

a letter from the president

Once again I have had the honor and privilege of serving as the Museum of Danish America board president during 2016. I am pleased to inform you that 2016 has been a productive and rewarding year. It has also been a year of change and new challenges. Adjusting to these changes would not be possible without a strong, dedicated board and staff. I want to assure you that the Museum of Danish America is blessed with both.

the challenge of change

JOHN MARK'S RETIREMENT AND A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One year ago I indicated in the 2015 updates that John Mark Nielsen, our executive director at that time, would be retiring in February of 2017. By the time you read this newsletter, John Mark will have retired. I also indicated in the 2015 report that a search committee had been formed and a search was being conducted. The search committee did a wonderful job of screening the applicants and coming up with a final hiring recommendation to the full MoDA board.

The search committee had 17 applicants from 9 different states and Denmark. The recommendation made to the full board was to hire Rasmus Thøgersen, a native of Denmark and current resident of Omaha, Nebraska. The MoDA board voted to approve hiring Rasmus in September 2016. The recommendation to hire Rasmus was made after interviews were conducted by the members of the search committee, by the MoDA staff, and in consultation with John Mark. Rasmus began his duties as executive director on December 1, 2016.

I mentioned earlier that the board and staff will face change and new challenges in 2016. Transitioning to a new executive director will be one of those first challenges. Transition is defined as, "passage from one state, stage, subject, or place to another." I think the transition to a new leader would be more challenging if we didn't have a strong, dedicated staff with years of experience. This factor alone will certainly provide operational insight for Rasmus. We also have a strong board that, I believe, will provide whatever support they can to make the transition a smooth one. John Mark will also have spent two months, December 2016 and January 2017, providing Rasmus with some very important transition time to begin "learning the ropes."

It is important for the museum membership to know that John Mark will also continue to serve the museum as a member of several committees. His continued involvement will certainly be a valuable resource, not only for the new executive director, but also for the MoDA board.



By
Garey
Knudsen



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMERITUS

At our February board meeting in California, the executive committee presented the following resolution to the full board: In recognition of John Mark Nielsen's service over the past 33 years as a founding board member (1983-1991 and 2000-2003), member of Lifetime Legacy Giving, a Heritage Builder, and Executive Director from 2003-2017, the board of directors of the Museum of Danish America names him Executive Director Emeritus. Though the title is honorary, John Mark Nielsen will continue to serve in an advisory role to future museum executive directors, and when mutually agreed upon and at the direction of the museum's current executive director, he may represent the museum in furthering its organizational mission.

It is important to note that this title is an honor rarely given. It is given to someone who has served with distinction and has created a legacy that will last for years. The title is given to someone who has served in an important leadership role and continues to make significant contributions to the museum. And, it is given to someone whose contribution is one we hope others will aspire to.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EVALUATION PROCESS

Within the last year, by a vote of the full MoDA board, a formal evaluation document and process has been put in place. This process and document was developed with input from John Mark. Therefore, going forward as a board, we will evaluate the performance of the executive director to ensure that the job is being done to our satisfaction. I think it is important to note that the MoDA staff will also be able to provide input into the evaluation process. I think this process will help Rasmus develop into a very effective executive director. Feedback on his job performance will certainly help him become a great executive director.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SELF EVALUATION

The MoDA board also approved a document called an Executive Director Self Evaluation. This document will be used by the new executive director to assess his own performance. This document will address performance issues related to the job requirements of the position. This document, along with the board evaluation, should assist the executive director in meeting the expectations of the job.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The MoDA board is pleased to welcome four new members. The new members are as follows: Karen Nielsen from Overland Park, KS; Marnie Jensen from Nebraska City, NE; Anders Sand from Kansas City, MO; and Carol Svendsen from Denver, CO.

RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

I would like to thank the following board members for their years of service and their continued commitment to serve the Museum of Danish America. Those leaving the board are as follows: Brent Norlem from Monticello, MN; Mittie Ostergaard from Mission Viejo, CA; Peter Nielsen from Naples, FL; and Dan Warren from Fairmont, MN.

ACCREDITATION

The staff of the museum, led by Angela Stanford, the museum's Curator of Collections and Registrar, spent hours completing a 400-plus-page application for accreditation through the American Alliance of Museums. The application, along with an onsite visit conducted on November 1-2, 2016, provided an in-depth, comprehensive review of the operation of the museum.

I, along with members of the MoDA board executive committee (Tim Burchill from Jamestown, ND, Karen Suchomel from West Branch, IA, and Carolyn Larson from St. Paul, MN), were afforded the opportunity to participate in an onsite review by a team of

reviewers from the American Alliance of Museums. The reviewers were very interested in how our board functions and our overall view of the museum in general.

If the museum is fortunate enough to receive the accreditation, it will be quite a feather in our hat. There are only about five percent of the museums in the U.S. that have achieved this accreditation status. I might add that when I left the museum on November 1, after going through an interview with the reviewers, I was very optimistic that we would receive the accreditation.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2020

At our February 2016 board meeting, the 2016-2020 strategic plan was approved. This plan will provide guidance for our current and future boards in achieving strategic goals designed to move the museum forward in its mission. Anyone interested in viewing a summary of the strategic plan can access the document at danishmuseum.org. You must click on the heading "Mission" and then scroll down to find the summary.

BOARD OFFICERS JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The MoDA board also approved detailed job descriptions for the board officers. The detail laid out for each position will provide guidance for those board members who assume leadership roles on the board.

BOARD SELF EVALUATION

The MoDA board approved a document to be used in a self-evaluation process. The questionnaire was distributed to each member of the full board. Each board member was asked to provide their individual assessment as to how they felt the board is, or is not, functioning. Tim Burchill, the current board Vice President, conducted the survey. I am happy to report that the results were very favorable. Various comments were as follows: "Positive about the way we function," "No hidden

agendas," "Positive motivations," "The board could use additional on-going education and what the role of the board member is," "Need to know what the trends are in other museums," "Confidence in museum leadership," and "Confident in the finances and the transparency of operations." The board self-evaluation was timely in that the accreditation evaluators, who visited the museum, asked if there was a process in place for board self-evaluation. We were happy to report that yes, indeed, we do have such a process.

PRIDE

When members of the executive committee and staff conducted interviews for the executive director position, there was some time between interviews. I made use of this time by moving around the museum and visiting with tourists who stopped by for a visit. I had the opportunity to visit with people from Illinois, Minnesota, Indiana, South Dakota, and, of course, Iowa. Some of the comments made by the visitors were as follows: "Amazing! I had no idea!" "I visit many museums and am very critical of how museums present their mission; this one does an outstanding job!" "We have seen the sign on the interstate many times and finally decided to take the time to visit." "We are very impressed and glad we took the time." "What a physical structure, very impressive!" "Very well done!" "It was on our bucket list, glad we made the trip."

