

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

a letter from the president

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

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

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

When I joined the museum board five years ago, the National Endowment for the Arts, in a published report, noted that the only age group which saw a marked increase in museum visits were those age 75 and older. This had to change. Recent studies authored by the NEA now show adult visits to museums have significantly increased among those aged 18-24 and 35-54. Our museum demonstrates new activities, programs, and engaging exhibitions. 2019 saw the

opening of the museum's most extensive exhibition to-date – *New Nordic Cuisine*. It opened during the annual *Sankt Hans Aften* Celebration at the museum in June. Currently it is on display in Philadelphia and travels to Minneapolis later in 2020. To engage new audiences and foster repeat viewing, the exhibition is complemented by YouTube videos featuring recipes, interviews, and culinary tours.

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

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

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



By Beth Bro-Roof

board of directors

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

Participating at their own expense, board members come together three times a year to share their skills and experience in providing oversight to the administration of the museum and to develop ideas and plans that will contribute to its continuing vitality. It is the practice of the board to meet each February and June in different locations around the United States, so

that they may share and celebrate heritage and culture with those Danish Americans who may not otherwise be able to link directly with the museum. In 2019, the board held its February meeting in Houston, Texas, and its June meeting in Denver, Colorado, with election of new board members. In October the museum's annual meeting was held in Elk Horn with new board members assuming their office; outgoing members present and participating.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SERVING IN 2019

Carol Bassoni, *Gilroy, CA*
 Bruce Bro, *Carefree, AZ*
 Beth Bro-Roof, *Cedar Rapids, IA*
 Bente Ellis, *San Jose, CA*
 David Esbeck, *San Diego, CA*
 Dennis Gray, *Winston-Salem, NC*
 Peder Hansen, *Omaha, NE*
 Connie Hanson, *Glendora, CA*
 David Hendee, *Northfield, MN*
 Gerry Henningsen, *Monument, CO*
 Glenn Henriksen, *Armstrong, IA*
 Daniel Jensen, *Columbus, OH*
 Marnie Jensen, *Nebraska City, NE*
 Elly Jorgensen, *Prairie Village, KS*
 Merlyn Knudsen, *Elk Horn, IA*
 Chris Kofoed, *West Branch, IA*
 Carolyn Larson, *St. Paul, MN*
 Lars Matthiesen, *Edmonds, WA*
 Toni McLeod, *Mesa, AZ*

Craig Molgaard, *Little Rock, AR*
 Hon. Consul Karen Nielsen, *Overland, KS*
 Mike Nielsen, *Altoona, IA*
 Eric Olesen, *Racine, WI*
 Randy Ruggaard, *Hudson, OH*
 Anders Sand, *Kansas City, MO*
 Carl Steffensen, *Houston, TX*
 Karen Suchomel, *West Branch, IA*
 Carol Svendsen, *Denver, CO*
 Pete West, *Denver, CO*

EX-OFFICIO

Nils Jensen, *Portland, OR*
 Dennis Larson, *Decorah, IA*
 Dr. John Mark Nielsen, *Blair, NE, Executive Director Emeritus*
 Kai E. Nyby, *Fountain Hills, AZ*

Tova Brandt, *Decorah, IA, Interim Executive Director*

who we are

MISSION STATEMENT

The Museum of Danish America explores the Danish-American experience, the historic and modern influences of Denmark on the United States, and the continuing story of how a nation of immigrants shape American identity.

VISION

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

VALUES

We are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Mission, vision, and values statements
adopted October 24, 2019.*

staff & interns

Interim Executive Director

Tova Brandt, M.A.

Executive Director Emeritus

John Mark Nielsen, Ph.D.

Administrative Manager

Terri Johnson

Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American Culture

Tova Brandt, M.A.

Curator of Collections & Registrar

Angela Stanford, M.A.

Archival Collections Manager

Cheyenne Jansdatter, M.A.

Genealogy Center Manager

Kara McKeever, M.F.A.

Amanda Skellenger, M.A., M.L.I.S.

Development Manager

Deb Christensen Larsen

Communications Specialist

Nicky Christensen, B.S.

Design Store Manager

Nan Dreher

Accounting Manager

Jennifer Winters

Building & Grounds Manager

Tim Fredericksen

Administrative Assistant

Terri Amaral

Genealogy Researcher

Wanda Sornson, M.S.

Weekend Staff

Terri Amaral

Jan Greving

Rochelle Bruns

Beth Rasmussen

Rodger Rasmussen

Bedstemor's House Staff

Justice Doherty

Haley Harris

Trudy Juelsgaard

Kealey Nelson

Danish Intern

Kristine Bruun, B.A., University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark
(Communications)

Internships for Danes are funded through a generous grant from Scan|Design Foundation, Seattle, WA

American Interns

Hannah Bernhard, B.S., Loras College, Dubuque, IA (Collections)

Internship funded by the Danish Club of Tucson, AZ

Emily Cannon, B.S., University of Washington, Seattle, WA (Collections)

Internship funded by the Danish Club of Tucson, AZ

Kiara Rodriguez, B.S., University of Nebraska at Omaha, (Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park)

Kelsey Wilcoxon, B.S. & M.L.I.S., Dominican University, River Forest, IL
(Archival & Special Collections)

Internship funded by Diane Skov, Lacey, WA

former board members

City and state indicate where board members *resided at the time of their service*; the 13 original board members are in **bold print**; members that are deceased are indicated with asterisks*. Every effort has been made to ensure that all the following information is accurate. Please contact Administrative Manager Terri Johnson with any questions or corrections.

