

a letter from the president

After enjoying five years on the Board of Directors of the Museum of Danish America, it is an honor and privilege to serve this, my final year, as President. It seems like just a few months ago I was doing my board orientation with the MoDA staff, along with four other “newbies”, including Cindy Adams, Dorothy Feisel, Garey Knudsen, and Linda Steffensen, and two not-so-newbies, Dagmar Muthamia and Anna Holliday. Dagmar and Anna had previously served on the board in years past. We refer to ourselves alternatively as the “Class of 2012” and “The Magnificent Seven”!

I remember when I was asked to serve on the board, I thought I did not deserve to be a part of such a prestigious group. What could I possibly have to offer? After all, I was just a farm boy from North Dakota, and I’m not even of 100% Danish heritage (although the Danish part is my favorite!). What I found was that the members of the MoDA board are all ordinary people, from many different backgrounds and walks of life, from all over the country (and Denmark too), bonded together by a love of our Danish-American heritage and the Danish immigrant story. We share a common desire to tell this incredible story of Danes in America, past, present, and future to all who will listen. This may be my final year on the board, but MoDA, the experiences I’ve had through my association with the museum, and the wonderful people with whom I have had the privilege to work, will be part of me for as long as I live.

Recently, our new Executive Director, Rasmus Thøgersen, completed his first year on the job. It has been gratifying to see Rasmus jump in with both feet, learn all the ins and outs of museum operations, reach out to the community, and develop relationships with the staff, our donors, and many supporters in the United States, and

also in Denmark. It is a unique advantage for us to have a native-born Dane at the helm, and his youth, energy, and enthusiasm are infectious. He is the first Executive Director to have Danish as his first language (although we do have to remind him to **t-a-l-k m-o-r-e s-l-o-o-o-w-l-y** once in a while!) Rasmus has gotten off to a fantastic start. But he couldn’t do it without the help and support of a very talented and dedicated museum staff. We are so fortunate.

For the first time a few months ago, our endowment topped \$5 million! It has taken some 35 years to get there! With some major new gifts, in addition to the bull market we’ve seen over the past few years, the growth in the endowment has been substantial. Of course, the goal of having an endowment is to provide a reliable source of income for MoDA, without having to depend so heavily on gifts which vary so much from year to year, in order to make ends meet. In the future we will want to continue to build the endowment. It is the key to our future success and stability.

Unbelievably, our 2015-2020 strategic plan will need to be updated and built upon to take us into the third decade of the millennium and beyond. We need to think outside the box, and develop new opportunities not only to generate support for MoDA, but also to find new ways to share our mission and tell our story. In order for us to be successful, we must be relevant. And to be relevant, we must continually examine ourselves and be on the “cutting edge”. This will be a priority for us in 2018 and beyond.

I wish to end by thanking you for supporting this wonderful endeavor, whether with your membership, financial gifts, volunteer time, or by other means. Working with you, I’m looking forward to a fun and exciting year!



By
Tim
Burchill

board of directors

The 2017-2018 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 thirty-four years have worked to build and maintain a museum of which all Danes, Danish Americans and the American public can be proud.

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

heritage with those Danish Americans who may not otherwise be able to link directly with the museum. In 2017, the Board held its February meeting at the Cultural Center at the Emanuel Danish Lutheran Church in Yorba Linda, California, and its June meeting was held at Danish Archive Northeast (DANE) in Edison, New Jersey, with election of new board members. The annual October board meeting is always held in Elk Horn. New board members become oriented to the operation of the museum and its various departments and assume their office at that meeting.

