a letter from the president

PETE WEST, DENVER, CO

I have been honored and humbled to serve as the Museum of Danish America’s board president for another year. It will be no surprise that the year was one of challenges and change. It has also been one of accomplishment - which would not have been possible without the unflagging efforts of the staff and board.

The pandemic affected the museum along with all of us. The museum began the year closed to visitors, but it partially reopened in March and is now open almost daily. The staff continued to work, some at the museum and some remotely. Travel for outreach was almost non-existent at the beginning of the year but has picked up through the year. The Design Store continued a brisk online business and again has in-person visitors.

Despite the challenges, the museum is in a good financial position, thanks to your generous gifts and grants from the federal government and several agencies of the State of Iowa. And membership increased this year.

The inevitability of change is reflected in the museum’s staff. It said goodbye to two long-time and valued staff members, Angela Stanford and Jennifer Winters. They will be missed.

On the other side of the coin, the easing of travel restrictions allowed two interns, one Danish and one American, to join the staff in the fall to bolster the collections and communications areas. Another Danish intern came in January 2022 to help with exhibits.

After meeting by Zoom for more than a year, the board assembled in person in Elk Horn for the annual meeting in October.

It was wonderful to see each other and the staff members again and have the individual and small-group conversations that are so difficult to have in a virtual setting.

The planned restoration of the wetlands in the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park was accomplished with a new water retention structure and a visitor overlook. In addition, the museum was again able to host an intern to help maintain and improve the park.

Another accomplishment is the completion of cataloging the Danish Sisterhood of America archives. The museum was designated as its official archive in 2016, and many boxes of files, membership registers, photographs, and photo albums were transferred to Elk Horn. The national organization, local chapters, and individual members donated funds to more than match a grant from the State of Iowa Historic Resource Development Program to organize, catalog, and develop a finding aid for the materials. Archival Collections Manager Cheyenne Jansdatter completed the multi-year project in September.

The board and staff, while ensuring the museum runs smoothly today, also have an eye on the future. So, many of the initiatives laid out in the 2021-2023 Strategic Plan have begun. They aim to discover the best programmatic approaches and opportunities for the museum to engage audiences and gain members. Progress is reviewed regularly.

While 2022 promises more challenges and changes, the museum continues to be in a good position, exploring the Danish-American experience of the past, present, and future while creating ways to remain relevant in a changing world.
The 2021-2022 Board of Directors is a special group of men and women who have unselfishly dedicated themselves to the preservation of Danish-American heritage and the mission of the museum. They join an elite group of individuals who, over the past 38 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. Due to the continued Covid-19 crises in 2021, the board held its February meeting virtually and the June meeting virtually, with election of new board members. In October the board meeting was safely held in Elk Horn. The museum’s annual meeting was also 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 2021**

Erik Andersen, Croton-on-Hudson, NY  
Carol Bassoni, Gilroy, CA  
Melinda Brown, Littleton, CO  
Joy Clemsen Gajda, Lindenhurst, IL  
David Esbeck, San Diego, CA  
Dennis Gray, Winston-Salem, NC  
Peder Hansen, Omaha, NE  
Connie Hanson, Glendora, CA  
Gerry Henningsen, Monument, CO  
Marcia Jante, New Berlin, WI  
Daniel Jensen, Columbus, OH  
Marnie Jensen, Nebraska City, NE  
Elly Jorgensen, Prairie Village, KS  
Merlyn Knudsen, Elk Horn, IA  
Michael Koehler, Rolling Meadows, IL  
Chris Kofoed, West Branch, IA  
Lars Matthiesen, Edmonds, WA  
Toni McLeod, Mesa, AZ  
Karen Nielsen, Overland, KS  
Michael Nielsen, Altoona, IA  
Erik Nørkjær, Aulum, Denmark  
Eric Olesen, Racine, WI  
John Rasmussen, Hicksville, NY  
Kurt Rasmussen, Johnston, IA  
Randy Ruggaard, Hudson, OH  
Anders Sand, Kansas City, MO  
Carl Steffensen, Houston, TX  
Elizabeth Steffensen, Hoffman Estates, IL  
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  
Randy Ruggaard, Hudson, OH  
Tova Brandt, Decorah, IA, Executive Director
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
Judy Andersen*, Los Angeles, CA 1986-1989
Ragna Bak, Alexandria, VA 1997
Norman Bansen*, Blair, NE 1983-1989
Harold Berg*, Ogden, IA 1996-2002
Egon Bodtker, Salem, OR 2000-2006, President
Arvid Bollesen*, Tustin, CA 1990-1996
Jon Borgman, Harlan, IA 2010-2013
Beth Bro-Roof, Cedar Falls, IA 2014-2020, President
Bruce Bro, Phoenix, AZ 2018-2019
Mervin Bro*, Scottsdale, AZ 1996-1999, Vice President
Timothy Burchill, Jamestown, ND 2012-2018, Vice President & President
Jens Busch*, Austin, TX 1990-1996
Borge M. Christensen, Tucson, AZ 2003-2006
Carlo Christensen, Glendale, CA 2004-2010
Dan Christensen, West 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
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* 1985-1989
Anne-Marie Douglas, Chicago, IL 1999-2005
Diane Doyle*, Papillion, NE 1983-1985
Jan Eakins, Des Moines, IA 2003-2004
Bente Ellis, San Jose, CA 2013-2019
Nick Erickson, Omaha, NE 1991-1997
David Esbeck, San Diego, CA 2015-2021
Gordon R. Esbeck, Tipton, IA 2001-2007
Cora Fagre*, Loveland, CO 1985-1991
Dorothy Stadsvold Feisel, St. Michaels, MD 2012-2018
Lis Frederiksen, Washington, DC 2001-2003
Mark Frederiksen, Falcon, CO 2006-2012, President
Marilyn Andersen Gift, Des Moines, IA 1995-2001, Secretary
Kenneth Gregersen, Ankeny, IA 2006-2008
Howard Hansen* 1988-1988
Janell Hansen, Elk Horn, IA 2007-2009
Kurt Hansen, Rosemount, MN 2008-2014
Mia Hansen, Tucson, AZ 2008-2010
Stewart Hansen, West Des Moines, IA 2011-2013
Thomas Hansen, Blair, NE 2003-2005
Thorvald Hansen*, Des Moines, IA 1983-1988
Connie Hanson, Glendora, CA 2018-2021
Ernst Harboe*, Northfield, IL 1991-1994
David Hendee, Omaha, NE 2014-2020
Gerry Henningsen, Monument, CO 2018-2021
Otto Hoiberg*, Lincoln, NE 1983-1987
Anna Thomsen Holliday, Houston, TX 2008-2010 & 2012-2018
Gail G. Holmes, Omaha, NE 1983-1987, *Secretary*
William Holmquist, Long Lake, MN 2000-2003
Henrik Holmskov*, Brookfield, WI 1993-1995
Vern E. Hunter, Fargo, ND, 1999-2005, *President*
Joy M. Ibsen, Trout Creek, MI, 1999-2005, *President*
Robert E. Ibsen, Kenosha, WI 1990-1991
Ellen Westergaard Jackson*, Whiting, IA 1999-2002
Kenneth Jacobsen, Seattle, WA 2011-2013
Bill Jensen*, Urbandale, IA 2013-2014
Bridget Jensen, Houston, TX 2005-2008
Erna Jensen, Des Moines, IA 2003-2009
Harold R. Jensen*, St. Paul, MN 1983-1990, *Vice President*
Harold M. Jensen, Ames, IA 2002-2008
Lee Jensen, Pleasant Grove, UT 2000-2003
Nils Jensen, Portland, OR 2001-2004
Roland Jensen*, Des Moines, IA 1985-1993
Tor Jensen, Willmette, IL 1992-1995
Torben Jeppesen, Odense, Denmark 1998-2003
Kristi Planck Johnson, Bethesda, MD 2009-2015
Margaret Johnson, Santa Clara, CA 2000-2003
Carol Jorgensen*, Dike, IA 1996-2002
Julie Jorgensen, Wayzata, MN 2002-2007, *Secretary*
Lisa Jorgensen, Gilroy, CA 1990-1998
Howard Juel*, Kimballton, IA 1983-1987
Orville Juhler*, Harlan, IA 2002-2005
Katrine Vange Keller, Wilmette, IL 1995-2001, *Secretary*
Peter G. Kelly, Glastonbury, CT 1998-2001
Peder Kirkegaard*, Lake Geneva, WI 2006-2007
Karen Klopf 1990-1993
Svend Koch*, Cedar Falls, IA 1993-1999
Christopher Kramme, San Francisco, CA 2006
Lowell Kramme, Des Moines, IA 1993-1999
Gary 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 Lillichøj*, 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
Dagmar Muthmania, Long Beach, CA 2002-2008 & 2012-2018, *Secretary & President*
Norma Lange Nelson*, Elk Horn, IA 1996-2002
Clayton Nielsen*, Racine, WI 1991-?
Peter Nielsen, Naples, FL 2015-2016
Ruth Herman Nielsen*, Omaha, NE 1992-1998, *Secretary*
Virginia Nielsen*, Elk Horn, IA 1989-1995
J. 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 Packer 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*
Eva Robinson, Butler, PA 2008-2010
Tom Rosen, Fairmont, MN 1998-2001
Randy Ruggaard, Hudson, OH 2015-2021
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, Treasurer
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-?
Mark Strandskov, Mt. Pleasant, MI 2009-2015