These comments certainly enhance a person's pride in the job that is being done to preserve Danish culture, history, and heritage. What we have today is a tribute to the hard work done by staff and MoDA boards.

HATS OFF TO JOHN MARK

I want to congratulate John Mark for his years of dedicated service and wish him the best in retirement. He has done an exemplary job of leading the museum and setting it on a positive course for the future.

board of directors

The 2016-2017 board of directors is a special group of men and women who have unselfishly dedicated themselves to the preservation of their Danish and Danish-American heritage and the mission of the museum. They join an elite group of individuals who, over the past 33 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

U.S. 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 2016 the board held its February meeting in Las Vegas, NV, and its June meeting was held in Kansas City, MO with election of new board members. In October the board meeting was held in Elk Horn, IA. 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 2016

Cynthia Larsen Adams, *Littleton, CO*
Ronald Bro, *Cedar Falls, IA*
Beth Bro-Roof, *Cedar Rapids, IA*
Tim Burchill, *Jamestown, ND*
Bente Ellis, *San Jose, CA*
David Esbeck, *San Diego, CA*
Dorothy Stadsvold Feisel, *Chestertown, MD*
David Hendee, *Omaha, NE*
Glenn Henriksen, *Armstrong, IA*
Hon. Consul Anna Thomsen Holliday, *Houston, TX*
Marnie Jensen, *Nebraska City, NE*
Garey Knudsen, *Hutchinson, MN*
Carolyn Larson, *St. Paul, MN*
Craig Molgaard, *Little Rock, AR*
Dagmar Muthamia, *Long Beach, CA*
Hon. Consul Karen Nielsen, *Overland Park, KS*
Peter Nielsen, *Naples, FL*
Brent Norlem, *Monticello, MN*
Marian (Mittie) Ostergaard, *Mission Viejo, CA*
Randy Ruggaard, *Hudson, OH*

Anders Sand, *Kansas City, MO*
Jerry Schrader, *Elk Horn, IA*
Ole Sønnichsen, *Bjert, Denmark*
Carl Steffensen, *Houston, TX*
Linda Steffensen, *Hoffman Estates, IL*
Karen Suchomel, *West Branch, IA*
Carol Svendsen, *Denver, CO*
Dan Warren, *Fairmont, MN*

EX-OFFICIO

Mark Frederiksen, *Peyton, CO*
Vern Hunter, *Fargo, ND*
Nils Jensen, *Portland, OR*
Dennis Larson, *Decorah, IA*
Kai E. Nyby, *Fountain Hills, AZ*
Marc Petersen, *Omaha, NE*

John Mark Nielsen, *Blair, NE, Executive Director*
Rasmus Thøgersen, *Omaha, NE, Executive Director*

who we are

MISSION STATEMENT

The Museum of Danish America celebrates Danish roots and American dreams.

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.

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 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.

staff & interns

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John Mark Nielsen, Ph.D.
Rasmus Thøgersen, M.L.I.S.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

Terri Johnson

ALBERT RAVENHOLT CURATOR OF DANISH-AMERICAN CULTURE

Tova Brandt, M.A.

CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS & REGISTRAR

Angela Stanford, M.A.

GENEALOGY CENTER MANAGER

Michele McNabb, M.A., M.L.I.S.
Kara McKeever, M.F.A.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Deb Christensen Larsen

COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Nicky Christensen

PLANNED GIVING CONSULTANT

Paul Johnson, CFP®, ChFC®, CASL

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Jennifer Winters

BUILDING & GROUNDS MANAGER

Tim Fredericksen

DESIGN STORE BUYER

Joni Soe-Butts

DESIGN STORE MANAGER

Chelsea Jacobsen
Kelly Doonan
Nan Dreher

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Nan Dreher

GENEALOGY & LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Wanda Sornson, M.S.

WEEKEND STAFF

Terri Amaral
Rochelle Bruns
Beth Rasmussen
Rodger Rasmussen

BEDSTEMOR'S HOUSE STAFF

Rochelle Bruns
Grace Greving
Trudy Juelsgaard
Doug Palmer

DANISH INTERNS*

Mads Madsen Henriksen, *University of Southern Denmark, Odense (Institutional Archive)*

Vincent Moroz Henriksen, *University of Southern Denmark, Odense (Exhibits)*

Astrid Kaalund-Jørgensen, *Roskilde University, Denmark (Exhibits)*

AMERICAN INTERN

Jennifer Olsson, *Johns Hopkins University (Inventory Assistant)*

*Danish internships are funded through a generous grant from the Scan Design Foundation by Inger and Jens Bruun, Seattle, WA

a year of success

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- ◆ After year-long, nationwide searches, the museum welcomed Kara McKeever, who began her duties as Genealogy Center manager on June 27, and Rasmus Thøgersen, who assumed the position of executive director on December 1.
- ◆ Reached a population of over 250,000 through visits to the museum, traveling exhibits, social media, and programs and presentations around the country.
- ◆ Participation in numerous festivals and events, from the Orange County International Street Fair in California to workshops at the Danish Home at Croton-on-Hudson, NY, and “Danish Days” in Greenville, MI - the longest-running Danish-American festival in the U.S.
- ◆ Replaced the three original boilers (installed at the time of the museum’s construction in 1993) with high-efficiency boilers through a grant from MidAmerican Energy.

EXHIBITS: The museum continued its active exhibits program in 2016.

- ◆ *The Whimsical World of Bjørn Wiinblad* – A retrospective exhibit organized by the Museum of Danish America in cooperation with Arken Museum of Art located in Ishøj, Denmark.
- ◆ *Sports for Sports’ Sake* – Our annual exhibit opened at the museum and will run through summer 2017.
- ◆ *Art by Gert Mathiesen* – An exhibit exploring the legacy of this contemporary Danish-born artist (1951-2013). This exhibit is now on view at Nordia House in Portland, OR.
- ◆ *Skåll! Scandinavian Spirits* – Organized by our museum, this exhibit also represents the first cooperative effort by all six of the major Scandinavian-American museums. This year it was at the Swedish American Museum in Chicago and Vesterheim, the Norwegian American Museum in Decorah, IA.
- ◆ *Home: Sculpture by Dennis Andersen*, an artist in Atlanta, GA, former board member and Elk Horn native.

- ◆ *Happy Danes on the Plains* – An English version of an exhibit, created by Danish curator Henrik Bredmose Simonsen, exploring how Danish immigrant culture has been maintained over several generations.
- ◆ *Sisse Brimberg Photographs for National Geographic 1990 – 2002*
- ◆ Nine of the museum’s traveling exhibits were hosted by 18 different venues in 10 different states and reaching an audience of almost 25,000. Another 23,000 individuals attended programs sponsored by the museum in seven different states!

