

# Annual Report • 2011

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## A Letter from the President

To all of the friends and supporters of The Danish Immigrant Museum: *Godt Nytår!*

As the newly elected president of the museum's board of directors, one of my first responsibilities is to address the entire membership in the Annual Report. While we look forward to a very exciting year ahead, I want to first look back at the past year and express the appreciation of the entire board of directors for the exceptional generosity of museum members for all of your contributions of time, stories, artifacts and finances!

In 2011, the board adopted a revised mission statement for the museum: "*The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams.*" We feel this statement helps bridge the gap between the stories of past immigrants and the achievements of the descendants of those immigrants, and the contributions they have made to the American way of life.

While I was born and raised in Ames, Iowa, my ancestors (on the Frederiksen side) formed a part of the Danish heritage that is captured and related so meaningfully at the museum. The many traditions that have been passed along to me, I now pass along to my children. The Danish heritage continues alive and well - from dancing around the Christmas tree, singing "*Nu har vi jul igen!*" to the many Danish foods that we enjoy to a hearty "*tak for mad!*" at the conclusion of our meals. In fact, while I am not the primary cook in our household, I am the one tasked with making æbleskiver for my family, just as my grandfather did when I was a child. I have been thankful to be able to share these traditions with my friends and neighbors over the years, and to relate my Danish heritage as we share my family traditions with others.

With the new web site and access to the museum's collections online, I can direct those same curious people to a virtual version of The Danish Immigrant Museum, to experience even more of this wonderful heritage. I encourage all of you, whether you have only recently discovered the museum or you have been with us from the beginning, to take another look at your museum - in person, online, or both - and see all that is offered and all that is planned.

These achievements are only possible because of your contributions in so many different ways. First, there are those that have contributed artifacts and the meaningful personal stories that are an integral part of each artifact. Then, there are those that contribute their time - as a volunteer, as a member of the board of directors, or as a visitor to the museum. There are also those that serve on the staff of the museum - all of whom are dedicated to their jobs and who contribute on a daily basis with their expertise and enthusiasm. This is clearly more than just a job to them. We can't forget the interns! There are those from Denmark, who bring a whole new perspective on Danish life, and also those from around the U.S. - all of whom are of such critical assistance to the museum staff and who, in turn, leave with professional experience and a sampling of life in the Midwest. And, of course, there are those that contribute with their finances to the museum - through memberships, donations, purchases from the Museum Shop, and estate planning. The Museum could not exist and tell OUR stories without each of you. Finally, we give our heartfelt thanks to Elk Horn and Kimballton and all of the surrounding communities who provide the everyday support and encouragement to the museum, its activities and all things Danish.

I look forward to 2012 and what lies ahead in my final year on the board! The projects and changes that will be happening at the museum this year are extraordinary. As you review the Annual Report, I hope you are as proud of YOUR museum as I am! After all, this report is simply a reflection of what you, as supporters of the Museum, have accomplished. A heartfelt *mange tak!* for making this possible, and for bringing our Danish heritage to life on an ongoing basis!

Mark Frederiksen

January 2012

## Mission Statement

The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams.

## Staff & Interns

### Executive Director -

*Dr. John Mark Nielsen*

### Administrative Manager - Terri Johnson

*Curator of Exhibitions - Tova Brandt*

### Curator of Collections/Registrar -

*Angela Stanford*

### Family History & Genealogy Manager -

*Michele McNabb*

### Development Associate & Membership Coordinator -

*Debra Christensen Larsen*

### Development Officer - Bruce Bro

### Bookkeeper/Grounds/Facilities -

*Jennifer Winters*

### Museum Shop Manager - Joni Soe-Butts

### Administrative Assistant -

*Kathy Pellegrini*

### Family History & Genealogy Data Entry

*Clerk - Wanda Sornson*

### Bedstemor's House Staff -

*Preston Waymire, Katie Zellmer*

### Weekend Staff - Rodger Rasmussen, Beth Rasmussen

### Custodian - Tim Fredericksen

### Denmark Interns -

*\*Julie Andersen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

*\*Maria Beisheim, University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

*\*René Rugholm Christiansen, University of Aalborg, Denmark*

*\*Bjoerg Rasmussen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

*\*Sara Sjolín, University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

### American Interns -

*Brittany Deeds, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, IN*

*Anna Mullen, Iowa State University, Ames, IA*

### \*Internships funded through a grant from

*Scan| Design Foundation by Inger and Jens Bruun, Seattle, WA*

## Board of Directors

The 2011-2012 Board of Directors is a special group of twenty-four 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 twenty-eight 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, the 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 Danish heritage with those Danish-Americans who may not otherwise be able to link directly with the museum. In 2011, the board held its February meeting in Chandler, Arizona, and its June meeting in Denver, Colorado, with election of new board members. In October the 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 Danish Immigrant Museum.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Mark Frederiksen, Falcon, CO  
 Vice President - Kay Esbeck North, Ames, IA  
 Secretary - Flemming "Eric" Smitsdorff, Germantown, WI  
 Treasurer - Kenneth Larsen, Calistoga, CA

