Spring Grove, MN 1992-1995
Kenneth Gregersen, Ankeny, IA 2006-2008
Neel Halpern, Manhasset, NY 1991-1994
Howard Hansen* 1988-1988
Ingrid Hansen*, Lincoln, NE 1994-1998
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

- Nils Jensen, Portland, OR 2001-2004
 Roland Jensen*, Des Moines, IA 1985-1993
 Tor Jensen, Willmette, 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
 Karen Klop* 1990-1993
 Svend Koch*, Cedar Falls, IA 1993-1999
 Christopher Kramme, San Francisco, CA 2006
 Lowell Kramme, Des Moines, IA 1993-1999
 Joseph Krentzel, Fair Lawn, NJ 1991-1997
 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 2006-2009
 Carolyn Larson, St. Paul, MN 2013-2019, *Secretary*
 Dennis Larson, Decorah, IA 1985-*Ex-officio*
 Bent Lerno*, Simi Valley, CA 1995-2001
 Eivind Lillehoj*, Kimballton, 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
 John Molgaard*, Atlantic, IA 1996-2002 & 2005-2009,
Treasurer, Vice President
 Dagmar Muthamia, Long Beach, CA 2002-2008 &
 2012-2018, *Secretary & President*
 Norma Lange Nelson*, Elk Horn, IA 1996-2002
 Clayton Nielsen*, Racine, WI 1991-?
Hans T. Nielsen*, Denver, CO 1983-1986
John Mark Nielsen, Blair, NE 1983-1991 & 2000-2003
 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*
 Norman Riis, Ames, IA 1986-1991
 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-?
 Halvor H. Strandkov*, Alexandria, VA 1995-2001,
President
 Mark Strandkov, Mt. Pleasant, MI 2009-2015
 Helen Stub, Minneapolis, MN, 1991-2000, *Secretary*
 Janet Thuesen, Sausalito, CA 1996-2002 & 2006-2012,
Vice President
 Svend 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

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

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

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

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

a year of achievement

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



By Tova Brandt

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 Clemson
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.

By Terri Johnson



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 Juhl

June 23, 2018 – March 17, 2019

Denmark, 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



By Tova Brandt

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

Skål! Scandinavian Spirits

City of Greeley Museums, Greeley, Colorado
American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sport for Sports' Sake

Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, Omaha, Nebraska

collections

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

Karen Beall, Santa Fe, NM
Steve Berg, DeKalb, IL
Borge M. Christensen, Rochester, MN
Children of Joyce Mitten Christensen, Harlan, IA
Katherine Christensen, Garden Grove, CA
Judy Coble, Lititz, PA
Graham Cook, Des Moines, IA
Danish American Archive and Library, Blair, NE
Danish Sisterhood of America, Beaverton, OR
Danish Sisterhood of America, Los Angeles, CA
Danish Windmill Corp., Elk Horn, IA
Kaj Foget, Madison, WI
David Geiger, Wilmington, DE
Larry Gundersen, Sun City West, AZ
Kristin Habicht, Littleton, CO
Bente Siig Hansen, Glesborg, DK
Peder Hansen, Omaha, NE
Susan Hoegh, Atlantic, IA

Jimmy Jorgensen, Holiday, FL
Deb Larsen, Harlan, IA
Nancy Larsen, Milwaukee, WI
Peter Møller, Ishøj, Denmark
Lani Nielsen, Littleton, CO
Henry D. Patterson, Cedar Rapids, IA
Rich Patterson, Cedar Rapids, IA
Kari Petersen, Vallejo, CA
Cordell Poldberg, Pocahontas, IA
Randy Ruggaard, Hudson, OH
Christopher Schierup, Kimberly, OR
Cherie Shown, Napa, CA
Judith Stalnaker, Denver, CO
Carl Steffensen, Houston, TX
Pearl Swank, Poplar, MT
Millie Wilcox, Cherry Hill, NJ
Barbara Yelverton, Vermillion, SD



By Angela Stanford

danish immigrant wall of honor

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)
HEMMINGSSEN** 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 JORGENSEN & JOHANNE JAKOBSEN
JORGENSEN** (1891) (1891) Minneapolis, MN – Lois
Anderson, Minneapolis, 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