- Cindy Larsen Adams, Littleton, CO 2012-2018
Birgit Andersen, Ithaca, NY 2002-2005
Dennis J. Andersen, Atlanta, GA 1999-2002 & 2007-2013, *Secretary*
Ed Andersen, Rochester, MN 1990-1996, *Vice President & President*
Erik Andersen, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 2011-2014
Herb Andersen*, Council Bluffs, IA 1991-1992
Judy Andersen*, Los Angeles, CA 1986-1989
Ragna Bak, Alexandria, VA 1997
Norman Bansen*, Blair, NE 1983-1989
Harold Berg, Ogden, IA 1996-2002
Signe Nielsen Betsinger, Falcon Heights, MN 1983-1990 & 1991-1996, *President*
Egon Bodtker, Salem, OR 2000-2006, *President*
Arvid Bollesen*, Tustin, CA 1990-1996
Jon Borgman, Harlan, IA 2010-2013
Bruce Bro, Phoenix, AZ 2019
Mervin Bro*, Scottsdale, AZ 1996-1999, *Vice President*
Ronald Bro, Cedar Falls, IA 2001-2007 & 2011-2017
Timothy Burchill, Jamestown, ND 2012-2018, *Vice President & President*
Jens Busch*, Austin, TX 1990-1996
Borge Christensen, Tucson, AZ 2003-2006
Carlo Christensen, Glendale, CA 2004-2010
Dan Christensen, W. Des Moines, IA 2013-2015
Jack Christensen, Yankton, SD 1991-1997, *Treasurer*
Lois Christensen, Elk Horn, IA 2001-2007
Lone Christensen, Brown Deer, WI 2007-2013
Lydell Christensen, Pittstown, NJ 1987-1993 & 1997-1999
Ross Christensen*, Waterloo, IA 1992-1993
Thomas Christensen*, Bettendorf, IA 1999-2005
Victor Christensen*, Washington, DC 1983-?
Marie Meilandt Dahlman*, Loma Rica, CA 1998-?
Ane-Grethe Delaney, Wayzata, MN 2006-2012
Pam Doreau*, Palm Coast, FL 1985-1989
Anne-Marie Douglas, Chicago, IL 1999-2005
Diane Doyle, Palm Coast, FL 1983-1985
Jan Eakins, Des Moines, IA 2003-2004
Bente Ellis, San Jose, CA 2013- 2019
Nick Ericksen, Omaha, NE 1991-1997
Gordon R. Esbeck, Tipton, IA 2001-2007
Cora Fagre*, Loveland, CO 1985-1991
Dorothy Stadsvold Feisel, St. Michaels, MD 2012-2018
Charles Frederiksen, Ames, IA 1989-1995 & 1997-1999, *President*
Lis Frederiksen, Washington, DC 2001-2003
Mark Frederiksen, Falcon, CO 2006-2012, *President*
Marilyn Andersen Gift, Des Moines, IA 1995-2001, *Secretary*
Karen Gray, Spring Grove, MN 1992-1995
Kenneth Gregersen, Ankeny, IA 2006-2008
Neel Halpern, Manhasset, NY 1991-1994
Howard Hansen* 1988-1988
Ingrid Hansen*, Lincoln, NE 1994-1998
Janell Hansen, Elk Horn, IA 2007-2009
Kurt Hansen, Rosemount, MN 2008-2014
Mia Hansen, Tucson, AZ 2008-2010
Stewart Hansen, W. Des Moines, IA 2011-2013
Thomas Hansen, Blair, NE 2003-2005
Thorvald Hansen*, Des Moines, IA 1983-1988
Ernst Harboe*, Northfield, IL 1991-1994
Otto Hoiberg*, Lincoln, NE 1983-1987
Anna Thomsen Holliday, Houston, TX 2008-2010 & 2012-2018
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Henrik Holmskov, Brookfield, WI 1993-1995
Vern E. Hunter, Fargo, ND, 1999-2005, *President*
Joy M. Ibsen, Trout Creek, MI, 1999-2005, *President*
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James Iversen, Ames, IA 1985-1991, *President*
Ellen Westergaard Jackson*, Whiting, IA 1999-2002
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Bridget Jensen, Houston, TX 2005-2008
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Harold R. Jensen*, St. Paul, MN 1983-1990, *Vice President*
Harold M. Jensen, Ames, IA 2002-2008
Lee Jensen, Pleasant Grove, UT 2000-2003