COLLECTIONS: Among the many valuable artifact donations in 2016, the museum received the following:

- ◆ The entire collection of artifacts and archive of the Danish Sisterhood of America. The museum becomes the official repository for the continually-growing organization; donated by the Danish Sisterhood Society.
- ◆ Personal artifacts from the collection of Niels Skov, including artifacts used in the Danish Resistance during World War II; donated by Diane Skov.
- ◆ Andreas Marschall piano manufactured in Denmark circa 1835; donated by the estate of Gunnar and Else Sorensen.
- ◆ A large collection of one soldier’s uniforms, training manuals, personal effects, and even food items from World War II; donated by Carl Steffensen.
- ◆ Sports and band uniforms from the Elk Horn-Kimballton, Exira, and Harlan school districts in Iowa. Donated by the Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton School District, Larry and Janis Fajen, Annette Andersen, Lynn Johnson, Virgil Christensen, and Deb Christensen Larsen.



By
John Mark
Nielsen

GRANTS

- ◆ Charles W. and Norma J. Wilson Foundation
- ◆ Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund
- ◆ Eric and Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust
- ◆ Shelby County Community Foundation
- ◆ Iowa Arts Council
- ◆ Iowa Tourism
- ◆ Scan Design Foundation by Inger and Jens Bruun
- ◆ American Scandinavian Foundation
- ◆ A.P. Møller og Chastine McKinney-Møller Fondet

exhibitions

Baseball uniforms, metal sculpture, huge painted canvases, and even jigsaw puzzles – all have been featured in the museum’s galleries this year. The changing exhibitions have featured “something for everyone,” from photography to contemporary art to sports – all with a Danish-American connection. At the same time our major exhibition *Skål! Scandinavian Spirits* continued its journey to partner institutions in Seattle, Chicago, and Decorah, IA. A new traveling exhibition, *The Whimsical World of Bjørn Wiinblad*, opened in Elk Horn and will begin a national tour in 2017.

Our menu of traveling displays* continues to bring Danish-American stories to communities from coast to coast. In total, traveling exhibitions appeared in 18 different locations in 10 states, reaching an audience of over 30,000 people.

Whether you visit Elk Horn in person or not, we hope that all members can enjoy the museum’s exhibition program through gallery installations, traveling displays, virtual tours, or through the pages of this *America Letter*.

ON-SITE GALLERY EXHIBITIONS IN 2016

Home: Sculpture by Dennis Andersen
October 22, 2015 – May 8, 2016

Happy Danes on the Plains
November 27, 2015 – April 10, 2016

Sport for Sports’ Sake: Athletes and Ethnicity in Danish America
April 23, 2016 – September 4, 2017

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, WA.

Brimberg Photographs for National Geographic (1990-2002)
May – December 2016

Art by Gert Mathiesen
May 21 – October 31, 2016

The Whimsical World of Bjørn Wiinblad
November 25, 2016 – May 30, 2017

TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS IN 2016

Church Basements and Children’s Homes
Nordia House, Portland, OR

The Danish Pioneer
Western Historic Trails Center, Council Bluffs, IA

Denmark October 1943
Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle, WA

Happy Danes on the Plains
Columbia Hall, Dannebrog, NE

Exploring Danish Happiness
Danish Home, Croton-on-Hudson, NY
Luck Historical Museum, Luck, WI
Danish Cultural Center, Greenville, MI

Jens Jensen: Celebrating the Native Prairie
Home & Garden Show, Harlan, IA
Clay County Heritage, Spencer, IA
Warren Cultural Center, Greenfield, IA



By
Tova
Brandt

* Would you like to share one of these exhibits in your community? Contact us to learn more about hosting a museum display! ▶

Skål! Scandinavian Spirits

Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle, WA
Swedish American Museum, Chicago, IL
Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah, IA
Danish Brotherhood, Eugene, OR
Scandinavian School of San Francisco, CA
Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, Omaha, NE
Danebod Folk School, Tyler, MN

Sport for Sports' Sake

Sioux City Public Museum, Sioux City, IA
Western Historic Trails Center, Council Bluffs, IA
Danish American Center, Minneapolis, MN
RAGBRAI Expo, Glenwood, IA

Victor Borge: A Smile is the Shortest Distance

Danish Cultural Center, Greenville, MI

collections

Of the almost 1,000 artifacts offered to the museum's curatorial collection this year, just over 330 were accepted. In addition to that number, we received an exceptionally large donation from the Danish Sisterhood of America, a collection that is currently being sorted and counted. As we have said in past years, and echo once again, the generosity of our donors is so gratifying and provides us with more stories to share with our audiences. Thank you to our members and donors for your continued and kind support.

ARTIFACT DONORS

Annette Andersen, Kimballton, IA
Dennis Andersen, Atlanta, GA
Brian Burgess, Norwalk, CT
Jim Christensen, Adel, IA
Rolf Christensen, Getzville, NY
Virgil Christensen, Harlan, IA
Hans Clausen, West Hills, CA
Rosa Clemens, Exira, IA
Nellie Curran, Pittsburgh, PA
Norman Danielsen, Randolph, KS
Danish Cultural Center of Greenville, MI
Danish Sisterhood in America, Santa Rosa, CA
Danish Windmill Corporation, Elk Horn, IA
Maryellen Dietz, Silverdale, WA
Ann Drefke, Marcus, IA
Barry Edmonds, East Hampton, CT
Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton Community School District,
Elk Horn, IA
Janis Fajen, Elk Horn, IA

Larry Fajen, Elk Horn, IA
Nina Gower, Maxwell, IA
Linda Grandage, Maryville, TN
June Haas, Kimballton, IA
Johanne Hansen, Des Moines, IA
Linda Hansen, Audubon, IA
Linda Hansen, Berryville, VA
Lydia Hansen, Chicago, IL
Meta Hansen, Seal Beach, CA
Karen Hildmann, Streamwood, IL
Lynn Johnson, Exira, IA
Debra Christensen Larsen, Harlan, IA
Carol Laursen, Crawfordsville, IN
Jeanette Lillehoj, Kimballton, IA
John Vogt Masengarb, West St. Paul, MN
Michele McNabb, Atlantic, IA
Kristie Hansen-Mendez, Chicago, IL
John Mark Nielsen, Blair, NE
Liv Norderhaug, Eden Prairie, MN
Ginger Nuesser, Winter Haven, FL
Clara Pedersen, Elk Horn, IA
Randy Ruggaard, Hudson, OH
Seward County Historical Society, Gohner, NE
Diane Skov, Lacey, WA
Estate of Gunnar and Else Sorensen, North Bend, WA
Marie Louise Sorensen, DeKalb, IL
Carl Steffensen, Houston, TX
Heather Valdivia, Griswold, IA



By
Angela
Stanford

genealogy center

The year 2016 saw a significant transition at the Genealogy Center with the retirement of librarian/manager Michele McNabb at the end of June. As her replacement, I've had substantial shoes to fill and a steep learning curve, but with the help and support of staff, volunteers, and Michele herself (now volunteering), we continued to make progress during an eventful year.