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 2017

Cynthia Larsen Adams, *Littleton, CO*
Ronald Bro, *Cedar Falls, IA*
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Dr. John Mark Nielsen, *Blair, NE*,
Executive Director Emeritus
Kai E. Nyby, *Fountain Hills, AZ*
Marc Petersen, *Omaha, NE*

Rasmus Thøgersen, *Omaha, NE, Executive Director*

who we are

MISSION STATEMENT

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

CORE VALUES

We are:

- ◆ **Inspirational:** We honor the vision, ambition and diligence of Danish-American achievers, and we seek to inspire future generations by telling their stories.
- ◆ **Deeply rooted:** We treasure our Danish heritage, and we are deeply committed to our local American communities.
- ◆ **Focused on the future:** We realize that to keep the past alive, we must always remain part of the future.

VISION STATEMENT

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

staff & interns

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rasmus Thøgersen, M.L.I.S.

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 & LIBRARIAN

Kara McKeever, M.F.A.

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

Erica Fahn

GENEALOGY & LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Wanda Sornson, M.S.

PLANNED GIVING CONSULTANT

Paul Johnson, C.F.P.

WEEKEND STAFF

Terri Amaral

Rochelle Bruns

Beth Rasmussen

Rodger Rasmussen

BEDSTEMOR'S HOUSE STAFF

Rochelle Bruns

Grace Greving

Trudy Juelsgaard

Heidi Madsen

Kealey Nelson

*DANISH INTERNS

Martin Armbrust, M.A., Aarhus University, Denmark (Genealogy Center)

Peter Hansen, M.A., University of Copenhagen, Denmark (Exhibits)

Nicolaj Stengaard Jensen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark (Exhibits)

AMERICAN INTERN

Sadie Colebank, M.A., George Washington University, Washington, D.C. (Collections), Internship funded by Diane Skov of Lacey, Washington.

*Danish internships are funded through a generous grant from the Scan Design Foundation, Seattle, WA

a year of success

We are grateful for yet another fantastic year here at the museum!

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- ◆ Achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums! The Museum of Danish America is now among the top 3% of museums in the nation.
- ◆ The Genealogy Center building on Main Street was donated to the museum by former board member Dennis Andersen from Atlanta, GA.
- ◆ Increased our visitors to Elk Horn by 6% compared to 2016. Reached a population of over 300,000 through visits to the museum, traveling exhibits, social media, and programs and presentations around the country.
- ◆ Through a generous matching grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa, we were able to hire a two-year Archival Collections Manager.
- ◆ Participated in numerous festivals and events, including the Orange International Street Fair in California, *Grundlovsdag* celebrations at both the Danish Home at Croton-on-Hudson, NY and the Royal Danish Embassy in Washington, DC, Danebod Folk Meeting in Tyler, MN and Danish American Cultural Retreat in Menucha, OR.
- ◆ Presented at various professional conferences, including the 40th anniversary conference of the Danish American Heritage Society and the annual conferences of the Association of Midwest Museums and the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies.
- ◆ Expanded our Victor Borge Legacy Awards to include the Des Moines Public Schools.

EXHIBITS: The museum continued its active exhibits program in 2017.

- ◆ *Denmark – America’s Smallest and Biggest Ally* – an exhibit on the longstanding diplomatic relationship between the two countries. The opening of the exhibit was attended by the Deputy Chief of Mission from the Embassy of Denmark in Washington, DC, as well as representatives from the Danish veterans organization Wounded Warriors.
- ◆ *The Whimsical World of Bjørn Wiinblad* – A retrospective exhibit organized by the Museum of Danish America

in cooperation with Arken Museum of Art located in Ishøj, Denmark. The exhibit traveled to the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle and received great reviews there.

- ◆ *Skål! Scandinavian Spirits* – Organized by our museum, this exhibit also represents the first cooperative effort by all six of the major Scandinavian-American museums. This year it was at the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia and the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis.
- ◆ *Home-Grown Art* – museum collection pieces from the tri-county area.
- ◆ *Nordic Light: Paintings by Hanne Støvring* – a Danish artist based in New York.
- ◆ *Watercolors by Betty Pedersen Bell* – on loan from the family.
- ◆ *Hygge* – a traveling banner exhibit intended to celebrate everyone’s favorite (old) new term.
- ◆ *Art by Gert Mathiesen* – An exhibit exploring the legacy of this contemporary Danish-born artist (1951-2013). The exhibit was at Nordia House in Portland, OR.
- ◆ Nine of the museum’s traveling exhibits were hosted by 19 different venues in 11 different states.