Helen Stub, Minneapolis, MN, 1991-2000, Secretary
Karen Suchomel, West Branch, IA 2014-2020, Treasurer
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 ■
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.

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

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.
staff & interns

Executive Director
Tova Brandt, M.A.

Executive Director Emeritus
John Mark Nielsen, Ph.D.

Administrative Manager
Terri Johnson

Administrative Assistants
Terri Amaral, B.A.
Cindy Pash

Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American Culture
Tova Brandt, M.A.

Associate Curator of Exhibitions
Diya Nagaraj, M.Litt.

Curator of Collections & Registrar
Angela Stanford, M.A.
Julia Jessen, M.A.

Archival Collections Manager
Cheyenne Jansdatter, M.A.

Genealogy Center Manager & Librarian
Amanda Skellenger, M.A., M.L.I.S.

Genealogy Researcher
Wanda Sornson, M.S.

Development Manager
Deb Christensen Larsen

Development Associate
Shelli Larson, B.S.

Communications Specialist
Nicky Christensen, B.S.

Design Store Manager
Nan Dreher

Accounting Manager
Jennifer Winters
Philip Wernsmann

Building & Grounds Manager
Tim Fredericksen

Weekend Visitor Services
Justice Doherty
April Weber

Bedstemoer's House Staff
Season Closed due to pandemic Covid-19 precautions

Danish Intern
Frederikke Lund Theodorsen, B.S., University of Southern Denmark, Slagelse, Denmark (Communications)
Internships for Danes are funded through a generous grant from Scan Design Foundation, Seattle, WA

American Interns
Hannah Haack, B.A, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA (Collections)
Internship funded by The Danish Home, Croton on Hudson, NY

Julia Jessen, M.A. Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY (Collections)
Internship funded by the Danish Club of Tucson, AZ

Wren Klump, Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, IA (Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park)
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, 2021, was $6,375,948.39.

bequests

In 2021 the museum received $79,053.42 in bequests which have been or are being used for operations, special projects, and programming. The Museum of Danish America gratefully acknowledges the following estates, trusts, and individuals:

Erik & Anna Andersen Trust, Parkville, MO
Viola Brannen, Omaha, NE
Karen Molgaard, Atlantic, IA
Edith Riita Paulsen, Des Moines, IA
Bodil Sorensen Family Trust, Kirkland, WA
The Museum of Danish America started 2021 in a quiet mode, as we were closed to the public through the winter months. Over the course of the year we welcomed back visitors, volunteers, and events. None of us would call the year "back to normal," but by the end of 2021 our museum routines looked much more familiar.

- The museum said farewell to two long-time staff members, Jennifer Winters (Bookkeeper) and Angela Stanford (Registrar and Curator of Collections). We were fortunate to welcome two very qualified individuals to step into their shoes: Philip Wernsmann (Accountant) and Julia Jessen (Registrar).
- The museum joined several other Danish-American organizations to launch the National Danish Book Club & Literary Event Series. This offers an online opportunity to explore Danish literature in English translations, both through online author interviews and conversations with literary scholars, as well as an online book club conversation.
- New exhibitions showcased the strength of our permanent collection and the larger global context of Danish traditions. An exhibition about Danish-American weddings featured generations of gowns, photographs, gifts, and documents, all found within the museum’s existing collections. The exhibition about the art of *Papirklip* borrowed examples from many countries and cultures to explore the similarities of papercutting art around the world.
- A two-year project to organize and catalog the national archive of the Danish Sisterhood wrapped up in September, supported by a grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa and contributions from Danish Sisterhood members and lodges.
- The annual celebration of *Sankt Hans Aften* (Danish-style Midsummer) was presented in a hybrid format so that both onsite visitors and online audiences could participate.
- Many additional programs launched on the museum’s YouTube channels. The Virtual Brown Bag Lunch series continued with eight new programs shared online in 2021 including topics from Nordic-American artists to the Danish tax system. The Nordic Cuisine channel added 15 videos related to the *New Nordic Cuisine* traveling exhibition. The Genealogy Center produced a how-to video about using the Danish census for family history research; this is the first in a series of videos supported by the J. Brent Norlem Memorial Fund.
- Traveling exhibitions continued to bring the Museum of Danish America to communities across the country. *New Nordic Cuisine* appeared in Decorah, Iowa and Moorhead, Minnesota. *Art Nouveau Innovation* traveled to Ames, Iowa and Flint, Michigan. Other exhibitions appeared in Luck (Wisconsin), Cedar Falls (Iowa), Fredsville, IA; Greenville, MI; Edison, NJ; Philadelphia, PA; Des Moines, IA.
- In the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park, the northwest corner was restored with new embankments to control water levels in the wetland area. A new visitor overlook was also installed just north of the museum building to offer views of the prairie wildlife and blooms.
- Once the travel restrictions of COVID began to ease, the museum was able to again welcome interns from Denmark late in the year. This program supported by the Scan Design Foundation brings Danish university students to work in the museum’s communications, exhibitions, and genealogy departments.
- Looking ahead, the museum organized a 40th Anniversary Advisory Committee of current and former board members to help staff make plans for our milestone anniversary year in 2023.
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 estates 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 152 plaques at the entrance of the museum.