By Deb Christensen Larsen



genealogy center

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
Steve Berg, DeKalb, IL
Finn Bille, Chattanooga, TN
Shirley Brenner, Madison, WI
Bruce Bro, Gilbert, AZ
BebeAnna Buck, Eau Claire, WI
Kathleen Carlson, Bellevue, WA
Mariane & Jan Christensen, Østbirk, Denmark
Borge M. Christensen, Rochester, MN
Daneville Heritage Museum, Viborg, SD
Danish American Archive & Library, Blair, NE
Jan Fajen, Elk Horn, IA
Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, Ontario
Duane D. Feekin, Canyon Lake, TX
Carolyn Kelsey Harvey, Battle Creek, MI
Gary Jacobson, Blooming Prairie, MN
Joe & Rose Jean, Des Moines, IA
Connie Johnson, Exira, IA
Jeanette Knudsen, Elk Horn, IA
Karen Knutson, Glenview, IL
Linda La Fleur, Albany, OR
Gretchen Leppke, Evanston, IL
Delbert Leppke, Evanston, IL
Jeanette Lillehoj, Kimballton, IA
Anne Linstatter, Santa Monica, CA
Roger McCoy, Bakersfield, CA
Cynthia McKeen, St. Paul, MN
Bitty Pihl McKinney, Portland, OR
Sindy Mikkelsen, Santa Rosa, CA
Deone Pedersen, Iowa City, IA
Cynthia Priesmeyer, El Campo, TX
John Rasmussen, Palm Desert, CA
Alice Rasmussen, Des Moines, IA
Robert Simonsen, Topeka, KS



By Wanda Sornson

Diane Skov, Lacey, WA
Kenneth L. Stoner, Lawrence, KS
Leo & Gayle Stuart, Walnut, IA
Donna Thomas, Papillion, NE
Marie Thourson (Jones)
Union County Genealogical Society, Creston, IA
Michael Van Ness, N. Canton, OH
Ila Watts, Columbia, MO
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*)