- Nils Jensen, Portland, OR 2001-2004
 Roland Jensen*, Des Moines, IA 1985-1993
 Tor Jensen, Willmette, IL 1992-1995
 Torben Jeppesen, Odense, Denmark 1998-2003
 Kristi Planck Johnson, Bethesda, MD 2009-2015
 Margaret Johnson*, Santa Clara, CA 2000-2003
 Carol Jorgensen*, Dike, IA 1996-2002
 Julie Jorgensen, Wayzata, MN 2002-2007, *Secretary*
 Lis Jorgensen, Gilroy, CA 1990-1998
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 Orville Juhler*, Harlan, IA 2002-2005
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 Peter G. Kelly, Glastonbury, CT 1998-?
 Peder Kirkegaard*, Lake Geneva, WI 2006-2007
 Karen Klop* 1990-1993
 Svend Koch*, Cedar Falls, IA 1993-1999
 Christopher Kramme, San Francisco, CA 2006
 Lowell Kramme, Des Moines, IA 1993-1999
 Joseph Krentzel, Fair Lawn, NJ 1991-1997
 Garey Knudsen, Hutchinson, MN 2012-2018,
Vice President, President
 Hugh Larsen*, Ontario, Canada 1985-1986
 Kenneth Larsen, Calistoga, CA 2009-2015, *Treasurer*
 Kurt Klarskov Larsen*, Oneonta, AL 2006-2009
 Carolyn Larson, St. Paul, MN 2013-2019, *Secretary*
 Dennis Larson, Decorah, IA 1985-*Ex-officio*
 Bent Lerno*, Simi Valley, CA 1995-2001
 Eivind Lillehoj*, Kimballton, IA 1995-2000
 Steven Lund, Yuma, AZ 2008-2011
 Marion Marzolf, Ann Arbor, MI 1985-1987
 Clark Mathisen*, Omaha, NE 1999-2005 & 2009-2011,
Treasurer
 Cynthia McKeen, St. Paul, MN 2008-2014
 Carol Mills, Dubuque, IA 2009-2012
 Craig Molgaard, Little Rock, AR 2013-2019
 John Molgaard*, Atlantic, IA 1996-2002 & 2005-2009,
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 Clayton Nielsen*, Racine, WI 1991-?
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John Mark Nielsen, Blair, NE 1983-1991 & 2000-2003
 Peter Nielsen, Naples, FL 2015-2016
 Ruth Herman Nielsen*, Omaha, NE 1992-1998,
Secretary
 Virginia Nielsen*, Elk Horn, IA 1989-1995
 Brent Norlem, Monticello, MN 2013-2016
- Kay Esbeck North*, Ames, IA 2007-2012,
Vice President
 Mark Nussle, Palos Park, IL 2005-2011, *Vice President*
 Kai Nyby*, LaPorte, IN 2001-2007, *President*
 Benedikte Ehlers Olesen, Eugene, OR 2004-2012
 Erik Olsen, Mesa, AZ 1995-1999
 Marian "Mittie" Ostergaard, Mission Viejo, CA
 2010-2016
 Tom Paulsen*, Bellevue, WA 1994-2000
 Curt Pedersen, Tucson, AZ 2001-2005
 Edwin Pedersen*, Luck, WI 1993-1996
 Jesper Packert Pedersen, Washington, DC 2011
 Leroy Pedersen*, Elk Horn, IA 1993-1999
 H. Rand Petersen, Harlan, IA 1985-1991
 Marc Petersen, Omaha, NE 2003-2009, *President*
 Peter Petersen, Canyon, TX 1985-1993, *Secretary*
 Melvin Pihl*, Canby, OR 1987-1993
 Henrik Fogh Rasmussen, Springfield, IL 2010-2015
 Lynette Skow Rasmussen, Johnston, IA 2006-2012
Lisa Riggs, Elk Horn, IA 1983-1990, *Treasurer*
 Norman Riis, Ames, IA 1986-1991
 Eva Robinson, Butler, PA 2008-2010
 Tom Rosen, Fairmont, MN 1998-2001
 Anelise Sawkins, Minneapolis, MN 2002-2008
 Jerry Schrader, Elk Horn, IA 2011-2017
 Rose Grindheim Sims, Ridge Manor, FL 1997-1999
 Linda Sloth-Gibbs, Yuma, AZ 2003-2009
 Flemming "Eric" Smitsdorff, Racine, WI 2010-2015,
Secretary
 Ole Sønnichsen, Bjert, Denmark 2015-2018
 Bob Sorensen* 1987-?
 Howard Sorensen, Elk Horn, IA 1990-1996
 Harriet Albertsen Spanel*, Bellingham, WA 2005-2011,
President
 Chris Steffensen*, Hoffman Estates, IL 1985-?
 Linda Steffensen, Hoffman Estates, IL 2012-2018
 Poul Steffensen*, Omaha, NE 1986-?
 Halvor H. Strandskov*, Alexandria, VA 1995-2001,
President
 Mark Strandskov, Mt. Pleasant, MI 2009-2015
 Helen Stub, Minneapolis, MN, 1991-2000, *Secretary*
 Janet Thuesen, Sausalito, CA 1996-2002 & 2006-2012,
Vice President
 Svend Toftemark, Eugene, OR 1994-2000
 Robert J. Wallace*, Kansas City, MO 1988-1992
 Daniel Warren, Fairmont, MN 2015-2016
Donald Watkins*, Lawrence, KS 1983-1987
 Wilber Williamson*, Des Moines, IA 1988-1995
 Lorraine Mattson Zembinski, Elm Grove, WI 1993-1994

THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA

Condensed Financial Statements
Years Ended August 31, 2019 and 2018

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

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

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

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

endowment

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

bequests

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

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

Anonymous

Rita Neergaard Hansen, Kenosha, WI

Ingrid Kirkegaard Trust, Lake Geneva, WI

Gladys McCrory, Atlantic, IA

a year of achievement

This past year at the Museum of Danish America was marked by challenges, opportunities, and achievements. While 2019 was challenged by transitions in staff leadership, our museum continued to meet ambitious goals in outreach, programs, and serving our national audience. *Mange tak* to you, our members, supporters, and volunteers, for making all of these achievements possible!

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

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



By Tova Brandt

volunteers

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

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

MUSEUM

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

GENEALOGY CENTER

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

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

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

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

By Terri Johnson



exhibitions

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

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

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

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

The largest partnership in the past year was the team that brought *New Nordic Cuisine* into being. Our museum staff, design consultants, fabricators, media

producers, and the many sponsors of the project were all invaluable to the successful opening of this major exhibition. As it travels around the country in the next few years, our entire museum community can take pride in the results.