During the calendar year of 2021, the Board of Directors were pleased to add the names of
Melinda Brown & Richard Inman, Littleton, CO (Bronze)
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #227, Detroit, Michigan (Bronze)
Danish Sisterhood of America (Bronze)
Peter & Faith Nielsen, Naples, FL (Bronze)
Merna & Greg Rierson, Casper, WY (Bronze)
Randy and Margie Ruggaard, Hudson, OH (Bronze)
Bodil Sorensen Family Trust, Kirkland, WA (Bronze)

And in addition, we acknowledge these donors having achieved a new level of lifetime giving:
R. James & Janet Borge Crowl, Saint Michaels, MD (Silver)
David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA (Silver)
Roy E. & Patricia A. Hougen, Ames, IA (Gold)
John & Audrey Kofoed, West Branch, IA (Gold)

Diamond

Over $1,000,000

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

Platinum

Over $500,000

Dennis J. Andersen, Atlanta, GA
Gunnar Horn, Omaha, NE
Ingrid Kirkegaard Trust, Lake Geneva, WI
Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, Seattle, WA
State of Iowa
GOLD
over $250,000

Anonymous

Mervin Bro, Scottsdale, AZ
Marianne K. Festersen Trust, Omaha, NE
Roy & Patricia Hougen, Ames, IA
Peter Kiewit Foundation, Omaha, NE
Clyde & Emma Johnson, Omaha, NE
John & Audrey Kofoed, West Branch, IA
Lowell & Marilyn Kramme, Des Moines, IA
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

Erik & Anna Andersen Trust, Parkville, MO
Erik & Eva Andersen, Croton-on-Hudson, NY
Anonymous
Anton & Gunver M. Berg, DeKalb, IL
Esther "E.J." Carlson Estate, Columbus, OH
Carl Aage Christensen, Denver, CO
Edna M. Christensen, Atlantic, IA
Tom & Jan Christensen, Bettendorf, IA
R. James & Janet Borge Crowle, Saint Michaels, MD
Elk Horn Lutheran Church, Elk Horn, IA
David W. & Helen A. Esbeck, San Diego, CA
Howard & Ruth Esbeck Trust, Elk Horn, IA
Ramona Esbeck, Ames, IA
Asta Forrest, Fountain Hills, AZ
Gertrude Gronbech, Washington, D.C.
Stewart & LeNore Hansen, West Des Moines, IA
Humanities Iowa, Iowa City, IA
Iowa West Foundation, Council Bluffs, IA
James D. & Margery Iversen, Ames, IA
Martha Jorgensen, Audubon, 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, Oregon
Olga S. Olsen Estate, Watertown, SD
Peter & Irma Ørum, Saint Charles, IL
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, Colorado
The American-Scandinavian Foundation, New York, NY
Richard Lee and Rosalie Larsen Andersen, Harlan, Iowa
Anonymous (3)
Norman C. Bansen Estate, Blair, NE
Mogens & Cindy Bay, Omaha, Nebraska
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

Melinda Brown & Richard Inman, Littleton, CO
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
Danish Brotherhood In America, Highlands Ranch, CO

Danish Brotherhood Lodge #227, Detroit, Michigan
Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, AZ
Danish Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, IA

Danish Sisterhood of America
Gordon, Mary Lou & Janice Esbeck, Tipton, Iowa
Ramona L. Esbeck, Ames, IA
Sally og Gordon Faber, Urbandale, Iowa
First Baptist Church of Elk Horn, IA
Charles & Joanne Frederiksen, Ames, IA
J. Emory & Edna Fredrickson Estate, Elk Horn, IA
Margaret Louise Gee Estate, West Des Moines, IA
Marilyn Andersen Gift & William Gift, Des Moines, Iowa
Alf & Lili Gregerson, Ridgefield, WA
Caroline L. Hansen, Harlan, IA
Walter & Vesta Hansen, West Branch, Iowa
Alma O. Hartvigsen Estate, Harlan, IA
David & Polly Hendee, Omaha, NE
Henningsen Construction, Inc., Atlantic, IA
Anna Thomsen Holliday and Hal Holliday, Houston, TX
Stanley & Helen Howe, Muscatine, IA
Vern E. Hunter, Fargo, ND
Al & Bridget Jensen, Houston, TX
Cornelius C.J. Jensen Estate, Edmonds, WA
Erna C. Jensen, Des Moines, IA
Irving & Elizabeth Jensen Foundation, Sioux City, IA
Nils & Kathleen Jensen, Portland, Oregon
Roland & Joan Jensen, Ankeny, IA
Iver (Whitey) & Lis Jorgensen, Burnsville, Minnesota
Garey and Sherry Knudsen, Hutchinson, Minnesota
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, California
Marilyn J. (Nelson) Meyer, Everly, IA
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, Nebraska

Peter & Faith Nielsen, Naples, FL
Ruth Herman Nielsen Estate, Omaha, NE
Irene A. Nissen Estate, Cedar Falls, IA
Kay Esbeck North, Ames, IA
Kai E. & Melody Starr Nyby, Laporte, IN
Ane-Grethe Olesen & Rory A.M. Delaney, Wayzata, MN
Erik & Jackie Olsen, Glenbrook, NV
Glenn & Mary Ellen Olsen, Atlantic, Iowa
The Ørum-Keller Family, Illinois
Ruth Lund Ostrom Estate, Seven Hills, OH
Eivind & Dorothy (Peterson) Pedersen Estate, Omaha, NE
Marc & Carlene Petersen, Omaha, NE
Kurt & Lynette Skov Rasmussen, Johnston, Iowa

Merna & Greg Rierson, Casper, WY
Eugene Robinson, Pensacola, FL

Randy and Margie Ruggaard, Hudson, OH
Anelise Sawkins, Minneapolis, MN
Agnita M. Christensen Stine Schreiber Foundation, Inc., Shepherdstown, WV
Shelby County Community Foundation, Shelby County, IA
Shelby County State Bank, Harlan, IA
Ava Simonsen Estate, Audubon, IA

Bodil Sorensen Family Trust, Kirkland, WA
Harold L. Sorenson Estate, Exira, IA
Wilbur C. Sorenson Estate, Exira, IA
Lemuel & Edith Sprow Estate, Mound, MN

Carl & Frances Steffensen, Houston, TX

Karen K. Suchomel, West Branch, IA

Janet M. Thuesen, Falls Church, VA

Svend & Lois Toftemark, Eugene, OR

Erik & Lissi Vange, Palatine, Illinois

Marion J. Walker Estate, Solvang, CA

Todd & Jalynn Wanninger/Carroll Control Systems, Carroll, IA
heritage builders

Over the past 38 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 2021 three new Heritage Builders plaques were added to the recognition board, and the names are indicated in bold. With their permission while living or with the permission of their estate’s executor, the 123 names of Heritage Builders are permanently inscribed on the 96 plaques in the museum.