Staff and volunteers completed 33 translation projects and a record number of paid research projects (66), in addition to working with walk-in patrons and responding to phone and email queries. Volunteers also assisted by augmenting databases, digitizing church records, and creating indexes, among other projects—donating over 2,500 hours in 2016.

Our library and special collections grew by 380 new books, photographs, and other materials. Nearly 250 new immigrant files were created, and numerous others saw updates and additions. A number of new databases and indexes for Danish-American churches and communities were also added.

Our summer photo display, My Favorite Dane, inspired a number of interesting and poignant photos and stories of favorite Danish relatives, ancestors, or acquaintances. Our Julefest display featured the trendy theme of “hygge” for the holidays.

In 2016 we received and/or processed donations from the following individuals and institutions:

Lemay Andersen, Linwood, NE
Perry Ankersen, Green Bay, WI
Dennis Barten, Kirkwood, MO
Karen Friedmann Beall, Santa Fe, NM
Bloomsbury Publishing, Inc., New York, NY
Soren Borre, Flower Mound, TX
Eileen Carlson, DeWitt, IA
Linda Carlson, Leonardtown, MD
Alice Carrigan, Ankeny, IA
Cass County Genealogical Society, Atlantic, IA
Rolf Christensen, Getzville, NY
Elizabeth Christensen, Parkville, MO
Ejnar G. Christiansen, Abita Springs, LA
Bob Crane, Silver Springs, MD
Danish Lutheran Church and Cultural Center, Yorba Linda, CA
Seena Karen Rasmussen Drapala, Minden, NV
Barry Edmonds, East Hampton, CT
Patricia Erickson, Kearney, NE

David W. Esbeck, San Diego, CA
Larry & Janis Fajen, Elk Horn, IA
Gerald Fowler, Salem, OR
Berniece Grewcock, Omaha, NE
June Haas, Kimballton, IA
Carl C. Hansen, Tequesta, FL
Glen Haselbarth, Minden, NE
John Havick, Stone Mountain, GA
Karen Hildmann, Streamwood, IL
James D. Iversen, Decorah, IA
Lynn & Connie Johnson, Exira, IA
William P. Jones, District Heights, MD
Teresa King, Melbourne Beach, FL
Lowell Kramme, Des Moines, IA
Jean Krogh, Crestone, CO
Jeanette Lillehoj, Kimballton, IA
Julia McKeever, Defiance, IA
Michele McNabb, Atlantic, IA
Steen Metz, Lincolnshire, IL
Diane Mitchell, Glen Arm, MD
Nick Kofod Mogensen, Copenhagen, Denmark
Egon & Laina Molbak, Bellevue, WA
Peter Sand Myschetzky, Hellerup, Denmark
Jack E. Nelson, Waxhaw, NC
Roger Nelson, Kenosha, WI
Beverly F. Nelson, Ankeny, IA
Rev. Ronald A. Nielsen, White Bear Lake, MN
Niels H. Nielsen, Allerød, Denmark
Folmer & Vera Nyby, Michigan City, IN
Lisa D. Petersen, Owings, MD
Anna E. Porter, Beaverdam, VA
Marilyn Olesen Railey, Lakewood, NM
Kenneth Sand, Prairie du Chien, WI
Richard Sand, Kansas City, MO
Nancy Sand, Kimballton, IA
Diane J. Skov, Lacey, WA
Ole Sønnichsen, Bjert, Denmark
Wanda Sornson, Elk Horn, IA
Carl Steffensen, Houston, TX
Leo & Gayle Stuart, Walnut, IA
Donna Christensen Thomas, Papillion, NE
Finn H. Thomsen, Aalborg, Denmark
Marion Vierow, Saco, ME
Charlene Villars, Minden, NE
Carolyn Wittrup, Elk Horn, IA



By
Kara
McKeever

volunteers

In 2016 volunteers at both the museum and Genealogy Center contributed a total of **3,177** hours, down only 29 hours from 2015. Though several volunteers no longer donate their time for a number of reasons – health, a move to a different community, or other commitments – I’m happy to report that we’ve added four new volunteers to the roster, including our former Genealogy Center Manager, Michele McNabb! Volunteers help with genealogy research, translations, assisting museum staff by greeting visitors at the front desk, helping at a number of museum events, data entry, mailings, and most recently, 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 volunteers give is deeply appreciated. Mange tak!

The following are volunteers for whom we have **documented** hours in 2016:

MUSEUM

Annette Andersen
Marilyn Andersen
Rosalie Andersen
Virgil & Joyce Christensen
Rosa Clemson
Peggy Hansen
Joy Heckman
Jeanette Lillehoj
Dawn Nielsen
Wava Petersen
Joanne Potts
Karen Rafferty
Elva Rasmussen
Howard Sorensen

GENEALOGY

Bent Christensen
June Haas
Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt
Shannon Jensen
Connie Johnson
Jeanette Knudsen
Michele McNabb
Marlene Miller
Suzanne Rasmussen
Nancy Sand
Charlotte Sorensen
Karma Sorensen
Gayle Stuart
Donna Christensen Thomas
Carolyn Wittrup
Erik Høgsbro Østergaard

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 a variety of cookies we serve to museum guests during our annual celebrations of Tivoli Fest, held the weekend preceding Memorial Day, and Julefest, held the weekend following Thanksgiving.

Its members include Norma Andersen, Ramona Andersen, Marty & Connie Boose, Janet Bornholdt, Calvin Christensen, Mary Ann Christensen, Jack & Eileen Denne, Clayton Ellingson, Dean & Verna Esbeck, Gene & Kathleen Eyberg, Ileen Furne, Marcella Gaines, Calvin & Phyllis Hoegh, Chet & Marj Holland, Doris Jensen, Merlin & Sonya Mikkelsen, Beverly Nelson, Delores Nelson, Bob & Frances Nelson, Helen Petersen, Darrell & Bertha Schroeter, and Nadine Williamson. Staff member Deb Christensen Larsen and board member Jerry Schrader are also members of the “Friends.”