Dennis Andersen, Atlanta, GA  
 Erik Andersen, Croton-on-Hudson, NY  
 Jon Borgman, Harlan, IA  
 Ron Bro, Cedar Falls, IA  
 Lone Christensen, Brown Deer, WI  
 Ane-Grethe Delaney, Wayzata, MN  
 Kurt Hansen, Rosemount, MN  
 Stewart Hansen, West Des Moines, IA  
 Ken Jacobsen, Seattle, WA  
 Kristi Planck Johnson, Bethesda, MD  
 Cynthia McKeen, St. Paul, MN  
 Carol Jensen Mills, Dubuque, IA  
 Benedikte Ehlers Olesen, Eugene, OR and Bryrup, Denmark  
 Marian "Mittie" Ostergaard, Mission Viejo, CA  
 Jesper Packert Pedersen, Washington, DC  
 Henrik Rasmussen, Springfield, IL  
 Consul Lynette Skow Rasmussen, Johnston, IA  
 Jerry Schrader, Elk Horn, IA  
 Mark Strandskov, Mount Pleasant, MI  
 Janet M. Thuesen, Sausalito, CA

### EX-OFFICIO

Vern Hunter, Fargo, ND, past president  
 Kai E. Nyby, LaPorte, IN, past president  
 Marc Petersen, Omaha, NE, past president  
 Harriet Albertsen Spanel, Bellingham, WA, past president  
 Nils Jensen, Portland, OR  
 Kurt Klarskov Larsen, Oneonta, AL (Endowment)  
 Dennis Larson, Decorah, IA  
 Dagmar Muthamia, Long Beach, CA  
 Consul Anelise Sawkins, Minneapolis, MN (Endowment)

Dr. John Mark Nielsen, Blair, NE, executive director

## 2011 – A Year of Success

This year the museum saw great progress on long-term goals, while also looking forward into the future. The Board of Directors adopted a strategic plan that provides direction through 2015 as well as new mission and vision statements:

**Our new mission statement:** The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams.

**Our core values – We are:**

**Inspirational:** We honor the vision, ambition and diligence of Danish-American achievers, and we seek to inspire future generations by telling their stories

**Deeply rooted:** We treasure our Danish heritage, and we are deeply committed to our local American communities

**Focused on the future:** We realize that to keep the past alive, we must always remain part of the future

**Our greater vision:**

- To be widely recognized as the world's leading compiler and communicator of the history and inspirational achievements of Danish-Americans.
- To turn the museum and the Danish villages of Elk Horn and Kimballton into one of Iowa's top destinations for tourists, educators and local family excursions – and to support other local communities featuring Danish-American history.
- To be widely recognized as a thought leader and trendsetter in the international museum industry, constantly featuring new and inspiring experiences for worldwide audiences through innovative exhibits, events, publications and online media tools.

In 2011 we worked to realize our vision through:

**Exhibits:** Mezzanine Gallery: *Church Basements and Children's Homes: Danish-American Missions at Home and Abroad*, funded in part by a grant from Iowa Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities; and *Faces of Copenhagen: Photographs by Itzick Lev* on loan from the Nordic Heritage Museum and funded in part by the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

Danish-American Artist Series Exhibits: *Grete Schioler* (weaving and fiber art) and *Silverwork of Yngve Olsson*

**Traveling Exhibits:** *Victor Borge: A Centennial Exhibition*, created by the American-Scandinavian Foundation and The Danish Immigrant Museum, was hosted by the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle and the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis; other traveling exhibits appeared in venues from the Virgin Islands and New York to California.

**Collections:** Through special appeals, the museum acquired Dana College Treasures and the Copenhagen Lamps.

**Programs:** Over 100 programs provided through talks and presentations, social media, radio, and newspaper.

**Construction** of the initial phase of Jens Jensen Heritage Path from the gifts of members who have purchased engraved paving bricks to recognize loved ones and friends – complementing the museum's Wall of Honor that commemorates the immigrant generation. Major construction of the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park is to be completed by June 30, 2012.

**Grants:**

- Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Endowment Challenge Grant
- Conservation Assessment Program Grant (Heritage Preservation and the Institute for Museum and Library Services)
- Shelby County Community Foundation grants
- *Iowa Great Places* Program awarded the Museum a grant of \$100,000 for construction of the Jens Jensen Heritage Park
- *A.P. Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller Fondet* of Copenhagen for digitizing important Danish-American newspapers

**Graduate Student Interns:**

In addition, the museum continues to benefit from the work of graduate student interns. Danish interns were again sponsored through a grant from the Scan | Design Foundation by Inger and Jens Bruun of Seattle, Washington and American interns were funded by grants from the Historical Resource Development Program through the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Condensed Financial Statements  
Year Ended August 31, 2011

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

Assets	
Cash and Investments	2,593,782
Gift Shop Inventory	34,634
Property and Equipment (Net)	2,599,566
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>5,227,982</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Accrued Payroll Taxes	9,024
Line of Credit	167,000
Note Payable	11,090
<u>Total Liabilities</u>	<u>187,114</u>
Net Assets	5,040,868
<u>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</u>	<u>5,227,982</u>

Condensed Statement of Revenue and Support, Expenses,  
and Changes in Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis

Support and Revenue	
Contributions and Support	532,751
Admissions and Program Fees	18,885
Gift Shop Revenue (Net)	20,204
Investment and Other Income	407,155
<u>Total Support and Revenue</u>	<u>978,995</u>
Expenses	
Program Services	416,632
Supporting Activities	663,524
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>1,080,156</u>
<u>Change in Net Assets</u>	<u>(101,161)</u>
Net Assets - Beginning of Year - As Restated	5,142,029
<u>Net Assets - End of Year</u>	<u>5,040,868</u>

## Bequests

The Danish Immigrant Museum is especially grateful for gifts received from the following estates, trusts and annuities in 2011:

Gertrude Christiansen, Lyndhurst, OH  
Rita Neergaard Hansen, Kenosha, WI  
Theodor P. Repsholdt, Sr., Lincolnshire, IL

## Matching Gifts

The Danish Immigrant Museum wishes to thank our members and donors for initiating matching gifts from the following corporations and foundations:

Alliant Energy Foundation  
Bank of America  
Dominion Foundation  
GE Foundation  
Sprint Foundation  
The Boeing Company  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
Woodmen of the World / Assured Life Association

## Endowment

The Danish Immigrant Museum Endowment provides the opportunity for members to perpetuate their contributions and at the same time help guarantee the museum's long-term financial viability. Current market value as of December 31, 2011, was \$2,135,798.11.