Anonymous (3)
Anonymous (3)*
Dennis J. Andersen, Atlanta, GA
Anne Bansen*, Ferndale, CA
Norman C. Bansen*, Blair, NE
Constance Boggild*, Delray Beach, FL
Victor Borge*, Greenwich, CT
Judy Brehm, Blair, NE
Ronald D. & Mary L. Bro, Cedar Falls, Iowa
H. Donald* & Margie E. Brown, Seal Beach, CA
Marie Budolfson*, Ames, IA
Borge & Lotte* Christensen, Tucson, AZ
Charles R. Christensen*, Omaha, NE
Brent Christensen & Deanne Dao, Alexandria, VA
Edna M. Christensen*, Atlantic, IA
Myrvin F. & Anne C.* Christopherson, Decorah, IA
Dolores Gregersen Connelly*, Atlantic, IA
Lydia Sorensen Eriksen*, Waterloo, IA
David Esbeck*, Des Moines, IA
Gordon R. & Jan Esbeck, Tipton, IA
Howard Esbeck*, Ames, IA
Ramona Esbeck*, Ames, IA
Dorothy & Lyle Feisel, Chestertown, MD
Asta Forrest*, Fountain Hills, AZ
Joanne Frederiksen, Ames, IA
J. Emory* & Edna* Fredrickson, Elk Horn, IA
Earl* & LaVena* Fries, Des Moines, IA
Margaret Gee*, West Des Moines, IA
Gertrude Gronbech*, Washington, D.C.
Caroline Hansen*, Harlan, IA
Hans Hansen*, Des Moines, IA
Laura E. Hansen*, Irwin, IA
Rita Neergaard Hansen*, Kenosha, WI
Rosa Hansen*, Hampton, IA
Bruce & Kristie Hansen-Mendez, Chicago, IL
Roger J. Hanson, Cedar Falls, IA
Alma Hartvigsen*, Harlan, IA
Richard Hellman*, Oceanside, CA
Anna Marie Hjuler*, Audubon, IA
Susanne Hohlen, Monticello, MN
Anna Thomsen Holliday, Houston, TX
Gunnar Horn*, Omaha, NE
Joy Ibsen, Trout Creek, MI
James D. & Margery Iversen, Ames, IA

**Daniel L. Jensen, Columbus, OH**
Genevieve Jensen*, Plainview, NE
Ruth Jensen*, Ames, IA
Agnes Johnson*, Garden City, MI
Clyde* & Emma* Johnson, Omaha, NE
Dennis & Carole Johnson, Morris, MN
Paul & Liz Johnson, Fremont, NE
Martha Jorgensen*, Audubon, IA
Mogens H. Kiehn*, Scottsdale, AZ
Garey & Sherry Knudsen, Hutchinson, MN
Joy S. Larsen, Oneonta, AL
Jerome R. & Carolyn Larson, Saint Paul, MN
Folmer* & Reola* Lerager, Wichita, KS
Harald Hans Lund*, Higganum, CT
Tom Lund, Harlan, IA
Adelaide Madsen*, Iowa City, IA
Rudolph* & Margaret* Madsen, Racine, WI
Keith N. McFarland*, New Brighton, MN
Helga Mikkelsen*, Waverly, IA
Inez M. Mortensen*, Omaha, NE
Ruth Rasmussen Nelson*, St. Cloud, MN
Einer Schultz Nielsen*, Newport Beach, CA
Jens Nielsen*, Newell, IA
John Mark Nielsen & Dawn Marie Nielsen, Blair, NE
Karen Madsen Nielsen*, Junction City, OR
Margaret A. Nielsen*, King City, OR
Ruth Herman Nielsen*, Omaha, NE
Raymond* & Irene* Nissen, Cedar Falls, IA
Eric* & Joan* Norgaard, Glenview, IL
Folmer & Vera Nyby, Michigan City, IN
Caroline Olsen*, Minneapolis, MN
Olga S. Olsen*, Watertown, SD
Marian E. (Mittie) Ostergaard, Mission Viejo, CA
Dorothy C. Pedersen*, Omaha, NE
John I. Petersen*, Waterloo, IA
Lois Petersen*, Atlantic, IA
Peyton* & Lucia* Respess, Omaha, NE
Eugene Robinson*, Pensacola, FL
Ava Simonsen*, Audubon, IA

Kurt & Lynette Rasmussen, Johnston, IA
Bodil Sorensen*, Kirkland, WA
Howard & Karma Sorensen, Elk Horn, IA
Harold L. Sorenson*, Exira, IA
Halvor Strandskov*, Osterville, MA
Carol Svendsen, Denver, CO

Jason Edward Swalve, Rancho Mirage, CA
Margaret Syring*, St. Paul, MN
Jennifer & Rasmus Thøgersen, Omaha, NE
Nancy J. Walden, Des Moines, IA
Sandra Wunder, Omaha, NE

*Deceased

FOR MORE INFORMATION
If you would like more information on how you can become a member of Lifetime Legacy Giving or a Heritage Builder, Deb Christensen Larsen, Development Manager, or any member of the Board of Directors will be pleased to work with you.

Please contact them by calling (712)764-7001 or toll free (800)759-9192; email address: Deb. Larsen@danishmuseum.org. Your inquiry will be treated confidentially.
In 2021, the donors listed below contributed a huge variety of objects to the museum’s collection. Among these unique artifacts are a model of a Danish warship, vintage Hoptimist figures, a Danish policeman’s uniform, a Poul Henningsen Snowball lamp, and many other interesting items. Through these donations, the collection continues to grow, providing new ways to illustrate the Danish-American story and support the museum’s mission.

We are honored to be entrusted with these objects, and we are grateful to our donors for their generosity and support, both in growing our collection and in helping to fund its ongoing care and preservation.

Keld Alstrup, Manchester, VT
Annette Andersen, Kimballton, IA
Barbara Andersen, East Lansing, MI
Dennis Andersen, Atlanta, GA
Mary Ann Anderson, Audubon, IA
Joy Bengston, Melbourne, FL
James Boose, Urbandale, IA
Connie Christiansen, State College, PA
John Curtin, Bloomfield Hills, MI
Danish Home for the Aged, Croton-on-Hudson, NY
JoAnn Hallquist, Amery, WI
Greta & Erik Hansen, Racine, WI
James & Margery Iversen, Decorah, IA
Kent Jensen, Minneapolis, MN
Alice Johnson, Tucson, AZ
Susan Johnson, Watkins, CO
Kristine Lapehn, Centennial, CO
Cindy Leslie, Watkins, CO
Nana LoCicero, Kenosha, WI
Ripple Nelson-Van Engen, Des Moines, IA
Dorothy North, Woodside, CA
Christopher Olsen, Cedar Rapids, IA
Ellen Pedraza, Kenosha, WI
Nancy Sand, Kimballton, IA
Barb Smith, Elk Horn, IA
David & Ellie Starbuck, Kansas City, MO
Carl Steffensen, Houston, TX
Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah, IA
In 2021, the Museum of Danish America continued to pursue a robust exhibitions program, reaching audiences both in Elk Horn and around the country even with the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. With the generosity and support of our sponsors and members, we opened four new exhibits this past year. In addition, our digital programs – from art classes to educational talks – reached people across the world.

This past year marked the 10th anniversary of the Victor Borge Legacy Award, which brings together the winners of three regional piano competitions for a recital at the museum, where they perform on the first piano Victor Borge ever owned. To celebrate the milestone and to highlight the recent acquisition of the Victor Borge Professional Archive, The Victor Borge Legacy Award: Celebrating 10 Years of Music opened in the multimedia room, featuring highlights from past competitions and selected materials from the new archival collection.