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

ON-SITE GALLERY EXHIBITIONS IN 2019

Balancing Act – Peter Juhl

June 23, 2018 – March 17, 2019

Denmark, October 1943: Occupation and Resistance

September 29, 2018 – March 24, 2019

Dannebrog 800

January 2019 – February 2020

*Vessel: Ceramic Art by Michael Geertsen
and Morten Løbner Espersen*

March 22 – September 2, 2019

Jacob Riis: How the Other Half Lives

April 6 – May 27, 2019

New Nordic Cuisine

June 22, 2019 – January 5, 2020

Kings, Queens, and Commoners

September 21, 2019 – May 31, 2020



By Tova Brandt

TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS IN 2019*Danish Gymnastics in America*

Danish Heritage Preservation Society, Danevang, Texas
The Danish Home, Chicago, Illinois

Dannebrog 800

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

Denmark – America's Smallest and Biggest Ally

Luck Historical Museum, Luck, Wisconsin

Hygge

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

Jens Jensen: Celebrating the Native Prairie

Wallace Centers of Iowa, Greenfield, Iowa
Dane Hall, Waupaca, Wisconsin

*Schleswig-Holstein: Turmoil on the
Danish-German Border*

Hjemkomst Heritage Center, Moorhead, Minnesota

Skål! Scandinavian Spirits

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

Sport for Sports' Sake

Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, Omaha, Nebraska

collections

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

ARTIFACT DONORS

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

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



By **Angela Stanford**

danish immigrant wall of honor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By Deb Christensen Larsen



genealogy center

This past year was another busy one for the Genealogy Center. We welcomed many visitors from all over the US and Denmark. In all, 544 individuals visited the Genealogy Center in 2019. The backlog of research projects has been drastically reduced, and at the end of the year, only a couple of new projects remained in the queue. Genealogy staff completed 65 research projects out of 71, which were received from across the country. Within that 65, 32 were translation projects.

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

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

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

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

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

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



By Wanda Sornson

Diane Skov, Lacey, WA
Kenneth L. Stoner, Lawrence, KS
Leo & Gayle Stuart, Walnut, IA
Donna Thomas, Papillion, NE
Marie Thourson (Jones)
Union County Genealogical Society, Creston, IA
Michael Van Ness, N. Canton, OH
Ila Watts, Columbia, MO
Mildred Wilcox, Cherry Hill, NJ
Udine Wilton, Nebraska City, NE
Barbara A. Yelverton, Vermillion, SD



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

merit of recognition

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

lifetime legacy giving

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

During the calendar year of 2019, the Board of Directors was pleased to add the names of

Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, AZ (*Bronze*)
Erna C. Jensen, Des Moines, IA (*Bronze*)
Ingrid Kirkegaard Trust, Lake Geneva, WI (*Platinum*)
Karen K. Suchomel, West Branch, IA (*Bronze*)

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

DIAMOND over \$1,000,000

Wayne Alwill Estate, Manning, IA
Anonymous
William & Berniece Grewcock, Omaha, NE
Bruce R. Lauritzen Family, Omaha, NE
Charles W. & Norma J. Wilson Foundation, Inc.,
Red Oak, IA

PLATINUM over \$500,000

Dennis J. Andersen, Atlanta, GA
Gunnar Horn, Omaha, NE
Ingrid Kirkegaard Trust, Lake Geneva, WI
Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, Seattle, WA
State of Iowa

GOLD over \$250,000

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Marianne K. Festersen Trust, Omaha, NE
Peter Kiewit Foundation, Omaha, NE
Roy J. & Rita Neergaard Hansen, Kenosha, WI
Richard Hellman, Oceanside, CA
scan l design foundation By Inger & Jens Bruun,
Seattle, WA
Erik Sorensen Trust, Knoxville, IA

SILVER over \$100,000

Anonymous
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Edna M. Christensen, Atlantic, IA
Tom & Jan Christensen, Bettendorf, IA
Elk Horn Lutheran Church, Elk Horn, IA
Howard & Ruth Esbeck Trust, Elk Horn, IA
Asta Forrest, Fountain Hills, AZ

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

BRONZE over \$25,000

Aalborg And Linie Aquavits, Arcus As, Hagan Norway
 Cynthia Larsen Adams and Gary M. Adams,
 Littleton, CO
 The American-Scandinavian Foundation,
 New York, NY
 Erik & Eva Andersen, Croton-on-Hudson, NY
 Anonymous (2)
 Norman C. Bansen Estate, Blair, NE
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 Danish Brotherhood In America,
 Highlands Ranch, CO

Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, AZ

Danish Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, IA
 Ane-Grethe Olesen & Rory A.M. Delaney,
 Wayzata, MN
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 First Baptist Church of Elk Horn, IA
 Charles & Joanne Frederiksen, Ames, IA
 J. Emory & Edna Fredrickson Estate, Elk Horn, IA
 Margaret Louise Gee Estate, West Des Moines, IA
 Marilyn Andersen Gift & William Gift,
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the heritage builders

Lifetime Legacy Giving, continued

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Marion J. Walker Estate, Solvang, CA
Todd & Jalynn Wanninger/Carroll Control Systems,
Carroll, IA

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

Anonymous (5)
Dennis J. Andersen, *Atlanta, GA*
Anne Bansen*, *Ferndale, CA*
Norman C. Bansen*, *Blair, NE*
Constance Boggild*, *Delray Beach, FL*
Victor Borge*, *Greenwich, CT*
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Marie Budolfson*, *Ames, IA*
Borge & Lotte* Christensen, *Tucson, AZ*
Charles R. Christensen*, *Omaha, NE*
Edna M. Christensen*, *Atlantic, IA*
Myrvin F. & Anne C.* Christopherson, *Decorah, IA*
Dolores Gregersen Connelly*, *Atlantic, IA*
Lydia Sorensen Eriksen*, *Waterloo, IA*
David Esbeck*, *Des Moines, IA*
Gordon R. & Jan Esbeck, *Tipton, IA*
Howard Esbeck*, *Ames, IA*
Ramona Esbeck, *Ames, IA*
Dorothy & Lyle Feisel, *Chestertown, MD*
Asta Forrest*, *Fountain Hills, AZ*
Joanne Frederiksen, *Ames, IA*
J. Emory* & Edna Fredrickson*, *Elk Horn, IA*
Earl* & LaVena Fries, *Des Moines, IA*
Margaret Gee*, *West Des Moines, IA*
Gertrude Gronbeck*, *Washington, D.C.*
Caroline Hansen*, *Harlan, IA*
Hans Hansen*, *Des Moines, IA*
Laura E. Hansen*, *Irwin, IA*