## In-Kind Gifts

The following companies and individuals, through their kind gifts, supported The Danish Immigrant Museum in the calendar year of 2011:

Answers (Frank R. Tighe) Atlantic, IA  
Carroll Control Systems, Inc. (Todd Wanninger), Carroll, IA  
Country Landscapes, Inc. (Rhett Faaborg), Ames, IA  
Den Danske Pioneer (Elsa Steffensen & Linda Steffensen), Hoffman Estates, IL  
Harlan Newspapers (Steve Mores & Alan Mores), Harlan, IA  
Kristensen Realty Corporation (Carl Kristensen), Algonquin, IL  
Michele McNabb, Atlantic, IA  
Dennis Norgaard, Harlan, IA  
Tom & Nadine Paulsen, Clyde Hill, WA

## Collections

As we bring 2011 to a close, we are completing paperwork and cataloging for all 42 donations. We were offered just over 1,300 pieces and accepted about 1,280, almost 830 of which were included in a single gift of archival and photographic materials. The artifacts added contribute to our mission, as well as the story we tell of immigration and continued connections between the United States and Denmark.

For information about making an artifact donation, go to our website and read "Artifact Donations to The Danish Immigrant Museum" under the Collection tab or give me a call at the museum.

Thank you again to all of our donors, and very best wishes for a wonderful 2012.

Angela Stanford  
Curator of Collections / Registrar

## COLLECTIONS DONATIONS

Ardean Andersen, Aurora, NE	Alice Henriksen, Copenhagen, Denmark
Dennis Andersen, Atlanta, GA	Ellen Hoffels, Chicago, IL
Jillayne Arena, Cedar Rapids, IA	Jim Iversen, Decorah, IA
Anton Berg, Jr., DeKalb, IL	Kirsten Jensen, Denver, CO
Donna Bjorn, Atlantic, IA	Nancy Kirk, Omaha, NE
Roger Buhr, Decorah, IA	Kenneth Larsen, Harlan, IA
Ruth Character, Sioux City, IA	Kim & Lisa Løvkvist, Gelsted, Denmark
Borge M. Christensen, Rochester, MN	Ruth Mengers, Alliance, OH
Monty Christiansen, State College, PA	Dale & Linda Nelson, Exira, IA
Community Costume Closet, Kimballton, IA	John Mark Nielsen, Blair, NE
Kathe Crum, Helena, MT	Dianna Petersen, Audubon, IA
Danish American Archive & Library, Blair, NE	Gayle Prettyman, San Antonio, TX
Dallas Hansen, Kimballton, IA	Grete Schioler, Dayton, OH
Johanne Hansen, Des Moines, IA	Carey Snow, Jefferson, SD
Joanne Henderson, Ankeny, IA	Del & Ingrid Stites, Louisville, NE
	Lois Toftemark, Eugene, OR



## Merit Of Recognition

The Danish Immigrant Museum permanently recognizes two groups of friends and members who have distinguished themselves with their outstanding support, both while living and in their estate plans.

**The Lifetime Leadership Society** is made up of persons, organizations, and businesses that have individually contributed a total of \$25,000 and more. Their names are permanently inscribed on a plaque at the front entrance of the museum.

During 2011 the Board of Directors was pleased to add the names of **Ane-Grethe Olesen & Rory A.M. Delaney, Kay Esbeck North, Glenn & Mary Ellen Olsen, and (2) Anonymous.**

### LIFETIME LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

**Dennis J. Andersen**, Atlanta, GA  
**Anonymous**  
**Anonymous**  
**Anonymous**  
**Anonymous**  
**Elna N. Bellows\***, Edina, MN  
**Anton & Gunver M.\* Berg**, DeKalb, IL  
**Harold W. & Lois M. Berg**, Ogden, IA  
**Egon & Diana Bødtker**, Salem, OR  
**Mervin Bro\***, Scottsdale, AZ  
**Cedar Valley Danes**, Cedar Falls, IA Area  
**Jack & Barbara Christensen**, Yankton, SD  
**Lamont\* & Lois Christensen**, Elk Horn, IA  
**Tom\* & Jan\* Christensen**, Davenport, IA  
**Danish Brotherhood in America**, Highlands Ranch, CO  
**Danish Mutual Insurance Association**, Elk Horn, IA  
**Ane-Grethe Olesen & Rory A.M. Delaney**, Wayzata, MN  
**Elk Horn Lutheran Church**, Elk Horn, IA  
**Ramona L. Esbeck**, Ames, IA  
**Sally og Gordon Faber**, Urbandale, IA  
**Charles & Joanne Frederiksen**, Ames, IA  
**Alf & Lili Gregerson**, Ridgfield, WA  
**William & Berniece Grewcock**, Omaha, NE  
**Roy J.\* & Rita Neergaard Hansen\***, Kenosha, WI  
**Stewart & LeNore Hansen**, West Des Moines, IA  
**Richard Hellman**, Oceanside, CA  
**Henningsen Construction, Inc.**, Atlantic, IA  
**Gunnar Horn\***, Omaha, NE  
**Stanley & Helen Howe**, Muscatine, IA  
**Vern E. Hunter**, Fargo, ND  
**James D. & Margery Iversen**, Ames, IA  
**Al\* & Bridget Jensen**, Houston, TX  
**Roland\* & Joan Jensen**, Ankeny, IA  
**Clyde\* & Emma\* Johnson**, Omaha, NE  
**Iver (Whitey) & Lis Jorgensen**, Burnsville, MN