 Tradition and Change: Weddings in Danish America was a glimpse at wedding traditions among Danish-Americans. Using materials drawn from the museum’s permanent collection, it explored weddings, both past and present, and the ways in which customs have been preserved and adapted over time. The mannequins for the show were generously loaned by the Muscatine Art Center.

Showcasing a family’s story, Brushes and Lenses, Fabric and Steel: Two Generations of Art featured works by Lissi Vange and Jens Vange. Lissi, a Danish immigrant, is an avid painter and her son, Jens, is a professional photographer. Their work showcased the way in which artistic inspiration is expressed across generations, albeit in different mediums and styles.

The final exhibit to open this year was Papirklip: A Global and Timeless Art. In Denmark, papercutting, or papirklip, is a longstanding tradition. This exhibit explores how the world of papirklip connects to the much larger story of papercutting around the world, from its beginnings in China to contemporary artists exploring new ways of using paper to tell stories. Support for the exhibit came from the family of Nadjeschda and Niels Overgaard. In addition, Renze Display in Omaha, NE was responsible for fabricating the title panel and the tactile reproductions.

Our traveling exhibition program reached audiences across the country, from New Jersey to Wisconsin. Through the generosity of the Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, we were able to add a banner version of New Nordic Cuisine to our available traveling exhibits, giving the opportunity for more venues to share the incredible story of this contemporary movement.

Even after the museum reopened to the public, virtual programming continued to be an important way for us to engage with our audiences around the world. Our Brown Bag Lunch program continued to be primarily online, shifting to a hybrid model once it became possible to safely gather at the museum again. The March, April, and May Brown Bag Lunch speaker events were sponsored by the Danish Sisterhood Dronning Margrethe Lodge #15 in Milwaukee, WI. In addition, the Danish artist Susanne Thea provided two virtual programs to coincide with her exhibition, Snapshots: Traveling with the Poet Hans Christian Andersen, including an artist talk and a workshop where she walked participants through the process of creating a monotype. Support for her programs came from the Kofoed Family Foundation.
ON-SITE EXHIBITIONS

Art Nouveau Innovation: Danish Porcelain from an American Collector
October 2, 2020 – January 3, 2021

Migrant
February 21, 2020 – May 2, 2021

Snapshots: Traveling with the Poet Hans Christian Andersen: Works by Danish Artist Susanne Thea
June 2020 – June 12, 2021

The Victor Borge Legacy Award: Celebrating 10 Years of Music
February 6, 2021 – January 10, 2022

Weddings: Tradition and Change in Danish America
May 26, 2021 – January 12, 2022

Brushes and Lenses, Fabric and Steel: Two Generations of Art
June 26, 2021 – November 6, 2021

Papirklip: A Global and Timeless Art
November 26, 2021 – May 20, 2022

TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

New Nordic Cuisine
Vesterheim: The National Norwegian-American Museum & Folk Art School, Decorah, IA
Hjemkomst Heritage Center, Moorhead, MN

Art Nouveau Innovation: Danish Porcelain from an American Collector
Iowa State Museums, Brunnier Art Gallery, Ames, IA
Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, MI

Dannebrog 800
Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, IA

Happy Danes on the Plains
Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, IA
Grand View University, Des Moines, IA
Fredsville Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, IA

Skål! Scandinavian Spirits
Danish Festival, Greenville, MI
Grand View University, Des Moines, IA
**Sport for Sports’ Sake**
Danish Festival, Greenville, Michigan

**Hygge**
Danish Festival, Greenville, MI
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #175, Philadelphia, PA
Edison Danish Home, Edison, NJ

**New Nordic Cuisine – Banner Version**
Luck Historical Society, Luck, WI

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**SPECIAL DIGITAL EVENTS**

**Brown Bag Lunch Series**

January – *Danish Hygge: What is it, and how to?*, Tova Brandt, Executive Director

February – *Danes Explain Fastelavn*, Kris Bruun and Søren Juliussen

March – *African Americans in 20th Century Denmark*, Dr. Ethelene Whitmire, University of Wisconsin-Madison

April – *From Fairytale to Fantasy: Gustaf Tenggren*, Rachel Kiskaddon, American Swedish Historical Museum

May – *Louis Jensen’s Square Stories*, Lise Kildegaard, Luther College

June – *As Certain as Danes and Taxes*, Ulrik Boesen, Tax Foundation

July – *The Story of Danebod*, Ricke and Jerry Bly

August – *Prairie Update*, Wren Klump, prairie intern

September – *The Simple Gift of Walnut Grove* film screening

October – *Art and Technology in 19th Century Denmark*, Dr. Thor Mednick, University of Toledo

November – *Iowa: 175 Years of Statehood*, Leo Landis, State Curator, State Historical Museum of Iowa

December – *Babette’s Feast* film screening

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*Collecting 101: An Introduction to Collecting Danish Porcelain*

January 13, 2021: Live Q&A with Dr. Todd Reiser

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*Artist Events with Susanne Thea*

May 14, 2021: *Artist Talk*

July 23, 2021: *Make Your Own Monotype Workshop*
Though COVID-19 caused people to be more cautious about travelling, 2021 saw an increase of visitors to the Genealogy Center. We were open for Tivoli Fest and Julefest, so with decent attendance from both of those, we had a total of 211 visitors. This was up 139 from the previous year. Most people were from the Midwest, though we did have quite a few from the Southwest and Pacific Northwest regions.

During 2021, genealogy staff received 36 projects, up 12 from the previous year, and completed 25 research projects. We also had 15 translation projects received and 14 completed for the year.

The J. Brent Norlem Memorial Fund was created at the very end of 2020 and went into effect in 2021. Its purpose is to create and/or provide educational opportunities and activities with a focus on the Genealogy Center. With the support from this fund, How to Search and Access the Danish Census, the first video of the J. Brent Norlem Memorial Fund Series was created and shared. It can be found on the museum’s YouTube page and on the museum’s website.

Genealogy Center volunteers have donated more than 1,284 hours to improve the center’s resources, update files, and assist with projects. The updates to the immigrant files, which several volunteers were working on, has been completed. New projects for volunteers include scanning immigrant files, scanning county/township plat maps and books, and indexing obituaries from bound Elk Horn-Kimballton Review newspapers.

In 2021 we created a new service structure plan that focuses on “packages” rather than the “pay-by-the-hour” system. This was done for two reasons: 1) it will help streamline research processes and set flat fees to create more efficiency, raise productivity, and increase income, and 2) it’s the industry trend and standard. The plan was introduced, revised, and approved at board meetings throughout the year and officially went into effect on January 1, 2022.

We continue to look forward to what 2022 will bring to our Genealogy Center. We know we couldn’t do it without the generous support of patrons, donors, and volunteers.