DIAMOND over \$1,000,000

Wayne Alwill Estate, Manning, IA

Anonymous

William & Berniece Grewcock, Omaha, NE

Bruce R. Lauritzen Family, Omaha, NE

Charles W. & Norma J. Wilson Foundation, Inc.,
Red Oak, IA

PLATINUM over \$500,000

Dennis J. Andersen, Atlanta, GA

Gunnar Horn, Omaha, NE

Ingrid Kirkegaard Trust, Lake Geneva, WI

Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, Seattle, WA

State of Iowa

GOLD over \$250,000

Anonymous

Mervin Bro, Scottsdale, AZ

Marianne K. Festersen Trust, Omaha, NE

Peter Kiewit Foundation, Omaha, NE

Roy J. & Rita Neergaard Hansen, Kenosha, WI

Richard Hellman, Oceanside, CA

scan l design foundation By Inger & Jens Bruun,
Seattle, WA

Erik Sorensen Trust, Knoxville, IA

SILVER over \$100,000

Anonymous

Anton & Gunver M. Berg, DeKalb, IL

Esther "E.J." Carlson Estate, Columbus, OH

Carl Aage Christensen, Denver, CO

Edna M. Christensen, Atlantic, IA

Tom & Jan Christensen, Bettendorf, IA

Elk Horn Lutheran Church, Elk Horn, IA

Howard & Ruth Esbeck Trust, Elk Horn, IA

Asta Forrest, Fountain Hills, AZ

Gertrude Gronbech, Washington, D.C.
 Stewart & Lenore Hansen, West Des Moines, IA
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 Iowa West Foundation, Council Bluffs, IA
 James D. & Margery Iversen, Ames, IA
 Clyde & Emma Johnson, Omaha, NE
 Martha Jorgensen, Audubon, IA
 John & Audrey Kofoed, West Branch, IA
 Lowell & Marilyn Kramme, Des Moines, IA
 Reola Lerager, Wichita, KS
 Lutheran Brotherhood, Minneapolis, MN
 Herbert C. Madison, Washington, DC
 Adelaide M. Madsen Estate, Cedar Rapids, IA
 A.P. Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller
 Foundation, Copenhagen, Denmark
 Eric & Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust,
 Northbrook, IL
 Mark & Lori Nussle, Palos Park, IL
 Folmer & Vera Nyby, Michigan City, IN
 Poul Olesen & Benedikte Ehlers Olesen, Eugene, OR
 Olga S. Olsen Estate, Watertown, SD
 H. Rand & Mary Louise Petersen, Harlan, IA
 John I. Petersen Estate, Kimballton, IA
 Harriet Albertsen Spanel, Bellingham, WA
 E. Irene Starrett, Audubon, IA
 Chrystal Hemmingsen Willis Wagner Estate,
 Seattle, WA
 Wilber Williamson, Des Moines, IA

BRONZE over \$25,000

Aalborg And Linie Aquavits, Arcus As, Hagan Norway
 Cynthia Larsen Adams and Gary M. Adams,
 Littleton, CO
 The American-Scandinavian Foundation,
 New York, NY
 Erik & Eva Andersen, Croton-on-Hudson, NY
 Anonymous (2)
 Norman C. Bansen Estate, Blair, NE
 Mogens & Cindy Bay, Omaha, NE
 Elna N. Bellows, Edina, MN
 Harold W. & Lois M. Berg, Ogden, IA
 Egon & Diana Bodtker, Salem, OR
 Sanna and Victor Borge Memorial Fund,
 New York, NY
 Marie A. Budolfson Estate, Ames, IA

Cedar Valley Danes, Cedar Falls, IA Area
 Jack & Barbara Christensen, Yankton, SD
 Lamont & Lois Christensen, Elk Horn, IA
 Glen & Rosa Clemsen, Exira, IA
 Dolores G. Connelly Estate, Atlantic, IA
 Country Landscapes, Inc., Ames, IA
 R. James & Janet Borge Crowle, Saint Michaels, MD
 Danish Brotherhood In America,
 Highlands Ranch, CO
Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, AZ
 Danish Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, IA
 Ane-Grethe Olesen & Rory A.M. Delaney,
 Wayzata, MN
 David W. & Helen A. Esbeck, San Diego, CA
 Gordon, Mary Lou & Janice Esbeck, Tipton, IA
 Ramona L. Esbeck, Ames, IA
 Sally og Gordon Faber, Urbandale, Iowa
 First Baptist Church of Elk Horn, IA
 Charles & Joanne Frederiksen, Ames, IA
 J. Emory & Edna Fredrickson Estate, Elk Horn, IA
 Margaret Louise Gee Estate, West Des Moines, IA
 Marilyn Andersen Gift & William Gift,
 Des Moines, IA
 Alf & Lili Gregerson, Ridgefield, WA
 Caroline L. Hansen, Harlan, IA
 Walter & Vesta Hansen, West Branch, IA
 Alma O. Hartvigsen Estate, Harlan, IA
 Henningsen Construction, Inc., Atlantic, IA
 Anna Thomsen Holliday and Hal Holliday,
 Houston, TX
 Stanley & Helen Howe, Muscatine, IA
 Vern E. Hunter, Fargo, ND
 Al & Bridget Jensen, Houston, TX
 Cornelius C.J. Jensen Estate, Edmonds, WA
Erna C. Jensen, Des Moines, IA
 Irving & Elizabeth Jensen Foundation, Sioux City, IA
 Nils & Kathleen Jensen, Portland, OR
 Roland & Joan Jensen, Ankeny, IA
 Iver (Whitey) & Lis Jorgensen, Burnsville, MN
 Robert S. Kroman Estate, Elk Horn, IA
 Kulturministeriet, Copenhagen, Denmark
 Kurt K. & Joy Larsen, Oneonta, AL
 Richard Ledet, Des Moines, IA
 Leonard K. & Lenora J. Madsen Estate,
 Kansas City, MO
 Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn, IA