*Deceased

Rita Neergaard Hansen*, *Kenosha, WI*
 Rosa Hansen*, *Hampton, IA*
Bruce & Kristie Hansen-Mendez, Chicago, IL
 Roger J. Hanson, *Cedar Falls, IA*
 Alma Hartvigsen*, *Harlan, IA*
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 Harold L. Sorenson*, *Exira, IA*
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 Sandra Wunder, *Omaha, NE*

special appeals

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

ARCHIVES

Danish Sisterhood Archive Project

Rich Inman & Melinda Brown, Littleton, CO
Danish Sisterhood Heartland District Johnston, IA
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #3, Davenport, IA
Danish Sisterhood Dagmar Lodge #4, Chicago, IL
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #19, Tacoma/Olympia, WA
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #20, Kenosha, WI
Danish Sisterhood Ellen Lodge #21, Denver, CO
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #100, Marlette, MI
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102, Des Moines, IA
Danish Sisterhood Frihed Lodge #153, Hartford, CT
Danish Sisterhood Flora Danica Lodge #177,
Solvang, CA
Danish Sisterhood Danske Damer Lodge #185,
Cleveland, OH
Danish Sisterhood Amber Lodge #186, Brainerd, MN
Danish Sisterhood Hygge Lodge #188, Enumclaw, WA
Sally og Gordon Faber, Urbandale, IA
Jane Nyffeler, Lincoln, NE
Karin Plagens, Enumclaw, WA
Pamela Ruben, Menomonee Falls, WI
Theresa Sorenson, Thornton, CO
Marilyn Wadsworth, Rochester, NY

COLLECTIONS

Conservation of Painting

Lowell & Marilyn Kramme, Des Moines, IA

CURATORIAL

Gallery Space

Lowell & Marilyn Kramme, Des Moines, IA

Traveling Exhibits

New Nordic Cuisine

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

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

Dannebrog 800

Anonymous
The Scandinavian Society of Cincinnati, Ohio

Jacob Riis

The Danish Home, Croton-On-Hudson, NY

Kings, Queens & Commoners

Danish Sisterhood Dronning Margrethe Lodge #15,
Wauwatosa, WI

New Nordic Cuisine Online Auction

Nuna Alberts, New York, NY
Ruth Boudreau, Winthrop, MA
Henry & Patricia Brock, Selma, CA
Dr. John Roof & Beth Bro-Roof, Cedar Rapids, IA
Keith Burwell, Toledo, OH
Stephen Butters, Stafford, VA
Joanna Christensen, Castle Rock, CO
Judy Collins, Eugene, OR
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 Jesper Nielsen, Greenville, TX
 Brent & Shirley Norlem, Monticello, MN
 Karin Plagens, Enumclaw, WA
 Jack Reidhill, Washington, DC
 Anders Sand, Kansas City, MO
 Sue Simon, New York, NY
 Linda Sporven, Council Bluffs, IA
 Carl & Frances Steffensen, Houston, TX
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 Martin West, Richmond, CA
 Christy Young, Tampa, FL

ENDOWMENT

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

GENEALOGY CENTER

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

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

(Current & Former Board Members)

Technology

Visual Storage computer station

Audrey Kofoed Foundation & Family, West Branch, IA

Back up battery supplies for museum computers

Audrey Kofoed Foundation & Family, West Branch, IA

Back up batteries for Genealogy Center computers

David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA

Communications & Marketing

Publication-quality camera and lens

J. Brent & Shirley, Norlem, Monticello, MN

E-newsletter (one month)

Jon Frega & Elly Jorgensen, Prairie Village, KS

Design Store

Camera for adding photos to store website

Kai & Starr Nyby, Georgetown, TX

Exhibitions and Programs

Travel expenses for Danish artist to visit Elk Horn

Audrey Kofoed Foundation & Family, West Branch, IA

One year of Brown Bag Lunch programs

Audrey Kofoed Foundation & Family, West Branch, IA

Camera for Collections

Audrey Kofoed Foundation & Family, West Branch, IA

Genealogy Center

Upgrade microfilm scanner

David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA

International DVD player

David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA

Additional filing cabinets for vertical Family Files

David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA

Office lights for GC Manager's office

David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA

GRANTS

Archive Department

Danish Sisterhood Archive Project

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, Des Moines, IA

Curatorial Department

Curatorial Lighting

Shelby County Community Foundation (Omaha
 Community Foundation), Omaha, NE

Traveling Exhibits

New Nordic Cuisine

Humanities Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Nordic Council of Ministers, Copenhagen,
 Denmark