In 2021 we received and/or processed donations from the following individuals and institutions:

Margaret Christensen, Kimballton, IA
Rolf Buschardt Christensen, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
RB Christensen, Gloucester, Ontario, Canada
LaVerna Crooks, Daren, IL
Danish Federation, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Janis Fajen, Elk Horn, IA
Lowell Jacobsen, Fairway, KS
Hans Peter Jorgensen, Decorah, IA
Steen Metz, Barrington, IL
Dagmar Muthamia, Long Beach, CA

Amy Nelson, Washington, DC
Alan Nielsen, Richfield, MN
Linda Peterson, Monrovia, CA
Margaret Schoewe, Fox Point, WI
Kristine K. Vasquez, Williams, AZ
Suzanne Wodka, Crest Hill, IL
The museum’s archival holdings amount to over 500 individual collections. Nearly 400 of those are “Family” collections, containing photos and documents relating to the stories of Danish immigrants and their families. In the remaining collections we hold documentary artifacts representing Danish-American organizations, institutions, businesses, festivals, religion, periodicals and geographical locations. The content of each collection can range in size from one document to 65 boxes of material, depending on the size of the donation.

This year, our 19 donors added items to each of the aforementioned types of collections. We are so grateful to our donors, who make preserving the past possible.

Annette Andersen, Kimballton, IA
Dennis Andersen, Atlanta, GA
Linda Andersen, Urbandale, IA
Mary Ann Andersen, Audubon, IA
Nora M. Bogehegn, Elk Grove Village, IL
Deb Christensen Larsen, Harlan, IA
The Danish Home for the Aged c/o Erik Andersen, Croton-On-Hudson, NY
Janis & Larry Fajen, Elk Horn, IA
Peder Hansen, Omaha, NE
Marcia Jante, New Berlin, WI
Kent E. Jensen, Minneapolis, MN
Kristi Johnson, Rockville, MD
Nana LoCicero, Kenosha, WI
Carl Madsen, Buffalo, WY
Jerry & Janet Nelson, Urbandale, IA
Dorothy North, Woodside, CA
Barb Smith, Elk Horn, IA
Elliot Reiser, Lansing, MI
Kristine K. Vasquez, Williams, AZ
volunteers

While the Museum and Genealogy Center faced on-going challenges as we reopened to the public in March 2021, (attendance was approximately 40% less than previous years) I can report that we were very fortunate to have a steadfast group of volunteers. Hours donated in 2021 totaled 1,460, a slight increase over 2020.

Genealogy Center volunteers scanned immigrant files, county and township plat maps and books, indexed obituaries and did translations:

Virginia Conklin
June Haas
Inga & Ralf Hoifeldt
Jeanette Knudsen
Michele McNabb
Suzanne Rasmussen
Nancy Sand
Charlotte Sorensen
Gayle Stuart

Though our need for volunteer work has changed at the museum, we count the following as actively volunteering in 2021:

Annette Andersen
Rosa Clemsen
John Mark & Dawn Nielsen
Anna Redsand
documented volunteers from 1992-present

Following are the names of volunteers for whom we have documented hours of time, beginning in 1992 - two years before the museum even opened its doors! The staff and board of directors appreciate the time you have given to our Museum of Danish America. *Mange Tak!*  

Andy Andersen  Irene Boose  Herb Christensen  Jack Denne  Esther Gearhardt  
Bertha Andersen  Marty Boose  Howard Christensen  Anne-Marie  Bill Gift  
Delbert Andersen  Mel Boose  Joyce Christensen  Douglas  Marilyn Andersen  
Dennis Andersen  Janet Bornholdt  Lamont Christensen  Ellen Dreher  Gift  
Diane Allen  Velma Boysen  Lois Jean Christensen  Sam Dreher  Doris Greve  
Elenor Andersen  Mary Bro  Margaret Christensen  Ray Esbeck  Evelyn Gross  
Harvey Andersen  Ronald Bro  Mary Ann Christensen  Shirley Esbeck  Andrea Hansen  
Marilyn Andersen  Ruthe Brocker  Oda Christensen  Verna Esbeck  Barb Hansen  
Mary Ann Andersen  Claire Bruce  Orvie Christensen  Martha Eskov  Betty Hansen  
Mildred Andersen  David Buellers  Shirley Christensen  Millie Eskov  Connie Hansen  
Milo Andersen  Roger Buhr  Virgil Christensen  Kathleen Eyeberg  Dallas Hansen  
Norma Andersen  David Burkett  Alice Christiansen  William (Gene) Eyeberg  Doris Hansen  
Ramonita Anderson  Norma Burkett  Bud Clausen  Jan Fajen  Eleanor Hansen  
Richard Andersen  Frank Burnett  Glen Clemsen  Cloud Farley  Fred "Fritz" Hansen  
Rosalie Andersen  Osa Nyby Burnett  Dolores Connelly  Faye Farley  Harvey Hansen  
Ruth Anderson  Ben Burns  Jim Cummings  Cindy Fredriksen  Howard Hansen  
Harriet Becker  Brent Camery  Judy Cummings  Lenore Fredriksen  Jacqueline Hansen  
Jack Bell  Colleen Campbell  Jim Chambers  Laverne Hansen  
Delia A. Benton  Harriet Campbell  Marie Dalham  Libby Hansen  
Shirley Bierbaum  Jim Chambers  Peter Dam-Hein  Linda Hansen  
Emily Biles  Hilda Chester  Eileen Denne  Lyle Hansen  
Maxine Bladt  Bent Christensen  Marcella Gaines  Margery Hansen  
Connie Boose  Cliff Christensen  28  Marie Hansen
Marlene Hansen
Paul Hansen
Peggy Hansen
Priscilla Hansen
Roland (Rollie) Hansen
Rosie Hansen
Tom Hansen
Virgil Hansen
Eileen Harris
Cecelia Haynes
Joy Heckman
Esther Sand Henderson
Beverly Henningsen
Dorothy Henriksen
Sue Hjelle
Calvin Hoegh
Izy Hoegh
Janet Hoegh
Ken Hoegh
Mary Lou Hoegh
Monte Hoegh
Phyllis Hoegh
Chet Holland
Marj Holland
Gert Hunt
Allan Jacobsen
Barbara Jacobsen
Dean Jacobsen
Deb Jacobsen
Gudran Jacobsen
Janice Jacobsen
Nadine Jacobsen
Warren Jacobsen
Audrey Jensen
Barbara Jensen
Beulah Jensen
Don Jensen
Doris Jensen
Evelyn Jensen
H.M. Jensen
Jackie Jensen
Leland Jensen
Leonard Jensen
Marcella Jensen
Elna Johansen
Bernice Johnson
Connie Johnson
Lillie Johnson
Lynn Johnson
Verlee Johnson
Virginia Johnson
H. John Jones
Ron Jones
Doris Jones
Dorothy Kelgor
Jimmie Kelgor
Anne Keller
Rhoda Kelloway
Mary Lowene Kempf
Andy Kissel
Fern Kissel
Clarence Klein
Frances Klein
Carole Knaub
Merlyn Knudsen
Svend Koch
Karen Korsgaard
Ivar Kristoffersen
Arlene Kroman
Evelyn Kuiken
Beverly Larsen
Ed Larsen
Edith Larsen
Irene Larsen
Joan Larsen
Lyle Larsen
Reta Larsen
Wendell Larsen
Diane Lawson
Steve Lawson
Arlene Leistad
Betty Lillard
Eivind Lillehoj
Jeanette Lillehoj
Fern Lindvall
Beverly Maas
Annabelle Madsen
Bob Madsen
Earl Madsen
Mabel Madsen
Signe Madsen
Darrell Mardensen
Lavonne Marcussen
Avaline Marks
Leslie Marks
Grace Martens
Dana McClain
Martha McCord
Gladys McCrory
Wayne McFadden
Julie McKeever
Judy Meehan
Elaine Michaelson
Lavon Mikkelsen
Merlin Mikkelsen
Sonya Mikkelsen
Mardell Miller
Marlene Miller
John Molgaard
Merlyn Molgaard
Arlene Morgan
Beverly Nelson
Bob Nelson
Dale Nelson
Delores Nelson
Dick Nelson
Don Nelson
Fern Nelson
Fran Nelson
Frances Nelson
Linda Nelson
Martin Nelson
Norma Lange Nelson
Shirley Nelson
Beulah Nielsen
Clayton Nielsen
Colleen Nichols
Dawn Nielsen
Helen Nielsen
Larry Nielsen
LeVern Nielsen
Lisa Nielsen
Ruth Nielsen
Virginia Nielsen
Evelyn Nissen
Fred Nissen
Jill Nissen
Folmer Nyby
Kai Nyby
Starr Nyby
Vera Nyby
Glenn Olsen
Mary Ellen Olsen
The Museum of Danish America is the grateful recipient of gifts made in memory of the following deceased friends and relatives.