Lifetime Legacy Giving, continued

Carl & Marilyn Mehr, San Diego, CA
Inez M. Mortensen Estate, Omaha, NE
Dagmar Muthamia, Long Beach, CA
Einar Schultz Nielsen, Tustin, CA
Hans Thyge & Valborg Nielsen, Denver, CO
John Mark & Dawn Nielsen, Blair, NE
Ruth Herman Nielsen Estate, Omaha, NE
Irene A. Nissen Estate, Cedar Falls, IA
Kay Esbeck North, Ames, IA
Kai E. & Melody Starr Nyby, Laporte, IN
Erik & Jackie Olsen, Glenbrook, NV
Glenn & Mary Ellen Olsen, Atlantic, IA
Ruth Lund Ostrom Estate, Seven Hills, OH
Peter & Irma Ørum, Saint Charles, IL
Eivind & Dorothy (Peterson) Pedersen Estate,
Omaha, NE
Marc & Carlene Petersen, Omaha, NE
Kurt & Lynette Skov Rasmussen, Johnston, IA
Eugene Robinson, Pensacola, FL
Anelise Sawkins, Minneapolis, MN
Agnita M. Christensen Stine Schreiber Foundation,
Inc., Shepherdstown, WV
Shelby County Community Foundation, Shelby
County, IA
Shelby County State Bank, Harlan, IA
Ava Simonsen Estate, Audubon, IA
Harold L. Sorenson Estate, Exira, IA
Wilbur C. Sorenson Estate, Exira, IA
Lemuel & Edith Sprow Estate, Mound, MN
Carl & Frances Steffensen, Houston, TX
Karen K. Suchomel, West Branch, IA
Janet M. Thuesen, Falls Church, VA
Svend & Lois Toftemark, Eugene, OR
Erik & Lissi Vange, Palatine, IL
Marion J. Walker Estate, Solvang, CA
Todd & Jalynn Wanninger/Carroll Control Systems,
Carroll, IA

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*
Anne Bansen*, *Ferndale, CA*
Norman C. Bansen*, *Blair, NE*
Constance Boggild*, *Delray Beach, FL*
Victor Borge*, *Greenwich, CT*
Judy Brehm, *Blair, NE*
Ronald D. & Mary L. Bro, *Cedar Falls, Iowa*
H. Donald* & Margie E. Brown, *Seal Beach, CA*
Marie Budolfson*, *Ames, IA*
Borge & Lotte* Christensen, *Tucson, AZ*
Charles R. Christensen*, *Omaha, NE*
Edna M. Christensen*, *Atlantic, IA*
Myrvin F. & Anne C.* Christopherson, *Decorah, IA*
Dolores Gregersen Connelly*, *Atlantic, IA*
Lydia Sorensen Eriksen*, *Waterloo, IA*
David Esbeck*, *Des Moines, IA*
Gordon R. & Jan Esbeck, *Tipton, IA*
Howard Esbeck*, *Ames, IA*
Ramona Esbeck, *Ames, IA*
Dorothy & Lyle Feisel, *Chestertown, MD*
Asta Forrest*, *Fountain Hills, AZ*
Joanne Frederiksen, *Ames, IA*
J. Emory* & Edna Fredrickson*, *Elk Horn, IA*
Earl* & LaVena Fries, *Des Moines, IA*
Margaret Gee*, *West Des Moines, IA*
Gertrude Gronbech*, *Washington, D.C.*
Caroline Hansen*, *Harlan, IA*
Hans Hansen*, *Des Moines, IA*
Laura E. Hansen*, *Irwin, IA*

*Deceased

Rita Neergaard Hansen*, *Kenosha, WI*
 Rosa Hansen*, *Hampton, IA*
Bruce & Kristie Hansen-Mendez, *Chicago, IL*
 Roger J. Hanson, *Cedar Falls, IA*
 Alma Hartvigsen*, *Harlan, IA*
 Richard Hellman*, *Oceanside, CA*
 Anna Marie Hjuler*, *Audubon, IA*
 Susanne Hohlen, *Monticello, MN*
 Anna Thomsen Holliday, *Houston, TX*
 Gunnar Horn*, *Omaha, NE*
 Joy Ibsen, *Trout Creek, MI*
 James D. & Margery Iversen, *Ames, IA*
 Genevieve Jensen*, *Plainview, NE*
 Ruth Jensen*, *Ames, IA*
 Agnes Johnson*, *Garden City, MI*
 Clyde* & Emma Johnson*, *Omaha, NE*
 Dennis & Carole Johnson, *Morris, MN*
 Paul & Liz Johnson, *Fremont, NE*
 Martha Jorgensen*, *Audubon, IA*
 Mogens H. Kiehn*, *Scottsdale, AZ*
 Garey & Sherry Knudsen, *Hutchinson, MN*
 Joy S. Larsen, *Oneonta, AL*
 Jerome R. & Carolyn Larson, *Saint Paul, MN*
 Folmer* & Reola Lerager*, *Wichita, KS*
 Harald Hans Lund*, *Higganum, CT*
 Tom Lund, *Harlan, IA*
 Adelaide Madsen*, *Iowa City, IA*
 Rudolph* & Margaret Madsen*, *Racine, WI*
 Keith N. McFarland*, *New Brighton, MN*
 Helga Mikkelsen*, *Waverly, IA*