**John & Audrey Kofoed**, West Branch, IA  
**Lowell & Marilyn Kramme**, Des Moines, IA  
**Kulturministeriet/Ministry of Culture**, Copenhagen, Denmark  
**Kurt K. & Joy Larsen**, Oneonta, AL  
**Bruce R. Lauritzen Family**, Omaha, NE  
**Richard Ledet\***, Des Moines, IA  
**Reola Lerager\***, Wichita, KS  
**Lutheran Brotherhood**, Minneapolis, MN  
**Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Co.**, Elk Horn, IA  
**Hans Thyge\* & Valborg Nielsen**, Denver, CO  
**John Mark & Dawn Nielsen**, Blair, NE  
**Eric & Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust**, Northbrook, IL  
**Kay Esbeck North**, Ames, IA  
**Mark & Lori Nussle**, Palos Park, IL  
**Folmer & Vera Nyby**, Michigan City, IN  
**Kai E. & Melody Starr Nyby**, LaPorte, IN  
**Poul Olesen & Benedikte Ehlers Olesen**, Eugene, OR  
**Erik & Jackie Olsen**, Glenbrook, NV  
**Glenn & Mary Ellen Olsen**, Atlantic, IA  
**Peter & Irma Ørum**, Saint Charles, IL  
**H. Rand & Mary Louise Petersen**, Harlan, IA  
**Marc & Carlene Petersen**, Omaha, NE  
**The Rasmussen Family**, Des Moines, IA  
**Eugene Robinson\***, Pensacola, FL  
**Anelise Sawkins**, Minneapolis, MN  
**Scan| Design foundation BY INGER & JENS BRUUN**, Seattle, WA  
**Shelby County State Bank**, Harlan, IA  
**Harriet Albertsen Spanel**, Bellingham, WA  
**Janet M. Thuesen**, Sausalito, CA  
**Wilber Williamson\***, Des Moines, IA  
**Erik\* & Lissi Vange**, Palatine, IL

\* Deceased

Over the past twenty-eight years, The Danish Immigrant Museum has accomplished much because of special friends and members who have provided for the museum in their estate plans. With their permission while living or the permission of their executors, the names of **Heritage Builders** are permanently inscribed on a plaque in the museum entrance.

### THE HERITAGE BUILDERS

**Anonymous (3)**  
**Anne Bansen\***, Ferndale, CA  
**Norman C. Bansen\***, Blair, NE  
**Constance Boggild\***, Delray Beach, FL  
**Victor Borge\***, Greenwich, CT  
**Marie Budolfson\***, Ames, IA  
**Borge & Lotte Christensen**, Tucson, AZ  
**Charles R. Christensen\***, Omaha, NE  
**Edna M. Christensen\***, Atlantic, 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  
**Asta Forrest\***, Fountain Hills, AZ  
**J. Emory\* & Edna Frederickson\***, Elk Horn, IA  
**Charles & Joanne Frederiksen**, Ames, IA  
**Earl & LaVena Fries**, Des Moines, IA  
**Margaret Gee\***, West Des Moines, IA  
**Gertrude Gronbeck\***, Washington, D.C.  
**Caroline Hansen\***, Harlan, IA  
**Hans Hansen\***, Des Moines, IA  
**Laura E. Hansen\***, Irwin, IA  
**Rita Neergaard Hansen\***, Kenosha, WI  
**Rosa Hansen\***, Hampton, IA  
**Alma Hartvigsen\***, Harlan, IA  
**Richard Hellman**, Oceanside, CA  
**Anna Marie Hjuler\***, Audubon, IA  
**Gunnar Horn\***, Omaha, NE  
**Roy E. & Patricia Hougen**, Ames, IA  
**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  
**Paul & Liz Johnson**, Fremont, NE  
**Martha Jorgensen\***, Audubon, IA  
**Mogens H. Kiehn**, Scottsdale, AZ  
**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  
**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  
**Dorothy C. Pedersen**, Omaha, NE  
**Archie Petersen\***, Harlan, IA  
**John I. Petersen\***, Waterloo, IA  
**Lois Petersen\***, Atlantic, IA  
**Peyton\* & Lucia Respass\***, Omaha, NE  
**Ava Simonsen\***, Audubon, IA  
**Bodil Sorensen\***, Kirkland, WA  
**Harold L. Sorensen\***, Exira, IA  
**Halvor Strandskov**, Osterville, MA  
**Carol Svendsen**, Denver, CO  
**Margaret Syring\***, St. Paul, MN  
**Sandra Wunder**, Cheyenne, WY  
 \*Deceased

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information on how you can become a member of The Lifetime Leadership Society or a Heritage Builder, John Mark Nielsen, Executive Director, Bruce Bro, Development Officer, or any member of the Board of Directors, will be pleased to work with you.

Please contact them by calling (712)764-7001 or toll free (800)759-9192; email address: [director@danishmuseum.org](mailto:director@danishmuseum.org). Your inquiry will be treated confidentially.