COLLECTIONS: Among the many valuable artifacts we added to the collection in 2017, we want to highlight the following:

- ◆ Portraits of King Frederick VIII and Christian IX, originally commissioned by the royal family and displayed at Amalienborg Palace; donated by Christian Castenskiold, cousin of Queen Margrethe II of Denmark.
- ◆ Bag of øland flour. A Nordic heritage grain; donated by Elvira Meyer.
- ◆ A statue by Danish-American sculptor Carl Rohl-Smith.
- ◆ Wedding dress worn on both sides of the Atlantic - the dress has an incredible story which was told in the Spring 2017 issue of the *America Letter*; Henrik Linnet, Tønder, Denmark.
- ◆ It is also worth noting that our 3D object collection inventory was completed in 2017.



By
Rasmus
Thøgersen

GRANTS

- ◆ Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund
- ◆ Eric and Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust
- ◆ Shelby County Community Foundation
- ◆ Fabrikant Mads Clausens Fond
- ◆ Iowa Arts Council
- ◆ Iowa Tourism
- ◆ State Historical Society of Iowa, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
- ◆ Scan Design Foundation

volunteers

In 2017 volunteers at both the Museum and Genealogy Center contributed a total of 3,122 hours, down only 55 hours from 2016. Each year we lose a few volunteers, for a number of reasons – health, a move to a different community or other commitments. But once again, we've added a few to the roster – John Mark Nielsen and Nancy Sand at the museum and Julie McKeever and Ann Podraza at the Genealogy Center. Volunteers help with genealogy research, translations, assisting museum staff by greeting visitors at the front desk, helping to set up, serve and clean up at a number of museum events, data entry, mailings, and most recently, in the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park. Staff could not do what we do on a daily basis without assistance from our devoted volunteers - every hour of time volunteers give is deeply appreciated.

Mange Tak to ALL of our volunteers!

The following are volunteers for whom we have **documented** hours in 2017.

MUSEUM

Annette Andersen
Marilyn Andersen
Rosalie Andersen
Virgil & Joyce Christensen
Rosa Clemson
Connie Johnson
Jeanette Lillehoj
Dawn Nielsen
John Mark Nielsen
Wava Petersen
Elva Rasmussen
Nancy Sand
Howard Sorensen

GRADUATE STUDENT INTERNS

The museum continues to benefit from the work of graduate student interns. A generous donation by Diane Skov funded our American intern. We were thrilled to learn that we have been approved for funding from the Scan Design Foundation to continue our Danish internship program through 2021.

GENEALOGY

Bent Christensen
June Haas
Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt
Connie Johnson
Jeanette Knudsen
Julie McKeever
Michele McNabb
Ann Podraza
Suzanne Rasmussen
Nancy Sand
Charlotte Sorensen
Karma Sorensen
Gayle Stuart
Donna Christensen Thomas
Erik Høgsbro Østergaard

We also want to recognize members of the **Atlantic Chapter of the Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum** who have been long-time supporters and donors. The organization provides us with a variety of cookies we serve to museum guests during our annual celebrations of Tivoli Fest, held the weekend preceding Memorial Day, and Julefest, held the weekend following Thanksgiving Day. Its members include Harvey Andersen, Norma Andersen, Ramona Andersen, Marty & Connie Boose, Janet Bornholdt, Jack & Eileen Denne, Clayton Ellingson, Dean & Verna Esbeck, Gene & Kathleen Eyberg, Ileen Furne, Marcella Gaines, Calvin & Phyllis Hoegh, Chet & Marj Holland, Nadine Jacobsen, Doris Jensen, Gladys McCrory, Merlin & Sonya Mikkelsen, Beverly Nelson, Dale & Linda Nelson, Delores Nelson, Bob & Frances Nelson, Clara Pedersen, Helen Petersen, 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