Inez M. Mortensen*, *Omaha, NE*
 Ruth Rasmussen Nelson*, *St. Cloud, MN*
 Einer Schultz Nielsen*, *Newport Beach, CA*
 Jens Nielsen*, *Newell, IA*
 John Mark Nielsen & Dawn Marie Nielsen, *Blair, NE*
 Karen Madsen Nielsen*, *Junction City, OR*
 Margaret A. Nielsen*, *King City, OR*
 Ruth Herman Nielsen*, *Omaha, NE*
 Raymond* & Irene Nissen*, *Cedar Falls, IA*
 Eric* & Joan Norgaard*, *Glenview, IL*
 Folmer & Vera Nyby, *Michigan City, IN*
 Caroline Olsen*, *Minneapolis, MN*
 Olga S. Olsen*, *Watertown, SD*
 Marian E. (Mittie) Ostergaard, *Mission Viejo, CA*
 Dorothy C. Pedersen*, *Omaha, NE*
 John I. Petersen*, *Waterloo, IA*
 Lois Petersen*, *Atlantic, IA*
 Peyton* & Lucia Respass*, *Omaha, NE*
 Eugene Robinson*, *Pensacola, FL*
 Ava Simonsen*, *Audubon, IA*
 Bodil Sorensen*, *Kirkland, WA*
 Howard & Karma Sorensen, *Elk Horn, IA*
 Harold L. Sorenson*, *Exira, IA*
 Halvor Strandskov*, *Osterville, MA*
 Carol Svendsen, *Denver, CO*
 Margaret Syring*, *St. Paul, MN*
 Jennifer & Rasmus Thøgersen, *Omaha, NE*
 Nancy J. Walden, *Des Moines, IA*
 Sandra Wunder, *Omaha, NE*

special appeals

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.*

ARCHIVES

Danish Sisterhood Archive Project

Rich Inman & Melinda Brown, Littleton, CO
Danish Sisterhood Heartland District Johnston, IA
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #3, Davenport, IA
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
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #100, Marlette, MI
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102, Des Moines, IA
Danish Sisterhood Frihed Lodge #153, Hartford, CT
Danish Sisterhood Flora Danica Lodge #177,
Solvang, CA
Danish Sisterhood Danske Damer Lodge #185,
Cleveland, OH
Danish Sisterhood Amber Lodge #186, Brainerd, MN
Danish Sisterhood Hygge Lodge #188, Enumclaw, WA
Sally og Gordon Faber, Urbandale, IA
Jane Nyffeler, Lincoln, NE
Karin Plagens, Enumclaw, WA
Pamela Ruben, Menomonee Falls, WI
Theresa Sorenson, Thornton, CO
Marilyn Wadsworth, Rochester, NY

COLLECTIONS

Conservation of Painting

Lowell & Marilyn Kramme, Des Moines, IA

CURATORIAL

Gallery Space

Lowell & Marilyn Kramme, Des Moines, IA

Traveling Exhibits

New Nordic Cuisine

Cindy Larsen Adams & Gary Adams, Littleton, CO
Dennis Andersen, Atlanta, GA
Erik & Eva Andersen, Croton-on-Hudson, NY
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, IA