## Wall of Honor

The Danish Immigrant Museum strives to tell the continuing story of the Danish immigrant experience and influence in America and the evolving story of the Danish-American heritage. 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 place of settlement. Their stories and family histories, if available, are part of the growing repository connected with the Museum's Family History and Genealogy Center. Listed below are the names of the immigrants placed on the museum's Wall of Honor in the year 2011:

Marinus Christensen, <i>Moorhead, IA</i>	Richard Larsen & Karen Jensen
Peter Christian Christensen, <i>Cedar Falls, IA</i>	Larsen, <i>Omaha, NE</i>
Anna Kirstine (Jensen) Christiansen, <i>Boomer Twp., Pottawattamie Co., IA</i>	Bertel Peter Mortensen, <i>Cedar Falls, IA</i>
Christen Ole Christiansen, <i>Council Bluffs, IA</i>	George Mortensen, <i>Elk Horn, IA</i>
Christian Christiansen, <i>Boomer Twp., Pottawattamie Co., IA</i>	Thora Lund Frederiksen Mortensen, <i>Cedar Falls, IA</i>
James P. "Jim" Christiansen, <i>Boomer Twp., Pottawattamie Co., IA</i>	Anton (Nielsen) Nelson, <i>Meckling, Clay County, SD</i>
Kirsten Havrehed, <i>San Francisco, CA</i>	Hansine Nielsen Nelson, <i>Meckling, Clay County, SD</i>
Amelia Hicolaisen, <i>Moorhead, IA</i>	Valdemar (Walter) Lauritz Routhé, <i>Redwood Falls, MN</i>
Hans Christian Jensen, <i>Port Clinton, OH</i>	Anders Larsen & Dorothea Marie Sorenson, <i>Blair, NE</i>
Karen Hansen Jensen, <i>Port Clinton, OH</i>	Karen Hansen Sorensen, <i>Vermillion, SD</i>
Niels Andersen Hansen, <i>Kimballton, IA</i>	Niels Sorensen, <i>Vermillion, SD</i>
	Katherine Juhl Toft, <i>Oelwein, IA</i>
	Nels Peterson Toft, <i>Oelwein, IA</i>

## Exhibitions in 2011

Dear Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum,

Whether or not you visit Elk Horn in person, you may have enjoyed the museum's exhibition program in 2011! The museum's exhibitions can be enjoyed in our galleries in Elk Horn, in museums and gathering places across the country, and even on the museum's website. In fact, 14,000 people encountered the museum through traveling exhibitions in the past year as they appeared in seven different states - including the U.S. Virgin Islands - and another 20,000 people were "virtual visitors" on the museum's website. Each exhibition tells a story that supports the museum's mission of "celebrating Danish roots and American dreams."

We look forward to continuing these efforts in 2012, bringing exhibitions and programs to Danish-American communities throughout the year. Visit the "Current Exhibitions" page on the museum's website to learn more about traveling exhibitions available for your community.

*With best wishes,*

*Tova Brandt*

*Curator of Exhibitions; dkcur@metc.net*

### GALLERY EXHIBITIONS IN 2011

*Danish-American Artist Series: Paul Solevad*  
July 24, 2010 - January 2, 2011

*Sampling the Collection, A to Å*  
March 27, 2010 - March 6, 2011

*Danish-American Artist Series: Grethe Schioler*  
January 15 - July 24, 2011

*Church Basements and Children's Homes: Danish-American Missions Here and Abroad*  
April 16 - October 31, 2011

*Danish-American Artist Series: Silverwork by Yngve Olsson*  
August 6, 2011 - January 8, 2012

*Faces of Copenhagen: Photographs by Itzick Lev*  
November 25, 2011 - February 26, 2012

### TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS IN 2011

*Victor Borge: A Centennial Exhibition* (installed with alternate titles)  
Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle, Washington  
American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota

*Victor Borge: A Smile is the Shortest Distance*  
St. Croix Friends of Denmark, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands  
Danish Home for the Aged, Croton-on-Hudson, New York  
Hjemkomst Center, Moorhead, Minnesota  
Luck Historical Museum, Luck, Wisconsin

*Denmark, October 1943*  
Danish American Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Hennepin History Museum, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Bloomington Civic Plaza, Bloomington, Minnesota  
Luck Historical Museum, Luck, Wisconsin

*Danish Gymnastics in America*  
Danish American Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Scandinavian Festival, Elgin, Illinois

*Church Basements and Children's Homes: Danish-American Missions Here and Abroad*  
Danish American Archive and Library, Blair, Nebraska

## Family History & Genealogy Center

The following individuals and groups donated books and other materials or made monetary contributions to the Family History & Genealogy Center in 2011. Their assistance in expanding our library and enhancing our ability to collect and preserve information on and research Danish-American families and communities is greatly appreciated. *Mange tak!*

Annette Andersen, Kimballton, IA  
 Ardean Andersen, Aurora, NE  
 Dennis J. Andersen, Atlanta, GA  
 Jerry E. Andersen, Chicago, IL  
 Margaret Andersen, Livermore, CA  
 Helen Paulsen Arndt, Boulder, CO  
 Meg Bale, Bloomington, MN  
 Ester Jacobsen Bates, Solvang, CA  
 Anton Berg, DeKalb, IL  
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 Ralf Christensen, Gloucester, Ontario, CDN  
 Robert A. Christiansen, Tempe, AZ  
 Danish American Archives & Library, Blair, NE  
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 John J. Domingo, Williamsburg, VA  
 Knud Dyby, Novato, CA  
 Cora E. Fagre, Loveland, CO  
 Ester Fugl Frost, Sun City West, AZ  
 Nancy Gibbs, Kearney, NE  
 Ben E. Hall Jr., Omaha, NE  
 Robert A. & Donna Hall, Grain Valley, MO  
 Frederik J. "Fritz" Hansen, Wichita, KS  
 H. Philip & Nancy Hansen, Norwalk, IA  
 Susan Hansen, Kimballton, IA  
 Ruth A. Heggen, Wells, MN  
 Roger E. Howland, Blair, NE  
 Kenneth H. Ishoy, Winder, GA  
 Warren Jacobsen, Elk Horn, IA  
 Cornelius J. Jensen, Edmonds, WA  
 Robert I. Jensen, Underwood, IA  
 Jon Gadegaard Jeppesen, Aarhus, DK  
 Colleen Jersild, Norfolk, VA  
 JoAnn Johnson, LaPorte City, IA  
 Ellen Jordahn, Nederland, TX  
 Magne Juhl, Viborg, DK  
 Svend V. Koch, Cedar Falls, IA  
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## Volunteers