Arlan Andersen
Bill Andersen
Mona Sachau Andersen
Richard Lee Andersen
Anna Rasmussen Andersen (1865-1944)
Milo & Mildred Andersen, my grandparents
Nancy Ann Armbrust
Ardys Askelson
Donald Dean Beasley
Inez Jorgensen Benjes
Anton (Tony), Robert (Bob) and Harold Berg
Anton Berg, my father
Harold Berg
Harold W. Berg
Tony Berg
Robert E. Berg, my uncle
Robert Henry Bergstrom
John H. Besson
Mr. and Mrs. Folmer Bonnesen
Richard Bonnesen
Mr. Victor Borge from a devoted fan in Norway
Janet Bornholdt
Janet Bornholdt, my sister
Viola F. (Mell) Brannen
Ronald & Mary Bro, our parents
Robert W. Brown
My parent's 70th wedding anniversary (Melinda Brown)
Cecily Castenskiold
Marie Petersen Chobot
The Christensen's: George & Ollie, Clarice & Lloyd, and Virgil & Joyce
Anegrethe Christensen
Axel & Marie (Bonnerup) Christensen
Joyce Christensen, my wife
Joyce & Virgil Christensen
Ray Christensen
T.K. Christensen
Virginia Christensen, Past National Secretary, Sisterhood of America
Merrill & Getrude Christiansen
Glen Clemens
Karin Christensen Damgaard
Lola Danielsen
grandparents of Elaine Dolgireff - their graves are in the church yard
Marie Jensen Durand
Effie Mestad Enger
Ramona Esbeck
Ramona L. Esbeck
Ramona Esbeck, a talented 4-H mentor for me
Ramona Esbeck, Memories are the legacy of love.
Cora Sorensen Fagre
Hans & Mathilde Farstrup
Anne & Iver Fogdall
Harriet Foster
Harriet Foster, Lodge 15 Milwaukee, WI
Harriet Foster, member of Sisterhood Lodge 15, Milwaukee
Nels Peter Andreas Frandsen, grandfather of Raymond Frandsen who came to America in 1890
C. F. Frederiksen
Charles Frederiksen
Charles F. Frederiksen
Charles Faaborg Frederiksen
Chuck Frederiksen
Charles Frederiksen, my cousin
Marian Marie (Sorensen) Froker
Evelyn "Evie" Gregersen, my wife
Erling J. Grumstrup
Bent & Lydia Hansen
John P. & Anine Hansen
Richard & Magda Hansen
Martin, Jesse, Roger/Keith Hansen Family
Maynard Hansen, a very proud Danish American!
Bent & Lydia Hansen, my parents
Ingrid Hansen, Past National Treasurer
Dennis Drew Harton
Alma Hartvigsen
Hans Christian Have
Wayne Bruce Haverland
Melba Hendee, a proud daughter and granddaughter of Danish immigrants
Emery & Izy Hoegh
Russell Hoegh
Irene Louise (Hansen) Hogan
Marj Holland
Spencer Holland
Spence Holland, my brother
Spencer L. Holland, my father
Henrik Holmskov, Lodge 15, Milwaukee, WI
Penny Jacobsen
Inge R. Jacobson
Paula Jakobsen
Anton I. Jensen
Arne & Irene Jensen
Bertha Jensen
Charles W. Jensen
Lyria & Clinton Jensen
Marlene Jensen
Paul & Grethe Jensen
Roland & Anita Jensen
Russell P. Jensen
Soren 'Sam' Jensen
Jenny Jensen, Chairman of the History Gathering Committee and 1st National Historian, Sisterhood of America
Ralph Jensen, husband of Lou Ann Jensen
Lodge 15 Milwaukee, WI
Charles Wagner Jensen, my father
Anna Matilda Jensen, my mother
Anna Matilda Jensina Jensen, my mother
Soren "Sam" Jensen, my paternal grandfather
Ruth & Herbert Jeppesen
Raymond & Ann Jespersen
Merlin & Eva Jessen
Grace Johnson
Kenneth R. (Kenn) Johnson
Iver Jorgensen
Iver Jorgensen, our good friend
Iver (Whitey) Jorgensen
Iver "Whitey" Jorgensen, my dad
Iver L. Jorgensen
Iver Lorenz Jorgensen
Whitey Jorgensen
Whitey (Iver) Jorgensen
Karen Kadghihn
Rev. & Mrs. Soren & Marie Kaldahl - Harlan & Elk Horn, IA
J. Torben Karlshoej
Orville Kerkhoff, my dad
Tage Ketelsen
Aase Kiehn
Andy Kissel
Andy S. Kissel
Torben and Erik Klarlund
Verne Kline
Pastor Carsten Christian Kloth, former pastor of Danish Luther Church, Elk Horn, IA
Esther Elizabeth Knudsen, Dean Larsen’s cousin
Rev. Harald "Knutie" & Ruth Viola "Ole" Knudsen, my parents
Richard Kramme, my husband
John Kristensen
Marius & Gertrude Landbo
Hans & William Larsen
Irene Larsen
Kurt Klaruskov Larsen
Paul & Johanne Larsen
Theodor Larsen
Chris Laursen
Robert Laursen
Bent Lerno & his Mum, Martha
Bent Lerno, my husband
Peter W. Lewis
Kathryn Knudsen Littlejohn
Milton & Margaret Lund
Ted & Maren Lund
Dorothy E. Lund’s 100th Birthday
Janis Nielsen Lustgraaf
Clark Mathisen, my father
Valborg Henriksen McKinzie
Elsie Rasmussen McNabb
Anne George McNeely (Enumclaw, WA)
Rabbi Bent Melchior
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Miller, my grandparents
John & Karen Molgaard
Karen Molgaard
Mary Mommer
Gertrude Mork
Tage & Else Mortensen
Franklin Mosdal
Frank Mosdal, my husband
Dr. John W. Nielsen
John Nielsen
John W. Nielsen
Karen Nielsen
LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen
LeVern Viola Olesen
Erik Olsen
G. Wayne Olsen & Phyllis (Henriksen) Olsen
Christian August Olsen, my Great-Grandfather
William A. Olsen, my husband, member of museum and Detroit Brotherhood Chapter
Ole & Marie Olsen, my parents
Roger F. Olson
Russ Overgard
Russell G. Overgard
Edith Riita Paulsen
Paul Marinus Paulsen
Virginia Paulsen
Anna M. Pedersen
Flemming V. Pedersen
Leroy Pedersen
Martin Pedersen
Martin A. Pedersen
Niels M. Pedersen
Paul & Lily Pedersen
Ardis Petersen
Harry & Frances Petersen, my parents
Jens Holm Petersen, grandfather
Mabel & Herbert Petersen, Arlene’s parents who are 100% Danish
Peter L. Petersen
Joanne Potts
John & Marjorie Quist
Berger Rasmussen
Hans Christian "Chris" Rasmussen
Michael Rasmussen
Peter & Anna Rattenborg
Reimert Ravenholt
Evelyn Rechtenbach
Ragna Yeilegaard Reid
Merna Rierson, my wife
Jens Risom
Andrew & Rosa Rosenkild
Michael Routhe
Mads & Inger Samdaj
Leroy Sand
Albert Martin Jensen Schjodt
Betty J. Schukei
Eva Sindberg
Axel & Rose Skelbeck
Marie Sorensen
Soren & Violet Sorensen
Marie Louise Sørensen
Marie Louise (Eve) Sørensen
Marie Louise Eve Sorensen, my sister-in-law
Richard D. Sorensen, my husband
Zola Sornson
Zola V. Sornson
Chris & Robert Steffensen
Barbara Stenberg
Parents and grandparents of Arlene Stork
Mrs. Karen Struckman
William & Karen Struckman
Erik W. Struckman, my son
Ole Svenningsen
Alvin Einar Swanson
Einar Swanson
Einar Swanson, our dear friend
Neva M. Theede
Patricia Thisted
Chris Thogersen
Elvera "Vera" L. Thorne
Nels Peterson Toft, my great grandfather
Capt. Lars E. Toftemark
Ruth Anderson Turney
Jack Unkenholz, our grandson
Karen (Andersen) Waite
Karen Waite, my grandmother & in honor of her Danish ancestry
Judy Walden
Walter Westergaard
Richard D. Wittrup, my brother
Lorraine Zembinski, Past National President, and Lodge 15, Milwaukee, WI, Sisterhood of America
in honor