David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA
Hutchinson and Bloodgood LLP, El Centro, CA
Iowa Economic Development Authority,
Des Moines, IA
Kenny Bogus & Marnie Jensen, Nebraska City, NE
O & H Danish Bakery, Racine, WI
Karin Plagens, Enumclaw, WA
Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, Hanlontown, IA
Linda Steffensen, Hoffman Estates, IL
Karen Suchomel, West Branch, IA

Dannebrog 800

Anonymous
The Scandinavian Society of Cincinnati, Ohio

Jacob Riis

The Danish Home, Croton-On-Hudson, NY

Kings, Queens & Commoners

Danish Sisterhood Dronning Margrethe Lodge #15,
Wauwatosa, WI

New Nordic Cuisine Online Auction

Nuna Alberts, New York, NY
Ruth Boudreau, Winthrop, MA
Henry & Patricia Brock, Selma, CA
Dr. John Roof & Beth Bro-Roof, Cedar Rapids, IA
Keith Burwell, Toledo, OH
Stephen Butters, Stafford, VA
Joanna Christensen, Castle Rock, CO
Judy Collins, Eugene, OR
Regan & Rochelle Cox, Burnsville, MN
Michael Gabrick, Parkville, MO
Catrine Giery, Myrtle Beach, SC
Kristin Habient, Littleton, CO
David & Paulette Hendee, Northfield, MN
Gerry & Jill Henningsen, Monument, CO
Curtis & Nancy Hoegh, Clive, IA
Jean Jackson, Western Springs, IL
Craig & Shannon Jensen, Audubon, IA
Jandy & Tom Jorgensen, Dagmar, MT
Knud & Brigitte Jorgensen, Spring Valley, MN

Beatrice LaMonica, Eden Prairie, MN
 Kathy MacDonald, Coppell, TX
 Jesper Nielsen, Greenville, TX
 Brent & Shirley Norlem, Monticello, MN
 Karin Plagens, Enumclaw, WA
 Jack Reidhill, Washington, DC
 Anders Sand, Kansas City, MO
 Sue Simon, New York, NY
 Linda Sporven, Council Bluffs, IA
 Carl & Frances Steffensen, Houston, TX
 James Mead & Carol Svendsen, Denver, CO
 Martin West, Richmond, CA
 Christy Young, Tampa, FL

ENDOWMENT

Rita Neergaard Hansen Estate, Kenosha, WI
 Lowell & Marilyn Kramme, Des Moines, IA
**Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American
 Culture Endowment**
 Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, Hanlontown, IA

GENEALOGY CENTER

Dr. Stacie Pinderhughes & Bruce Bro, Carefree, AZ
 David & Paulette Hendee, Northfield, MN
 Gerry & Jill Henningsen, Monument, CO
 Brendan & Allison O'Reilly, Eastport, NY
 Anders Sand, Kansas City, MO
 Nola Schroeder, Cedar Rapids, IA
 Oliver & Martha Smith, San Bruno, CA
 Leo & Gayle Stuart, Walnut, IA
 Karen Suchomel, West Branch, IA
 Richard Jones & Marie Thourson, Wilmette, IL
 Union County Genealogical Society, Creston, IA

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

(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

Upgrade microfilm scanner

David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA

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



Special Appeals, continued

JENS JENSEN HERITAGE PATH PAVERS

Romualdas Mickevicius & Judith Andersen,
Baxter, MN

Shannon Couhig, Baton Rouge, LA

Ilka Daniels, Ankeny, IA

Megan Farnsworth, Adair, IA

Dean & Julie Flesner, Marietta, GA

Herbert Jacobsen Estate, Fairway, KS

Lowell Jacobsen, Fairway, KS

Paul & Carol Laursen, Crawfordsville, IN

Verner Laursen, Appleton, WI

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Danish American Club of Milwaukee,
Milwaukee, WI area

First Baptist Church of Elk Horn, IA

Annette Sorensen, Vero Beach, FL

SPONSORSHIPS

Events

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

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Danish Mutual Insurance Association,

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Shelby County State Bank, Harlan & Elk Horn, IA