Did you know that Iowa ranks second in the nation for its volunteer rate? Here's another interesting statistic: the *national* median number of hours served by a volunteer in 2010 was 52 hours.\* Volunteers of The Danish Immigrant Museum/FHGC averaged **81** hours last year! Our volunteers logged anywhere from 3 hours to 336 hours and we are grateful for each and every one of them! Our list of **58** registered volunteers gave a total of **4,722** hours in 2011 assisting staff with greeting visitors, data entry, mailings, translations, research, setting up for special events, and even ironing tablecloths. Each and every thing we ask them to do is important as we carry out the mission of the museum. We could not do what we do on a daily basis without their assistance and we are so grateful for them. The following are volunteers for whom we have **documented hours** in 2011. We apologize for any errors or omissions. (\*Latest figures available from The Volunteering in America report, developed through a partnership between the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the U.S. Census Bureau, and the Bureau for Labor Statistics.)

Annette Andersen, Kimballton, IA  
 Marilyn Andersen, Harlan, IA  
 Rosalie Andersen, Harlan, IA  
 Jo Avey, Atlantic, IA  
 Herb Christensen, Elk Horn, IA  
 Virgil & Joyce Christensen, Harlan, IA  
 Rosa Clemesen, Exira, IA  
 Anne-Marie Douglas, Chicago, IL  
 Millie Eskov, Elk Horn, IA  
 Bill & Marilyn Gift, Des Moines, IA  
 Joy Gonnerman, Kimballton, IA  
 June Haas, Kimballton, IA  
 Paul Hansen, Elk Horn, IA  
 Peggy Hansen, Elk Horn, IA  
 Tina Hansen, Elk Horn, IA  
 Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt, Des Moines, IA  
 Chet & Marj Holland, Atlantic, IA  
 Jackie Jensen, Harlan, IA  
 Connie Johnson, Elk Horn, IA  
 H. John Jones, Elk Horn, IA  
 Jimmie Kelgor, Atlantic, IA  
 Rhoda Kelloway, Anita, IA  
 Andy Kissel, Elk Horn, IA  
 Jeanette Knudsen, Harlan, IA  
 Edith Larsen, Harlan, IA  
 Jeanette Lillehoj, Kimballton, IA  
 Earl Madsen, Elk Horn, IA  
 Gladys McCrory, Atlantic, IA  
 Dick Nelson, Elk Horn, IA  
 W. Clayton Nielsen, Elk Horn, IA  
 Elinor Olsen, Elk Horn, IA  
 Karolyn Ortgies, Massena, IA  
 Clara Pedersen, Elk Horn, IA  
 Helen Petersen, Atlantic, IA  
 Lisa Petersen, Owings, MD  
 Wava Petersen, Elk Horn, IA  
 Rosie Petersen, Elk Horn, IA  
 Joanne Potts, Elk Horn, IA  
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 Charlotte Sorensen, Exira, IA  
 Wanda Sornson, Elk Horn, IA  
 Gayle Stuart, Walnut, IA  
 Alene Weaver, Atlantic, IA  
 Sharon Winchell, Atlantic, IA  
 Burt & Carolyn Wittrup, Elk Horn, IA

We also want to recognize members of the **Atlantic, Iowa Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum** who provide delicious cookies to serve to museum guests during Tivoli Fest and Julefest: Ramona Andersen, Connie Boose, Janet Bornholdt, Mary Ann Christensen, Eieleen Denne, Verna Esbeck, Kathleen Eyberg, Priscilla Hansen, Mary Lou Hoegh, Izzy Hoegh, Phyllis Hoegh, Marj Holland, Betty Lillard, Fern Lindvall, Gladys McCrory, Sonya Mikkelsen, Beverly Nelson, Delores Nelson, Fern Nelson, Frances Nelson, Colleen Nichols, Joan Ohms, Mary Ellen Olsen, Phyllis Olsen, Helen Petersen, Evelyn Rechtenbach, Bertha Schroeter, Norma Jean Sothman, Aleen Weaver, Linda Weaver, Nadine Williamson.



## Memorials

The Danish Immigrant Museum is the grateful recipient of gifts made in memory of deceased friends and relatives.