By
Terri
Johnson

Condensed Financial Statements
Years Ended August 31, 2016 and 2015

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

	2016	2015
Assets		
Cash and Investments.....	4,466,888	4,215,242
Inventory	99,535	101,819
Property and Equipment (Net).....	4,715,828	4,774,678
Total Assets	<u>9,282,251</u>	<u>9,091,739</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accrued Payroll Taxes	424	13,415
Lines of Credit	263,000	178,500
Total Liabilities	<u>263,424</u>	<u>191,915</u>
Net Assets	<u>9,018,827</u>	<u>8,899,824</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>9,282,251</u>	<u>9,091,739</u>

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

	2016	2015
Support and Revenue		
Contributions and Support.....	1,159,005	1,748,543
Admissions and Program Fees	18,169	18,678
Gift Shop Revenue (Net).....	51,211	47,476
Investment and Other Income.....	290,108	415,689
Total Support and Revenue.....	<u>1,518,493</u>	<u>2,230,386</u>
Expenses		
Program Services	892,329	861,462
Supporting Activities	507,161	567,792
Total Expenses	<u>1,399,490</u>	<u>1,429,254</u>
Change in Net Assets	<u>119,003</u>	<u>801,132</u>
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	<u>8,899,824</u>	<u>8,098,692</u>
Net Assets - End of Year	<u>9,018,827</u>	<u>8,899,824</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 viability. Current market value as of December 31, 2016 was \$4,703,630.97.

bequests

In 2016 the museum received \$1,020,922.78 in bequests—\$805,539.41 (79%) has been invested in the museum's endowment funds, and the balance \$215,383.37 (21%) has been used or is being used for special projects and programming. The Museum of Danish America gratefully acknowledges the following estates, trusts, and individuals:

Rita Neergaard Hansen, Kenosha, WI
Richard Hellman, Oceanside, CA
Clark Mathisen, Omaha, NE
Ruth Ostrom, Seven Hills, OH
Dorothy Pedersen, Omaha, NE
Harriet Albertsen Spanel,
Bellingham, WA
Charles W. & Norma J. Wilson
Foundation Inc., Red Oak, IA

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**. You will find the names of these elite individuals and organizations on the following pages.

LIFETIME LEGACY GIVING

Five categories reflect all cumulative donations of \$25,000 and greater from individuals or their estates, foundations, trusts, and organizations. These names are inscribed on a large plaque at the museum's entrance.

During the calendar year of 2016, the board of directors was pleased to add the names of

Glen & Rosa Clemens, Exira, IA (*Bronze*)

Carl & Frances Steffensen, Houston, TX (*Bronze*)

And in addition, we acknowledge these donors having achieved a new level of lifetime giving:

Charles W. & Norma J. Wilson Foundation, Inc.,
Red Oak, IA (*Diamond*)

Scan Design Foundation by Inger & Jens Bruun,
Seattle, WA (*Gold*)

DIAMOND \$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 \$500,000

Gunnar Horn, Omaha, NE

Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, Seattle, WA

GOLD \$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 Design Foundation by Inger & Jens Bruun, Seattle, WA
State of Iowa

SILVER \$100,000

Dennis J. Andersen, Atlanta, GA

Anonymous (2)

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

Asta Forrest, Fountain Hills, AZ

Charles & Joanne Frederiksen, Ames, IA

Stewart & LeNore Hansen, West Des Moines, IA

Roy & Patricia Hougen, Ames, IA

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

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



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BRONZE \$25,000

Aalborg & Linie Aquavits, Arcus A/S, Hagan, Norway
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 Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, IA
Ane-Grethe Olesen & Rory A.M. Delaney, Wayzata, MN
Gordon, Mary Lou & Janice Esbeck, Tipton, IA
Ramona L. Esbeck, Ames, IA
Sally og Gordon Faber, Urbandale, 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
Stanley & Helen Howe, Muscatine, IA
Humanities Iowa, Iowa City, IA
Vern E. Hunter, Fargo, ND
Al & Bridget Jensen, Houston, TX
Cornelius C.J. Jensen Estate, Edmonds, WA
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
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
Eric & Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust, Northbrook, IL
Kay Esbeck North, Ames, IA
Kai E. & Melody Starr Nyby, Laporte, IN
Erik & Jackie Olsen, Glenbrook, NV
Glenn & Mary Ellen Olsen, Atlantic, IA
Peter & Irma Ørum, Saint Charles, IL
Marc & Carlene Petersen, Omaha, NE
The Rasmussen Family, Des Moines, IA
Eugene Robinson, Pensacola, FL
Anelise Sawkins, Minneapolis, MN
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
Janet M. Thuesen, Falls Church, VA
Svend & Lois Toftemark, Eugene, OR
Erik & Lissi Vange, Palatine, IL
Marion J. Walker Estate, Solvang, CA

For more information on becoming a member of Lifetime Legacy Giving or Heritage Builders, contact Executive Director Rasmus Thøgersen, Development Manager Deb Christensen Larsen, Planned Giving Consultant Paul Johnson, or any member of the board of directors, who will be pleased to work with you. Your inquiry will be treated confidentially. ►

THE HERITAGE BUILDERS

Over the past 33 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. With their permission while living or through the permission of their executors, the names of Heritage Builders are permanently inscribed on a plaque in the museum.

During 2016 six new Heritage Builders plaques were added to the recognition board; these are indicated in **bold**. Deceased individuals are marked with an asterisk (*).

Anonymous (5) (1)

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

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

Caroline Hansen*, Harlan, IA

Hans Hansen*, Des Moines, IA

Laura E. Hansen*, Irwin, IA

Rita Neergaard Hansen*, Kenosha, WI

Rosa Hansen*, Hampton, IA

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

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

Joy S. Larsen, Oneonta, AL

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

Archie Petersen*, Harlan, IA

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

Nancy J. Walden, Omaha, NE

Sandra Wunder, Omaha, NE

*Deceased

special appeals

During the course of each year, the Museum of Danish America invites its supporters to make contributions to special appeals. The individuals, businesses, or foundations listed below contributed to these appeals in 2016 (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.*

VICTOR BORGE LEGACY AWARDS

R. James & Janet Borge Crowle, Saint Michaels, MD
Eric & Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust, Crystal Lake, IL
Charles W. & Norma J. Wilson Foundation, Inc., Red Oak, IA

CURATORIAL CENTER

Irving & Elizabeth Jensen Foundation, Sioux City, IA

CURATORIAL DEPARTMENT

Diane Skov, Lacey, WA

EXHIBITS

Danish Roots, American Dreams

Rosa Clemens, Exira, IA
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #15, Burlington, WI area
Nils & Kathleen Jensen, Portland, OR
Audrey Kofoed, West Branch, IA

ENDOWED CURATOR POSITION

(Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American Culture)

Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, Seattle, WA

ENDOWMENT

Rita Neergaard Hansen Estate, Kenosha, WI
Charles W. & Norma J. Wilson Foundation, Inc., Red Oak, IA

GENEALOGY CENTER

David & Linda Carlson, Leonardtown, MD
David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA
Larry & Janis Fajen, Elk Horn, IA
Gerald Fowler, Salem, OR
Benny, Julie, Benjamin & Emma Grosz
Glen Haselbarth, Minden, NE
Roger Murray, Two Rivers, WI
Peter Sand Myschetzky & Rebecca Sue Main Myschetzky,
Hellerup, Denmark
Carl & Pamela Pedersen, Escondido, CA
Janette Richardson, Hastings, NE
Michael, Taylor & Jarred Sand
Kenneth & Carolyn Sand, Prairie du Chien, WI