Tivoli Fest 2020 Admission

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Internships

American Interns

Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, AZ

Diane Skov, Lacey, WA

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matching gifts

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

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memorials

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
 Robert Andersen
 Robert Andersen of Des Moines, IA
 Robert L. Andersen
 Robert Lee Andersen
 Robert Lee Andersen, Des Moines, IA
 Robert Lee Andersen, my dad
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 Tony Bell, my husband
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 Emily S. (nee Lykke) Butler
 Ron Carlson, long time member of the Denver Danes
 Jens T. Carstensen
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 Darrell Christensen of Fargo, ND
 Etlar Simon Christensen
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 Raymond Christensen, Rosemount, MN, my father
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 Milton Madsen, member of the Denver Danes



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John Molgaard	Albert Martin Jensen Schjodt
Thyra Ulrikka Jakobsen Nagel	Geraldine Elizabeth Nash
Fred, Tess, Richard, Karma Nelsen	Schubeck, my mother, who died on July 20, 2019, at the age of 103
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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:

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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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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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Nora Martinez, Bothell, WA
Marion Marzolf, Ann Arbor, MI
John Masengarb, West St. Paul, MN
Richard Mathews, Roosevelt, UT
Eric & Herta Matteson, Rochester, MN
Esa Jarvi & Edith Matteson, Lincoln, NE
Nancy Maynard, Davis, CA
Barbara McCaughey, Palm Beach, FL
Charles Harry & Deborah McDonald,
Columbia, SC
Julie McKeever, Defiance, IA
Marie McLaughlin, Harlan, IA
Andrea McWilliams, Logan, IA
Yvonne Meyer, Clarkston, MI
Merlin & Sonya Mikkelsen, Atlantic, IA
Ole & Ilse Mikkelsen, San Rafael, CA
Donna Miller, Sun City, AZ
John & Merrilee Miller, Omaha, NE
Marlene Miller, Fallbrook, CA
Terry & Gail Miller, Clarion, IA
Pamm Minden, St. Cloud, MN
Barbara Lowe & Jon Moen, Oxford, MS
Nick Mogensen, København, Denmark
Gitte Mohr, Columbia Heights, MN
John & Madeline Mongar-Brodie,
Des Moines, IA
Robert & Ellinor Montgomery, Tucson, AZ
William & Alfreda Moore,
El Dorado Hills, CA
Fred & Amy Moreau, Malvern, IA
David Morehouse, Hopkins, MN
Jean Mortensen, Omaha, NE
Hope Mosier, Sioux Falls, SD
Gary & Jan Mueller, Adair, IA
Frank Myers, Ponder, TX
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Delores Nelson, Atlantic, IA
Doreen Nelson, Minden, IA
Jeneen Nelson, Rocky Ford, CO
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David & Julia Nester, Spicer, MN
Loyd & Marie Neve, Omaha, NE
Glenn & Marie Nicholson, Loveland, OH
David Nielsen, Winfield, KS