Lee Anna Marie Jessen Adams, my sister	Dr. Les Grace	Donald L. Knudsen	Lavern Paulsen
Jens Agesen and Celebration of his Life	Solveig Gregory	Harald & Viola Knudsen	Lone Hindsgaul Paxton
Clifford & Glenda Andersen	Harvey H. Greve	Ila Knudsen	Harriet Pedersen
Jørn G. Andersen, Hellerup, Denmark	Janice Madsen Grindle, Frowland, FL	Eugene Koch	Henry J. Pedersen
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Evelyn Baasfield, my sister	Ebbe J. Hansen	Mary Larsen	Burton Petersen
Bill & Elna Bellows	Larry Ingvert Hansen	Paul Larsen, my husband	Harry & Frances Petersen, my parents
Mr. & Mrs. Anton Berg, Sr.	LarryHansen, our friend and business associate	Wendell Larsen	Herbert & Mabel Petersen
Darlene Blakely	Rosie Hansen	Carl Laursen	Olga Petersen, my grandmother from Copenhagen
Edith Bodtker	Vesta N. Hansen	Dorothea Laursen	Marlin (Dale) Peterson
Dr. Lloyd (Bud) Bollesen	Great grandparents Hans & Mary Hanson and grandfather Harold Hanson	Eivind Lillehoj	Richard W. Peterson, my husband
Charlie Brehm	Marion Mathilda Hanson	Paul J. Lund's parents, who began our family's story in America	Lyle Poldberg
Howard Bro	Marion Sorensen Hanson	Harold & Lenora Madsen	Carl Rasmussen, my father
Manville & Marjorie Bro	Marilyn (Peterson) Heckman	Ross H. Mardesen	Delbert Rasmussen
Manville I. "Whitey" Bro	Tom Henningsen	H.C. (Matt) Mathison	Hans Christian Rasmussen
Axel C. Buudgaard	Dean Holland, my brother	Pastor & Mrs. C.C. Mengers	Virginia Rasmussen
Gurli Christensen	Carol Larsen Horton	Earl & Helga Mikkelsen	Sylvia Rattenborg
Jacob Christensen	Jim Hunt	Mardell Miller	Arlene Rockwell
Nels Christensen's Family	Alfred & Asta Iversen	Milton Miller	Robert E. Rosene
Christian Olaf Christiansen	Dale Jackson 1923-2011	Bertha Molgaard	Jens & Olga Sahl
Gertrude Christiansen	Barbara Brandt Jensen	Ole Møllgaard, Aalborg, DK	Betty Hoegh Schukei
Merrill & Gertrude Christiansen	Brian C. Jensen	Finn Mølviq, ten years since passing	Helen Christensen Shahan
Arthur B. & Neelna Clausen	Earl & Dorthea Jensen	Alice Mortensen	Kay Helen Silet
Joann Elaine Clausen	Ernst & Esther Jensen	Martin & Ida Mortensen	Arne Sorensen
George Clausen 2-26-1897	Evelyn Jensen	Richard F. Nelsen	Fred & Helga Sorensen
Barbara Birkholm Clay	Johanne "Irene" Jensen	Erma E. Nelson	Phillip Sorensen
Midge Cramer	Kristin Kjelsen Jensen & Mathea Christiansen Jensen	Larry Arnold Nelson	Elie Steffensen
Ole og Tage Damsgard	Roland Jensen	John & Ruth Nelson, Racine, WI	Poul & Elie Steffensen
Harald L. Dinesen, son of Laurits D.S. Dinesen, Danish immigrant	Verner Jensen	Alton & Becky Neve	Marilyn Storms
Knud Dyby	Harold Jespersen	Dr. Paul & Lela Neve	Josephine S. Strong, my mother
Ole Ebbesen	Børge, Claus Peter & Casper Oliver Jessen	Andy Nielsen	Robert M. Swanson
Ray Esbeck	Kenneth & Verna Mae Jessen	Edith Nielsen	Miller Sweningsen
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Albert H. L. Eve	Niels W. & Ingrid H. Jorgensen	Lillian M. Nielsen	Capt. Lars E. Toftemark USA7
Roland Fagre	Peter Juul	Verna Nielsen	Jack Jensen Unkenholz, our grandson
Hans & Mathilde Farstrup	Ove Kilgren	Walter & Else (Pedersen) Nielsen	Thyra Valade
Nels P. Frandsen, Grandfather	Marjorie Christiansen King	Eric & Joan Norgaard	Manuella Warner, my mother from Copenhagen
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		Ole & Marie Olsen	
		Stig P. Ørum, our son	

## In Honor

The Danish Immigrant Museum receives many contributions as gifts to honor beloved family members and friends on special occasions. In 2011 the following people were honored:

Leonard C. Andersen's 100th birthday	Jim & Marge Iversen	Michele McNabb & Wanda Sornson's professional genealogy research efforts and friendly efficient manner	Danielle Olson's 30th birthday
Marjorie F. Bro	Hans J. Jørgensen		Sandra Rasmussen
Kjesten Christensen	Dr. Jim & Minnie Jorgensen		Consul Lynette Rasmussen speaking to Cedar Valley Danes
Shirley Esbeck	Harriet Jorgenson	Michele McNabb's & Wanda Sornson's thorough genealogy research help	Suzanne Rasmussen's kind help with family genealogy research
Ken Gregersen's 80th birthday	Philip Jorgenson		Rebild's Centennial in 2012 in Chicago
William & Martha Hansen Celebrating Their Lives!	Rhoda Kelloway	Nielsen Family	Margaret Rodenburg's brother, John, and sister, Eleanor
Alvina Hjortsvang's generous spirit, Danish heritage and the enthusiasm with which she shares it!	Garey & Sherry Knudsen's children, Tasha, Tonya and Brian	John Mark Nielsen, "For all you've done for the DIM!"	Burdette "Bear" & Nanette Thomsen's 60th Wedding Anniversary (11/2/51)
Doris & Peder Hoy's 50th anniversary	Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Layton of Edina, MN	LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen, my loving parents	Lis L. Trent's 70th birthday
Carol Hubert, Lois Bornemeier's sister	Paul J. Lund, my father's 80th birthday	John Mark Nielsen's 60th birthday	
	Steven Lund's end of DIM board term	Benedikte Ehlers Olesen's fundraising dinner	