Jacob Riis

National Endowment for the Humanities,
 Washington, DC

General Operations

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, Des Moines, IA

Internships

Danish Interns

Scan Design Foundation, Seattle, WA

Special Appeals, continued

JENS JENSEN HERITAGE PATH PAVERS

Romualdas Mickevicius & Judith Andersen,
Baxter, MN

Shannon Couhig, Baton Rouge, LA

Ilka Daniels, Ankeny, IA

Megan Farnsworth, Adair, IA

Dean & Julie Flesner, Marietta, GA

Herbert Jacobsen Estate, Fairway, KS

Lowell Jacobsen, Fairway, KS

Paul & Carol Laursen, Crawfordsville, IN

Verner Laursen, Appleton, WI

Rosemary Matthiessen, Sterling, IL

John & Karen Molgaard, Atlantic, IA

Michael & Karma Nielsen, Altoona, IA

Kurt & Consul Lynette Skow Rasmussen, Johnston, IA

Raymond & Barbara Rehmeier, Henderson, NV

JENS JENSEN PRAIRIE LANDSCAPE PARK

Danish American Club of Milwaukee,
Milwaukee, WI area

First Baptist Church of Elk Horn, IA

Annette Sorensen, Vero Beach, FL

SPONSORSHIPS

Events

Rescue and Refuge: The Holocaust in Denmark

Dennis Andersen, Atlanta, GA

Julefest 2019 Admission

Jon Frega & Elly Jorgensen, Prairie Village, KS

Hoover's Hometown Days

The Kofoed Family, West Branch, IA

Sankt Hans Aften

Annette Andersen, Kimballton, IA

Tracy Christensen, Elk Horn, IA

Danish Mutual Insurance Association,
Elk Horn, IA

Merlyn & Jeanette Knudsen, Elk Horn, IA

Landmands Bank, Audubon, IA

Marne Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn, IA

Julie McKeever, Defiance, IA

Shelby County State Bank, Harlan & Elk Horn, IA

Tivoli Fest 2020 Admission

Jon Frega & Elly Jorgensen, Prairie Village, KS

Internships

American Interns

Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, AZ

Diane Skov, Lacey, WA

WEBSITE UPGRADE

David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA

matching gifts

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

Assured Life Association

William & Marilyn Gift, Clive, IA

Richard & Karen Nelson, Albert Lea, MN

The Boeing Company

Dagmar Muthamia, Long Beach, CA

Bright Funds Foundation

Michael & Nancy Christensen Wright, San Carlos, CA

Caterpillar Foundation

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memorials

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

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Leroy Sand, my husband
Albert Martin Jensen Schjodt
Geraldine Elizabeth Nash
Schubeck, my mother, who died
on July 20, 2019, at the age of
103
Betty Hoegh Schukei & Family
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Miriam Showalter
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Barney"
Eva Sindberg, my wife
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parents
Judy Thomsen's father's 2-year
anniversary of passing
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in honor

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

Judith Andersen of Baxter, MN's birthday
 Ruth Randall Benson, PhD., my friend
 Folmer Bonnesen
 Ellen C. Bourquin's 90th Birthday
 Tova Brandt wearing 2 hats!
 Loren Christensen of Vines & Wines speaking at
 Atlantic Friends of Museum meeting
 George & Ollie Christensen, Clarice E. Christensen,
 Lloyd G. Christensen & Virgil L. Christensen, my
 lifelong friends
 Joyce Christensen, deb's mom
 Joyce Mitten Christensen, my mom
 The Dahlgard Family of Lennox-Beresford, SD
 Charles Frederiksen
 Vernon Frost
 Marilyn Gift making a kranselage for our child's
 baptism
 Monte Hoegh
 Chelsey Holland & Paul Page's marriage, 4 May, 2019
 Jim & Marge Iversen

Cheyenne Jansdatter, who works so hard for MoDA!
 Erna C. Jensen
 Dagmar Johnson
 Garey Knudsen, my husband
 Deb Christensen Larsen
 Jeanette Lillehoj's 90th birthday
 Jane Marie's 7th birthday
 Julie Jensen McDonald
 M.C. McNabb (former MoDA genealogy center)
 Museum of Danish America Volunteers
 Museum's amazing staff!
 Brent & Shirley Norlem
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 Adeline Ostby, my great granddaughter
 Gerald & Sigrid Rasmussen
 Paul Roge
 Janet (Peitersen) Schroeder, my mother
 The Skow Family of Monona County, IA
 Ken Thomsen

special memberships

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

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the honor roll of contributors