The Museum of Danish America receives many contributions as gifts to honor beloved family members and friends on special occasions. In 2021 the following people, places, or organizations were honored:

Karl Bonnesen
Victor Borge Legacy Award’s 10th anniversary
William & Judy (Hansen) Campfield
Annegrethe Christensen
Dana Topp Clausen
my Danish heritage for which I am most proud
Jan & Larry Fajen
The Fogdall Family
Friends reunion using MoDA facilities
Stew & Lenore Hansen
Ellen Harboe
Phyllis Hoegh’s birthday
My parents, Doug Johnson & Janet Andersen Johnson (daughter of Milo and Mildred Andersen)
Marius Andreas Jorensen
Dorothy Kerkhoff, my mom
Merlyn & Jeanette Knudsen’s 45th Anniversary
John Koch and Danish heritage
Michele McNabb
MoDA and its staff for the "Brushes & Lenses, Fabric & Steel: Two Generations of Art" exhibit
my MoDA colleagues
The use of MoDA facilities for our "friend gathering"
The creative and dedicated MoDA staff
The Moller family of International Design Center
Museum of Danish America
Marlin Nelson
John W. Nielsen, D. Phil.
Scan Design, Fargo, North Dakota
David Seymour
Angela Stanford
Steven Swanson and his team at Danish Teak Classics, Minneapolis
Jennifer Winters ■
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 2021:

ANDREW (ANDERS) CHRISTENSEN (1884) Hardy, NE
CHRIS MARINUS CHRISTENSEN (1915) Rushmore, MN
JACOB CHRISTOFFERSEN (1901) Chicago, Cook, Illinois
CLAUS GEBHARD CLAUSEN (1905) Elk Horn, Iowa
RICHARD JULIUS DALBY (1914) Battle Creek, Iowa
JENS PETER HANSEN (1892) Chicago, IL
THOMAS CHRISTIAN JELLINGE (JELLINGER) (1907) Seaton, IL
GRETHE (GRETE) MADSEN JENSEN (1909) Audubon Co., Iowa
SOREN "SAM" JENSEN (1913) Waterloo, Iowa
CARL LUDVIG JORGENSEN (1892) Fredsville, IA
KATRINA AAGAARD SORENSEN JORGENSEN (1892) Fredsville, IA
NIELS PETER NIELSEN LANG (1888) Blair, Nebraska
LAURITZ LAURSEN (1923) Union Grove, WI
PETER W. LEWIS (1874) Woodbine, Iowa
ULLA RASMUSSEN MCGEE (1966) Southbury, CT
JENS NORGARD (1902) Hebron, IL
KAJ LANGELUND OVERGAARD (1975) Newell, IA
LIS LÆGDSMAND TRENT PEDERSEN (1969)
ESPER ANDERSEN PETERSEN (1921) Chicago, Illinois
JOHANNES (JENS) PETER SORENSEN (1892) Fredsville, IA
JENS JULIUS WINTHER & INGER MARIE JOHANNE JENSEN (1902) (1907) Audubon Co., Iowa
LAURITSEN WINTHER (1919) Audubon Co., Iowa
Throughout 2021 the Museum of Danish America attained new memberships, complimentary memberships, reciprocal memberships or received contributions toward gift memberships for the following organizations or individuals/households:

- American Swedish Historical Museum, Philadelphia, PA
- Barbara Andersen, Crystal, MN
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special appeals

During each year, the Museum of Danish America invites its supporters to make contributions to special projects and restricted funds. The individuals, organizations, or foundations listed below contributed to these appeals in 2021 (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.*

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- Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102, Des Moines, IA
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**Victor Borge—digitizing film recordings**
- Astrid Mikkelsen, Akrehamn, Norway
- Audrey Kofoed Foundation, West Branch, IA

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- John & Elizabeth Lauritzen Foundation, Omaha, NE

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- Roy & Patricia Hougen, Ames, IA

**New Nordic Cuisine**
- Kenny Bogus & Marnie Jensen, Nebraska City, NE
- Darrell Kilworth, Exira, IA
- O & H Danish Bakery, Racine, WI
- Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, Hanlonton, IA

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Virtual Brown Bag Lunch
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #15, Wauwatosa, WI

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- **Zoom Service**
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**Outreach**
- **Laptop**
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- **Victor Borge-digitizing film recordings**
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- **Tunnel storage area-fire safety cabinet for paints**
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**Events**
- **Danish Online Book Events**
  Scan Design Foundation, Seattle, WA
- **Sankt Hans Aften**
  The American-Scandinavian Foundation, New York, NY

**Exhibits**
- **Tattoo: Identity through Ink**
  Humanities Iowa, Iowa City, IA

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

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The following companies and individuals supported the Museum of Danish America in the calendar year of 2021 through in-kind donations:

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Liv & Michael Norderhaug, Chanhassen, MN
Carol Schroeder, Madison, WI
honor roll of contributors

The Honor Roll of Contributors recognizes all who have supported the Museum of Danish America during the 2021 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, endowment gifts, matching 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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