- Diane Nielsen, Omaha, NE
 Donald & Patricia Nielsen, Carroll, IA
 Gail & Nancy Nielsen, Fremont, NE
 Jesper Nielsen, Greenville, TX
 John & Barbara Nielsen, Fremont, NE
 Karen Nielsen, Chicago, IL
 Kathryn Nielsen, Depere, WI
 Margaret Nielsen, Harlan, IA
 Nancy Nielsen, Cedar Springs, MI
 Niels & Diane Nielsen, Lawrence, KS
 Simon & Hannah Nielsen,
 Sønderborg, Denmark
 Todd & Camille Nielsen, Waukeg, IA
 Vagn & Karen Nielsen, Sonoma, CA
 Frederick & Julie Nielsen-Fuhrmann,
 Woodbury, MN
 Howard & Dee Nilson, Rapid City, SD
 Kai Nirell, Katy, TX
 Dan & Frannie Nissen, Elk Horn, IA
 Daryl & Tammy Nissen, Elk Horn, IA
 Mark & Sandy Nissen, Audubon, IA
 Wayne & Beverly Noelck, Hawarden, IA
 Liv Norderhaug, Chanhassen, MN
 John & Janet Nothnagel, Hyde Park, NY
 Rob & Ronell Nymand, Brayton, IA
 Mary O'Brien, Las Vegas, NV
 Marie Odgers, Lincoln, NE
 Catherine Olesen, Greenfield, IA
 Henry & Sharon Olesen, Woodstock, IL
 Beth Olsen, Fort Defiance, AZ
 Charles & Arlyce Olsen, Missouri Valley, IA
 Dorothea Olsen, Clinton, IA
 Duane & Kim Olsen, Glenwood, IA
 Inger Olsen, Longview, WA
 Terrence & Karolee Olsen, Georgetown, TX
 Wayne & Donna Olson, Kimballton, IA
 Evelyn Osland, Leroy, MN
 Tracy Codel & L. Michaelen Parks,
 West Des Moines, IA
 Jerry & Connie Paul, Woodland Park, CO
 Glynn & Elizabeth Paulsen, Seattle, WA
 Ivan & Patricia Paulsen, Walker, MN
 James & Candy Paulsen, Fresno, CA
 Gloria Paulus, Santa Maria, CA
 Marie Payne, St. James, MN
 Bruce & Llewelly Pedersen, Casper, WY
 Diane Pedersen, Johnston, IA
 Donald Pedersen, Pea Ridge, AR
 Erik Pedersen, Solvang, CA
 Katherine Pedersen, New Richmond, WI
 Lee Grupsmith & Lyle Pedersen,
 Santa Ana, CA
 Loetta Pedersen, Superior, NE
 Marjean Pedersen, Elk Horn, IA
 Steven & Patricia Pedersen, Adel, IA
 Audrey Petersen, Cedar Falls, IA
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 Frederick & Kathryn Schau, Brodhead, WI
 Dan & Cynthia Schaulis, Ellison Bay, WI
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 Janet Schroeder, Cedar Rapids, IA
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 Richard Sorensen, Adel, IA
 Richard & Carol Sorensen,
 Independence, MO
 Robert & Nerita Sorensen, Walnut, IA
 Michael & Lynnette Spetman,
 Council Bluffs, IA
 Linda Sporven, Council Bluffs, IA
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 Todd Thompson, Sioux City, IA
 Jill Thompson Hansen,
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 Finn Thomsen, Aalborg, Denmark
 Penny Thomsen, Pleasant Hill, IA
 Jake & Jillinda Thornton, Coin, IA
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 Tucson, AZ
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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.



Frost and fog on December 17, 2019.

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 – something we're really excited about: **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.

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

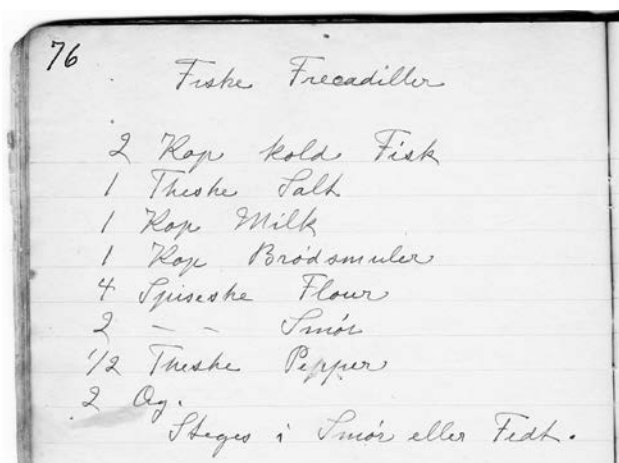
2 cups cold fish
1 tsp salt
1 cup milk
1 cup bread crumbs
4 Tbs flour
2 Tbs butter
½ tsp pepper
2 eggs

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



MUSEUM & DESIGN STORE

2212 Washington Street
Monday-Friday 9 am – 5 pm
Saturday 10 am – 5 pm
Sunday Noon – 5 pm

JENS JENSEN PRAIRIE LANDSCAPE PARK

2212 Washington Street
35 acres open daily, dawn – dusk

GENEALOGY CENTER

4210 Main Street
Tuesday-Friday 9 am – 5 pm
Appointments: 712.764.7008

BEDSTEMOR'S HOUSE

2105 College Street
Daily free admission, 1 – 4 pm
Memorial Day – Labor Day

Closed: New Years, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas.

*With the
exception of
pandemics.



museum of
danish america

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ELK HORN, IA 51531
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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.

DANSK



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.