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

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

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 Nancy Nielsen, Cedar Springs, MI
 Niels & Diane Nielsen, Lawrence, KS
 Simon & Hannah Nielsen,
 Sønderborg, Denmark
 Todd & Camille Nielsen, Waukee, IA
 Vagn & Karen Nielsen, Sonoma, CA
 Frederick & Julie Nielsen-Fuhrmann,
 Woodbury, MN
 Howard & Dee Nilson, Rapid City, SD
 Kai Nirell, Katy, TX
 Dan & Frannie Nissen, Elk Horn, IA
 Daryl & Tammy Nissen, Elk Horn, IA
 Mark & Sandy Nissen, Audubon, IA
 Wayne & Beverly Noelck, Hawarden, IA
 Liv Norderhaug, Chanhassen, MN
 John & Janet Nothnagel, Hyde Park, NY
 Rob & Ronell Nymand, Brayton, IA
 Mary O'Brien, Las Vegas, NV
 Marie Odgers, Lincoln, NE
 Catherine Olesen, Greenfield, IA
 Henry & Sharon Olesen, Woodstock, IL
 Beth Olsen, Fort Defiance, AZ
 Charles & Arlyce Olsen, Missouri Valley, IA
 Dorothea Olsen, Clinton, IA
 Duane & Kim Olsen, Glenwood, IA
 Inger Olsen, Longview, WA
 Terrence & Karolee Olsen, Georgetown, TX
 Wayne & Donna Olson, Kimballton, IA
 Evelyn Osland, Leroy, MN
 Tracy Codel & L. Michaeleen Parks,
 West Des Moines, IA
 Jerry & Connie Paul, Woodland Park, CO
 Glynn & Elizabeth Paulsen, Seattle, WA
 Ivan & Patricia Paulsen, Walker, MN
 James & Candy Paulsen, Fresno, CA
 Gloria Paulus, Santa Maria, CA
 Marie Payne, St. James, MN
 Bruce & Llewelly Pedersen, Casper, WY
 Diane Pedersen, Johnston, IA
 Donald Pedersen, Pea Ridge, AR
 Erik Pedersen, Solvang, CA
 Katherine Pedersen, New Richmond, WI
 Lee Grupsmith & Lyle Pedersen,
 Santa Ana, CA
 Loetta Pedersen, Superior, NE
 Marjean Pedersen, Elk Horn, IA
 Steven & Patricia Pedersen, Adel, IA
 Audrey Petersen, Cedar Falls, IA
 Benjamin & Vera Petersen, Exira, IA
 Clifford Petersen, Hoffman Estates, IL
 Duane & Dixie Petersen, Wichita, KS
 Lynden Petersen, Aurora, CO
 Darla Peterson, Sioux City, IA
 Richard & Brenda Peterson, Lincoln, KS
 Virgil & Marlene Peterson,
 Coon Rapids, MN
- Charles & Elizabeth Philipsen,
 Asheville, NC
 John & Janis Pientok, St. Francis, WI
 Bruce & Calla Poldberg, Kimballton, IA
 Anna Porter, Beaverdam, VA
 Nancy Porter, Iowa City, IA
 Erik Poulsen, Clinton Township, MI
 Phyllis Quarg, Lakeside, CA
 Susan Quist, Centennial, CO
 Kathleen Raccuglia, Lenexa, KS
 Ronald & Rosemary Raschke, Athens, GA
 Cary & Cheryl Rasmussen, Osseo, MN
 Doris Rasmussen, Harlan, IA
 Jennifer Rasmussen, Omaha, NE
 Lyle & Carol Rasmussen, Waverly, IA
 Ove Rasmussen, Astoria, OR
 Ruth Rasmussen, Mackinaw, IL
 William & Christine Rattenborg,
 Fort Collins, CO
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 Chris Retzlaff, Elk Horn, IA
 Jay Rich, Omaha, NE
 Michael & Sharon Richardson, Salinas, CA
 Roland & Barb Rinell, Urbandale, IA
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 Todd & Tonya Robson, Beaverton, OR
 Susann Rogberg-Lavars, Corralitos, CA
 Richard & Sonja Rollins, Summerfield, FL
 Anna Ronne, Salt Lake City, UT
 William & Ann Roof, Avoca, IA
 Sandy Rosenblatt, Seattle, WA
 John & Karin Ross-Gibbins, San Diego, CA
 Kay Rostgaard, Two Rivers, WI
 Alan & Carolyn Rovner, Centennial, CO
 Charles & Jonelle Ruffing, Atlantic, IA
 Robert & Donna Rugaard, Audubon, IA
 Knute & Stacey Ruggaard, Show Low, AZ
 Elaine Russell, Council Bluffs, IA
 Donna Ryterske, Lily Lake, IL
 Esther Sand, Carroll, IA
 Kevin & Karla Sandberg, Gering, NE
 Earl Sande, Adel, IA
 Derek Peck & Maren Sand-Peck,
 Ankeny, IA
 Brad & Cathy Sauter, Sheridan, IN
 Helen Sawtell, Omaha, NE
 Scandy Sweets (Barry & Elizabeth Rickard),
 Cedar Rapids, IA
 Marilyn Schaefer, Cedar Falls, IA
 Frederick & Kathryn Schau, Brodhead, WI
 Dan & Cynthia Schaulis, Ellison Bay, WI
 Constance Schneider, Lincoln, NE
 Janet Schroeder, Cedar Rapids, IA
 Lori Schultz, Ames, IA
 Connie Scott, Sidney, IA
 Joann Scott, North Hollywood, CA
 Patricia Severson, Clear Lake, IA
 Daniel & Joan Shurtliff, Seward, NE
 Nicolas & Sofie Skein-Hall, Garibaldi, OR
 Yvonne Skouby, Columbia, MO
 Doris Skow, Hollister, CA
 Richard & Charlotte Smetana, Exira, IA
- Delmar Smith, St. Paul, MN
 Edgar & Louella Smith,
 Moorhead, MN
 J. Christina Smith, Malden, MA
 Theodora Sonntag, Pearl River, NY
 Carl & Gloria Sorensen, Glendale, CA
 Charlotte Sorensen, Exira, IA
 Harald & Carol Ann Sorensen,
 Albuquerque, NM
 Richard Sorensen, Adel, IA
 Richard & Carol Sorensen,
 Independence, MO
 Robert & Nerita Sorensen, Walnut, IA
 Michael & Lynnette Spetman,
 Council Bluffs, IA
 Linda Sporven, Council Bluffs, IA
 Adrienne Spyridakos, Elk Horn, IA
 John & Martha Squire, Des Moines, IA
 Martha Staby, Loveland, CO
 Judith Stalnaker, Denver, CO
 Angela Stanford, Adair, IA
 John & Mary Stanley, Ceresco, NE
 Edward & Caryl Steenberg,
 Circle Pines, MN
 Bjorn & Jane Steffensen, Needham, MA
 David & Brenda Steiniche, Cameron, MO
 Russell & Judy Stiley, Nunn, CO
 Dorothy Stilling, Northridge, CA
 Del & Ingrid Stites, Omaha, NE
 Kurt & Susan Stotts, Des Moines, IA
 Annalee Strandskov, New Brighton, MN
 Laura Stransky, Rimrock, AZ
 Gloria Stratton, Anaheim, CA
 Pearl Swank, Poplar, MT
 Roger & Summer Swanson, Fairborn, OH
 Carol Swenson, Burnsville, MN
 Martin & Hanne Taekker, Eugene, OR
 Craig Thiesen, Saint Paul, MN
 Donna Thomas, Papillion, NE
 Todd Thompson, Sioux City, IA
 Jill Thompson Hansen,
 West Des Moines, IA
 Finn Thomsen, Aalborg, Denmark
 Penny Thomsen, Pleasant Hill, IA
 Jake & Jillinda Thornton, Coin, IA
 Margene Timm, Lincoln, NE
 John & Gitte Toben, Marietta, GA
 Michael & Lis Trent, Sun City West, AZ
 James & Jasmine Tritten, Corrales, NM
 Gary & Marilyn Trook, Amarillo, TX
 James & Gerd Tuchscherer,
 Lino Lakes, MN
 John & Patricia Turner, Brush, CO
 Union County Genealogical Society,
 Creston, IA
 Deborah Utoft, West Des Moines, IA
 Jon & Mary (Bro) Van Gerpen,
 Moscow, ID
 Dale & Jane Vandre, Kalamazoo, MI
 Rod & Valerie Vaughn, Fort Thompson, SD
 William & Marion Vierow, Saco, ME
 David & Bente Vinci, Skokie, IL
 Drew & Renee Virlee, Mount Vernon, IA
 Victor & Karen Vitek, Tamworth, NH