## Gift Memberships

Throughout 2011 The Danish Immigrant Museum awarded complimentary memberships or received contributions directed towards gift memberships for the following businesses or individuals:

Brenda Accola, W Melbourne, FL  
Andrew & Susan Andersen,  
Tampa, FL  
Keith & Paula Anderson, Gaylord, MN  
Sonya & Norm Anderson, Phoenix, AZ  
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Philip Vasby, Cambridge, WI  
Asta & Earl Wiechmann, Atlantic, IA  
Doug B. Wilson, Farragut, IA  
Kristine "Kiki" Wilson, Farragut, IA  
Nick Wilson, Farragut, IA

## Special Projects

During the course of each year, The Danish Immigrant Museum invites its supporters, through projects, to make contributions. Following are memorials or gifts in honor of received from January 1, 2011 through the end of the year.

### BRICK PROJECT

James Petersen & Erica Agesen,  
Medford, OR  
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Leo Kirchhoff, Chico, CA  
Luther & Doris Kloth, Wauwatosa, WI  
Gail Laursen, Lincoln, NE, *In Loving  
Memory of my husband, Paul  
Laursen*  
Thomas & Janice Lippincott, Blair, NE  
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Judith Morris, Winchester, MA  
Donna Nelson, Blair, NE  
David Nielsen, Winfield, KS  
John Mark & Dawn Nielsen, Blair, NE  
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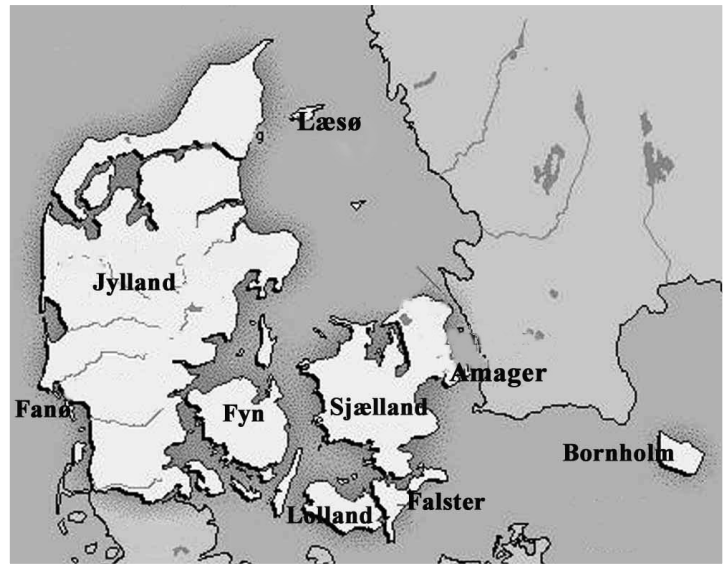
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Additionally, we are pleased to include on the honor roll our Business/Organization Associate members who contribute \$100 or more to the Museum. The Business/Organization Associates are listed in the Honor Roll according to their giving level.



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Patricia Stack, Yorba Linda, CA  
Matthew Schipper & Angela  
Stanford, Shelby, IA  
E. Irene Starrett, Audubon, IA  
Edward & Caryl Steenberg, Circle  
Pines, MN  
Ted & Barb Stenberg, Rockwall, TX  
Charles & Donna Stene, Roseville, MN  
Valborg Stiebler, Austin, MN  
Marjorie Stowell, Lees Summit, MO  
William & Barbara Strauss, Mesa, AZ  
Greg & Susan Strotzman, Sumner, IA  
Evelyn Stumme, Waterloo, IA  
Gene & Carole Svebakken, Three  
Oaks, MI  
Leonard & Ruth Svinth, Petaluma, CA  
Donald & Phyllis Swanson,  
Hudson, IA  
Scott & Amy Swanson, Park Ridge, IL  
Martin & Hanne Taekker, Eugene, OR  
Joan Tange, Cedar Falls, IA  
James Tarrant, Falls Church, VA  
Finn Thomsen, Aalborg, Denmark  
Fritz & Janice Tiarks, Harlan, IA  
John & Gitte Toben, Marietta, GA  
Michael & Lis Trent, Sun City West, AZ  
James & Gerd Tuchscherer, Lino  
Lakes, MN  
Howard & Mary Un, Wilmington, DE  
Eric & Tasha Unkenholz, Rapid  
City, SD  
Ronald & Suzanne Vallez, San  
Jacinto, CA  
David & Bente Vinci, Skokie, IL  
Gail Andersen & John Walker,  
Phoenix, AZ  
Robert & Helga Wallner, Duluth, MN  
Henry & Mardell Walter, Elk Horn, IA  
Evelyn Ward, Greeley, CO  
Wayne & Peggy Wegwart,  
Lexington, NC  
Bruce & Ester Westling, Saint  
Louis, MO  
Dick & Joan White, Lincoln, NE  
Rosalie Wiand, Pulaski, WI  
Carol Wilcox, Atlantic, IA  
Harold & Ruth Williams,  
Leavenworth, KS  
Park & Marion Williams, Omaha, NE  
J. Roger & Annette Wilson, Harlan, IA  
Jennifer Winters, Elk Horn, IA  
Phyllis Wittrup, Lakewood, CO  
Don & Phyllis Witzel, Palmer, AK  
Gail Andersen & John Witzel,  
Edina, MN  
Michael & Nancy Christensen  
Wright, San Carlos, CA  
Nina York, Christiansted, St. Croix,  
Virgin Islands  
Todd & Diane Zygmuntowicz,  
Troy, MI