Nancy Sand, Kimballton, IA
Amy, Darren & Emma Schwantes
Diane Skov, Lacey, WA
Leo & Gayle Stuart, Walnut, IA

GRANTS

Building & Grounds Department – Sidewalk

Shelby County Community Foundation, Omaha, NE

Curatorial Department

Danish Roots, American Dreams

Humanities Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Sport for Sports' Sake

Humanities Iowa, Iowa City, IA

The Whimsical World of Bjørn Wiinblad

Iowa Arts Council, Des Moines, IA

Albert V. Ravenholt Fund, Seattle, WA

Iowa Tourism, Des Moines, IA

Danish Internships

Scan Design Foundation by Inger & Jens Bruun, Seattle, WA

IN PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS FILM

A.P. Møller Fonden, Copenhagen, Denmark

JENS JENSEN HERITAGE PATH PAVERS

Arne & Angel Brinkland, Orange, CA
Rich Inman & Melinda Brown, Littleton, CO
Michael & BebeAnna Buck, Eau Claire, WI
Danish American Club of Milwaukee, West Bend, WI
June Faaborg, Johnston, IA
Kathy Hauschildt, Greenfield, IA
Calvin & Phyllis Hoegh, Elk Horn, IA
Hal & Anna Holliday, Houston, TX
Mark & Pamela Jensen, Council Bluffs, IA
Charles & Barbara Johnson, Las Vegas, NV
James & Beverly Keltner, New Auburn, WI
Andrew Miller, Des Moines, IA
William & Martha Miller, Bloomington, IL
John & Karen Molgaard, Atlantic, IA
Gordon Nielsen, Tulsa, OK
Peter Nielsen, Naples, FL
Randall & Margaret Ruggaard, Hudson, OH
Marc & Barbara Shelstrom, Lancaster, WI
Carl & Frances Steffensen, Houston, TX
Linda Steffensen, Hoffman Estates, IL
Donna Thomas, Papillion, NE

Monthly E-News We are looking for individuals, businesses, or organizations to help us cover the costs of our new email system. Contact the Development Department to bring another month of updates to our 5,600+ subscribers for \$200. ►

JENS JENSEN PRAIRIE LANDSCAPE PARK

Purple Martin Birdhouses

Rosa Clemesen, Exira, IA

Tree

Arnold & Lisa Beasley, Bridgeport, CT

Tony & Karen Bell, Brea, CA

Ruth Connett, Solvang, CA

Glenn & Kirsten Eliab, Oxnard, CA

Cora Fagre, Loveland, CO

John & Hertha Haas, Harlan, IA

Larry & Kristen Healy, Loveland, CO

Eric Hvolboll, Goleta, CA

Elaine Jensen, Merritt Island, FL

Loren Jensen, Pocatello, ID

Lorraine Jensen, Grand Junction, CO

Richard & Glenda Jessen, Sun City West, AZ

Joe & Liz Kewish, Morgan Hill, CA

Ruth Krishnan, Saint Paul, MN

Michele McNabb, Atlantic, IA

Jill Neaves, Reston, VA

William & Myra Petersen, Solvang, CA

Michael Skov, Belmont, CA

Harald & Carol Ann Sorensen, Albuquerque, NM

Henrik Strandskov, Brunswick, ME

Mark & Cheryl Strandskov, Mount Pleasant, MI

James Mead & Carol Svendsen, Denver, CO

Peter Wallis, Kirkland, WA

Benjamin & Lori Whitis, Eau Claire, WI

Eva Winther & Bodil Winther, Vejle, Denmark

SPONSORSHIPS

Art by Gert Mathiesen exhibit – Coloring Sheets

The Danish Home, Croton-on-Hudson, NY

E-News

Danish Sisterhood Lodge #15, Burlington, WI

Hon. Consul Steven Tuchman, Indianapolis, IN

Brown Bag Lunch – Beverages

Salem Lutheran Homes, Elk Horn, IA

Hoover's Hometown Days

Kofoed Family, West Branch, IA

Sankt Hans Aften

Danish Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, IA

Landmands Bank, Audubon, IA

Svend Larsen, Dagmar, MT

Michele McNabb, Atlantic, IA

Shelby County State Bank, Harlan & Elk Horn, IA

360° Cardboard Viewer

Dennis Andersen, Atlanta GA

Marne Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn, IA

TRAVELING EXHIBITS:

Skåll! Scandinavian Spirits

American Swedish Historical Foundation, Philadelphia, PA

Sports for Sports' Sake

Danish American Athletic Club, Roselle, IL area

The Whimsical World of Bjørn Wiinblad exhibit

The Danish Home, Croton-on-Hudson, NY



By
Deb
Christensen
Larsen

danish immigrant wall of honor

The purpose of the Museum of Danish America, among other things, is to tell the continuing story of the Danish immigrant experience and influence in America and the evolving story of Danish-American heritage. As a way of paying tribute, the Danish Immigrant Wall of Honor was established in 1992 listing the name of the immigrant, year of entering the U.S., and place of settlement. The immigrants' stories and family histories, if available, are part of the growing repository at the Museum of Danish America's Genealogy Center.

Listed here are the immigrants placed on the Wall in 2016 and their donors:

JES JAKOBSEN ANDERSEN & CATHARINE BOYSEN ANDERSEN (1880, 1880) Ringsted, Iowa – Dr. Paul Henriksen, Pipestone, MN

LAURA JORGENSEN COMER (1890) Dagmar, Montana – Amy Christensen, Billings, MT; Greg & Merna Rierson, Casper, WY

N. PETER EDSON & MARIANE THOMSEN EDSON (1881 & 1887) Sacramento, Nebraska – Evelyn Ward, Greeley, CO

ALMA HANSEN (1904) Blair, Nebraska – Milton Jorgensen, Winchester, KS

JØRGEN & HANNE HENRIKSEN (1881 & 1881) Ringsted, Iowa – Glenn Henriksen, Armstrong, IA

KIRSTEN MARIE OLESEN HØGILD (1909) Westby, Montana – Gerda Christensen, Plentywood, MT

STEEN A. METZ (1962) Lincolnshire, Illinois – Steen A. & Eileen Metz, Sanibel, FL

ARNE OLSEN, ELSEBETH OLSEN, KIRSTEN OLSEN (1952, 1952, 1952) Fremont, California – Olsen Family Living Trust, Montara, CA

NELS OLSON & CELIA SCHANTZ OLSON (1869 & 1871) Fullerton, Nebraska – Evelyn Ward, Greeley, CO