Esther Volhøj, Bindslev, Denmark
Heather Vorm, Lincoln, NE
Timothy Vorm, Lincoln, NE
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Beaufort, SC
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Barbara Wenschlag, Pequot Lakes, MN
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David & Karen Wilson, Kimball, NE
Katherine Wilson, Wheeler, WI
Elaine Winkler, Plymouth, MN
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Jeanette Wittmer, Albert Lea, MN
Marilyn Witttrup, Harlan, IA
Patricia Wobschall, Phoenix, AZ
Preben & June Wulff, Linwood, NJ
Guan Yang, New York, NY
Nina York, Christiansted,
St. Croix, Virgin Islands
Peter Pallesen & Sharon Young,
Overland Park, KS
Mary Zellmer, Atlantic, IA
Michele Hacherl & William Zucker,
Tucson, AZ
Todd & Diane Zygmuntowicz, Troy, MI

CORRECTIONS

Every effort has been made to ensure that all information contained in the 2019 Annual Report of Contributions is accurate. We respectfully regret and apologize for any omissions, misspellings, or misplacements. Please contact the Development Department with any questions or corrections.



Frost and fog on December 17, 2019.

Former intern Malene Vitus gives an update related to her 10-year anniversary. Her internship was divided: first at the Genealogy Center and thereafter in the Development Department.

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

IOWA WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE

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

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

A LOT OF LAUGHTER AND A STEEP LEARNING CURVE

I made “What’s up” videos from the events that had taken place. E.g. meetings with the consul, Tivoli Fest, and Brown Bag Lunches. Ten years ago, that was a new way of communicating and something the museum hadn’t

done before. The goal was to reach members that couldn’t come to visit the museum everyday.

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

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

FROM IMMIGRANTS TO LORRIES

After the internship I finished my master’s thesis and got a “real” communications job at ITD, a private business association for transport and logistics companies (road freight haulers). The headquarters is on the border

between Denmark and Germany, so I moved from Copenhagen to Flensburg, Germany and crossed the border each day to go to work. After three years I got a communications job in Copenhagen, in the pharmaceutical industry. That only lasted a year. Love was the reason! I got a new job at ITD again, and today my family and I live in Gråsten, Denmark, close to the royal castle where Queen Margrethe has her summer residence.

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

FUN FACTS

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

Malene Vitus

Intern, February - June 2010



new online features

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

1 OPEN ACCESS TO OUR COLLECTIONS RECORDS

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

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

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

<https://danishmuseum.pastperfectonline.com>

2 VIRTUAL TOURS

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

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

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

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

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

fiskefrikadeller

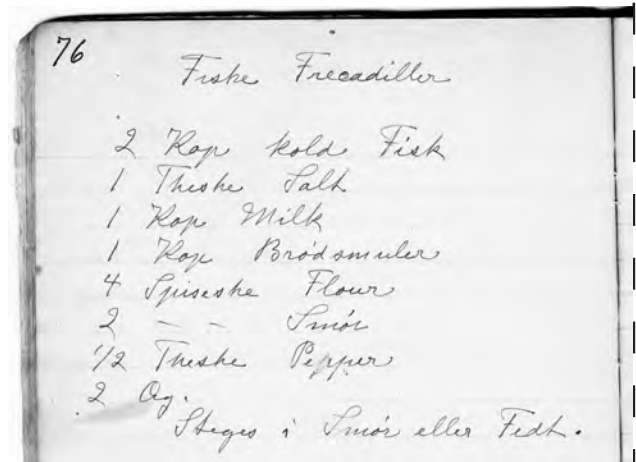
FISH CAKES/MEATBALLS

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

Fry in butter or fat.

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

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



MUSEUM & DESIGN STORE

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

JENS JENSEN PRAIRIE LANDSCAPE PARK

2212 Washington Street
35 acres open daily, dawn – dusk

GENEALOGY CENTER

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

BEDSTEMOR'S HOUSE

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

Closed: New Years, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas.

*With the
exception of
pandemics.



museum of
danish america

2212 WASHINGTON STREET
ELK HORN, IA 51531
@DANISHMUSEUM

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

DANSK



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