SIGFRED VOLMER OLSEN & JENNY OTTILIA PEDERSEN OLSEN (1952 & 1952) Fremont, California – Kirsten Olsen Buehler, Elsebeth Olsen Gotham, Arne Olsen, all of Montara, CA; Peder & Doris Hoy, Modesto, CA

NIELS AAGE SKOV (1947) Lacey, Washington – Diane Skov, Lacey, WA

MERETE VENDT-LARSEN (1976) Ham Lake, Minnesota – Merete Duarte, Ham Lake, MN

CARSTON PETER WINTHER (1884) Harrison County, Iowa – Paul & Dianne Anderson, Seattle, WA

JENSINE “SENA” KATHERINE WALSTED WINTHER (1886) Harrison County, Iowa – Paul & Dianne Anderson, Seattle, WA

memorials

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

Jens & Christine Agesen
 Claude L. Andersen
 Richard Andersen
 Richard L. Andersen, my husband
 Dick Anderson, Kimballton, IA
 John T. Beck
 John Beck, my husband
 John Beier
 Lois Berg
 Harry H. Birkholm
 Lela Gwendolyn Block
 Sally Bodholdt
 Arvid Bollesen
 Charlie Brehm
 Jim & Odane Brittsan
 Johanna Bertelson Brown
 Robert Warren Brown
 Nadine Campbell
 Jens T. Carstensen
 Tove Carver
 Dale Christensen
 Evelyn Bengard Christensen
 Leonard Jersild Christensen
 Mary Ann Christensen
 Thomine Christensen
 Lee Christiansen, Portland, Oregon
 Joann E. Clausen, my wife
 Barbara Birkholm Clay
 Glen Clemens
 Ralph Doonan, my husband
 William Eiermann
 Ermelin Lenora Fallgatter
 Ermelin Simonsen Fallgatter
 Hans & Mathilde Farstrup
 A.N. & Florence Fogdall
 Edith Forsch, mother of Ann Timmons
 Phyllis M. Freeman
 Phyllis Maureen Gravengaard Freeman
 Karen J.V. Friedmann
 Ole & LaVon Frolund
 Ed Furne
 Dana Lee Garcia
 Parents of Tina Garner
 Harvey H. Greve
 Aage Grumstrup
 Curtis & Esther Haahr, Ringsted, IA

Tim Hagensen
 Karen Wellejus Haigh
 Bent Hansen
 Carl C. Hansen
 Carl C. Hansen, my brother
 Carma M. Hansen
 Cleo & Esther Hansen
 Dallas & Margery Hansen
 Emil Hansen
 Ethan L. Hansen
 Hans Jacob Hansen
 Mildred & Alfred Hansen
 Priscilla Hansen, Atlantic, IA
 Verity "Dew" Hansen, Cedar Falls, IA
 Clifford K. & A. Veola Hansen, my parents
 Marilyn Hanson, Cedar Falls, IA
 Ernst G. Harboe
 Marie-Louise Lind Harms
 Frank Heilesen
 Al Henningsen
 Verlee Poldberg Henningsen
 Norman Henriksen
 Thomas Higgins
 Herbert Hjortsvang
 Jens & Anna Holland
 Joan Ida Hudziak
 Al Iversen
 Bernhardt & Stena Iverson
 Inge R. Jacobson
 Hildegard Jansen-Danger
 Arne C. Jensen
 Bill Jensen
 Deppe & Anna D. Jensen
 Donna Jensen
 Elise Jensen
 Frederick Christian Jensen
 Irving & Elizabeth Jensen
 Ruth Jensen
 William R. Jensen
 Maynard Jensen, Kimballton, IA
 Bill Jensen, my husband
 Julius J. Jespersen
 Ludevikke Frederikke Leopoldena Buck Jespersen, my
 maternal grandmother
 Evelyn Margaret Johansen
 Charles Christian Johnson
 Duane Johnson
 Leona Johnson
 Duane Johnson of Florida
 Marilyn Jonos
 Niels & Ingrid Jorgensen
 Howard & Kaja Juel, my parents
 Karen M. Kadgihn
 Hans Kiehn

Mogens Kiehn
Lois Newgreen King, Seymour, WI
Peter M. & Arlene Kroman
Ed Larsen
Edwar J. Larsen
Kurt Klarskov Larsen
Paul Christian Larsen
Paul M. & Johanne Larsen
William B. Larsen
Craig Lassen
Dorothea Laursen
Chris & Harriet Laursen, Newell, IA
John Leistad
Bent Lernø
Ruth Farstrup Longman
Robert Lorentzen
Keith Lykke
Dale Mackenzie
Bob Madsen
Paul O. Madsen
Robert (Bob) Madsen
Harald & Margaret Madsen, Tyler, MN
Albert Martin Jensen Schjodt, my maternal grandfather
Gordy Martinson
Clark G. Mathisen
H. C. Mathison
Valborg Henriksen McKinzie
Elsie Rasmussen McNabb
Patricia Ann McNabb
Soren Miller
Peter & Anna Miller, Dagmar, MT, my parents
Anna Nielsen
Bill Nielsen
Fred & Maren Nielsen
Hans Thyge Nielsen
Harlan Nielsen
Verna Nielsen
Kristen Nielsen of Denmark
Marilyn & LeVern Nielsen, my parents
Ray & Alice Noren
Eric & Joan Norgaard
Elinor Olsen
Ole & Marie Olsen
Steven Olsen
Oluf & Vera K. Olson
Anna M. & Niels M. Pedersen
Flemming V. Pedersen
Lilly Pedersen
Tage Pedersen
Henry & Johanne Pedersen, Danish Americans
Anna M. Pedersen, my wife
Hans & Ivy Peitersen
Harry & Frances Petersen
Herbert & Mabel Petersen

Marjorie Petersen
Rev. Adolph & Marie Petersen
Howard Petersen
Norma I. Petersen, my late Danish spouse
Harry & Frances Petersen, my parents
Debra Pearson, my daughter
Irene Queyrel
Carl Rasmussen
Delbert Rasmussen
Lawrence Rasmussen
Lela Mae Mathisen Rasmussen
Anna Rasmusson
Ann Mumm Render
Lynn Richmond
Ruth J. Roberts
Ruth Jensen Roberts, my wife
Kaj & Astrid Roge
Andrew Rosk Rosenkild
Andrew & Rosa Rosenkild
Dr. Charles Dale Rosenquist, my husband
Thomas D. Routhe
Leroy Arthur Sand, Kimballton, IA
Leroy Sand, my husband
Ruth (Toni) Sande, Adel, IA
Viola Sander
Clara M. (Larsen) Schnell & her father, Marinus Larsen
Opal Jean Schultz
Miriam Showalter, Minnetonka, MN
Niels Aage Skov
Ann Larsen Slaight
Gordon Sloth
Mildred Sloth
Erik Sorensen
Kenneth Sorensen
Redge Sornson
Harriet Spanel
Poul & Elie Steffensen
Halvor H. Strandskov
Lars & Ane Marie Strandskov
Herman Victor Strandskov, my father
Einer V. Thode
Christopher Miltersen Thorup
Esther Petersen Tripp
Lorene Vorm
Svend Waendelin
Inge Heiberg Walliker
Aleen Weaver, Atlantic, IA
Aleen Weaver's wonderful life and legacy
Olga Petersen Werner & Manuella Werner Wendel
Gerda Henriksen Westenberger
Walter Westergaard
Charles W. & Norma J. Wilson
Agnes Jorgensen Zimmerline



in honor

The Museum of Danish America receives many contributions as gifts to honor beloved family members and friends on special occasions. In 2016 the following people were honored:

Rev. David K. Bonde
Charles E. R. Boye
Tova Brandt's *Skål* presentation in Decorah, IA
Russell Christensen
My mom, Rosa Clemesen's commitment to volunteer at the museum and her 85th birthday in January 2017
Education
The Fugl Families
Christine Thisted Haag's birthday
Calle & Cecelia Hansen
Appreciation of Danish interns Mads Henriksen and "Vinny" Henriksen
Isabel Hoegh
Betty W. Holland
Dean Holland
James D. Iversen
Chelsea Jacobsen
Jan Jensen
Marnie Jensen's 40th birthday
Ann Jespersen
Delores Jespersen's 95 1/2 birthday
Niels W. & Ingrid H. Jorgensen
Astrid Kaalund-Joergensen
Astrid Kaalund-Joergensen's presentation

Astrid Kaalund-Joergensen's translation work
Sherry Knudsen, my wife
Gloria & Bill Layton
Michele McNabb's hard work and dedication to the museum's Genealogy Center
Michele McNabb's retirement
Alan L. Mores
The hard-working museum staff
Museum's amazing Danish Interns
The museum's good work
Dawn & John Mark Nielsen
John Mark Nielsen
Dr. John Mark Nielsen, for his outstanding service to the Museum of Danish America
John Mark Nielsen, sending congratulations and good wishes. Hope he continues to visit Danebod in Tyler, MN
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Appreciation of all John Mark Nielsen's efforts
Merete Nieto's birthday
Poul & Benedikte Olesen
Leroy Pedersen
Helen Petersen, Atlantic, IA – longtime museum member and volunteer
Redesigned & updated core exhibit
Lars & Ane Marie Strandskov Family
My 100th birthday, Marion Svendsen
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 James & Jane Simon, Ames, IA
 Yvonne Skouby, Columbia, MO
 Arnold & Helen Skov, Alden, MN
 Pamela Smilow, New York, NY
 Charles & Debra Smith, Omaha, NE
 Delmar Smith, St. Paul, MN
 Edgar & Louella Smith, Moorhead, MN
 J. Christina Smith, Malden, MA
 Oliver & Martha Smith, San Bruno, CA
 John & Gretchen Snyder, Clinton, IA
 Theodora Sonntag, Pearl River, NY
 Carl & Gloria Sorensen, Glendale, CA
 Jimmy & Esther Sorensen, Wood Dale, IL
 Jorgen Sorensen, Eugene, OR
 Kathryn Foyle & Thomas Sorensen, Milan, MI
 Margaret Sorensen, Grand Island, NE
 Martin & Linda Sorensen, Lombard, IL
 Richard & Carol Sorensen, Independence, MO
 Robert & Nerita Sorensen, Walnut, IA
 Tom Sorensen, Captain Cook, HI
 Theresa Sorenson, Thornton, CO

John & Cindy Sowl, Omaha, NE
Peter & Karolyn Spirup, Oregon City, OR
Adrienne Spyridakos, Elk Horn, IA
John & Martha Squire, Des Moines, IA
Mary Staby, Frisco, CO
Judith Stalnaker, Denver, CO
Matthew Schipper & Angela Stanford, Neola, IA
Edward & Caryl Steenberg, Circle Pines, MN
Elsa Steffensen, Hoffman Estates, IL
Ruth Steffensen, Paradise, CA
Albert & Ruth Stone, Omaha, NE
Beverlyn Stoneking, Cushing, IA
Arlene Stork, Arlington, NE
Kurt & Susan Stotts, Des Moines, IA
Dick & Sonja Switzer, Omaha, NE
Martin & Hanne Taekker, Eugene, OR
Janice Theulen, Panama, IA
Ole & Brynn Thompson, Seal Beach, CA
Randy & Becky Thompson, Exira, IA
Robert & Mary Thompson, Highland, IN
Mark & Karen Thomsen, Mount Pleasant, WI
Wendy Rahbek Thomsen, Store Heddinge, Denmark
Fritz & Janice Tiarks, Harlan, IA
Michael & Lis Trent, Sun City West, AZ
Tama Trewet-Sloop, Atlantic, IA
James & Gerd Tuchscherer, Lino Lakes, MN
Patricia Turner, Brush, CO
Austin Turney, Lawrence, KS
Jon & Mary (Bro) Van Gerpen, Moscow, ID
Susan Vazakas, Catonsville, MD
David & Bente Vinci, Skokie, IL

Renee Virlee, Mount Vernon, IA
Kaja Voldbaek, Lake Oswego, OR
Niels & Esther Volhøj, Bindslev, Denmark
Sharon Vonesh, Audubon, IA
Palle Vraast-Thomsen, Pacifica, CA
Kent & Kristen Walker, Glendale, CA
Richard & Sandy Walling, Spring Branch, TX
Stephen & Catherine Walling, Omaha, NE
Peter Wallis, Kirkland, WA
Henry & Mardell Walter, Elk Horn, IA
Bonnie Warrington, Decorah, IA
Donald & Peggy Watkins, Omaha, NE
Aleen Weaver, Atlantic, IA
Mary Lou Webber, Richmond, VA
Glen and Jewel Weien, San Diego, CA
Mark & Amy Werner, Pekin, IL
Dick & Joan White, Lincoln, NE
Rosalie Wiand, Pulaski, WI
Rex & Hope Wilhelm, Stuart, IA
Katherine Wilson, Wheeler, WI
Jennifer Winters, Elk Horn, IA
Steven Wit, Elkins Park, PA
Randy Witte, Hiawatha, IA
Patricia Wobschall, Phoenix, AZ
Patti Wojahn, Las Cruces, NM
Michael & Nancy Christensen Wright, San Carlos, CA
Richard Wright, Atlantic, IA
Preben & June Wulff, Linwood, NJ
Nancy Yackle, Omaha, NE
Alvie Young, Ames, IA
Todd & Diane Zygmuntowicz, Troy, MI

Corrections Every effort has been made to ensure that all information contained in the 2016 Annual Report is accurate. We respectfully regret and apologize for any omissions, misspellings, or misplacements. Please contact the Development Department with any questions or corrections.