It's a whole new museum! During the course of 2017, every exhibition space was changed, updated, and redesigned. For some of our galleries, that's part of the routine – spaces that host temporary exhibitions for a few months or a year, and then feature something completely different. But in 2017 the museum installed brand new core exhibitions, the long-term displays that tell the museum's central story. You can explore the faces, voices, and belongings of Danish immigrants from every decade and all over the country. You can follow a timeline, “14,000 years in 90 feet,” featuring the main events of Danish and Danish-American history. A new Kids Zone presents toys both old and new. Complementing the history, the new core exhibitions also introduces some facts and figures about modern Denmark in the 21st century, from taxes to immigration to reasons why Denmark might be “the happiest country in the world.”

In addition to the new core exhibitions, the museum maintained a full schedule of temporary and traveling exhibitions. We enjoyed sharing a “skål” with the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia, and later in the year with the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. *The Whimsical World of Bjørn Wiinblad* spent the spring in Elk Horn, and then visited Seattle's Nordic Heritage Museum for the summer and fall. A new traveling banner exhibition about *Hygge* defines this very Danish concept for audiences across the country, and even attempts to teach the correct pronunciation.

In our changing exhibition galleries, we have continued to highlight artistic expression through the contemporary paintings of Hanne Støvring (*Nordic Light*), watercolors by Betty Pedersen Bell, and through pieces in the museum's collection that were made right in the museum's neighborhood (*Home-Grown Art*). In the Kramme Gallery, a major new exhibition presents the history of political and military cooperation between the United States and Denmark in *Denmark: America's Smallest and Biggest Ally*.

There is no shortage of Danish-American stories to tell, and we invite you to experience them for yourself – whether in Elk Horn or in communities across the country.



By
Tova
Brandt

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

ON-SITE GALLERY EXHIBITIONS IN 2017

Sport for Sports' Sake: Athletes and Ethnicity in Danish America

April 23, 2016 – September 4, 2017

Brimberg Photographs for National Geographic (1990-2002)

May 2016 – July 2017

The Whimsical World of Bjørn Wiinblad

November 25, 2016 – May 30, 2017

Nordic Light: Paintings by Hanne Støvring

June 24 – October 31, 2017

Watercolors by Betty Pedersen Bell

July 2017 – May 2018

Denmark: America's Smallest and Biggest Ally

September 30, 2017 – September 3, 2018

Home-Grown Art

November 24, 2017 – June 10, 2018

TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS IN 2017

Art by Gert Mathiesen

Nordia House, Portland, Oregon

Church Basements and Children's Homes

Columbia Hall, Dannebrog, Nebraska

Oaks Indian Mission, Oaks, Oklahoma

Danish Sisterhood #15, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The Danish Pioneer

Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, Omaha, Nebraska

Danish American Heritage Society conference,

Chicago, Illinois

Exploring Danish Happiness

Danish American Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Danish Language Village, Bemidji, Minnesota

Hygge

Danish Cultural Center, Greenville, Michigan

Danish Church and Cultural Center,

Yorba Linda, California

Northwest Danish Association, Seattle, Washington

Norden Club, Lincoln, Nebraska

Jens Jensen: Celebrating the Native Prairie

Danish American Heritage Society conference,

Chicago, Illinois

Skål! Scandinavian Spirits

American Swedish Historical Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Scandinavian Trade Association, Tampa Bay, Florida

Becker County Historical Society, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

Luck Historical Museum, Luck, Wisconsin

Danish American Heritage Society conference,

Chicago, Illinois

Sport for Sports' Sake

Danish American Heritage Society conference,

Chicago, Illinois

The Whimsical World of Bjørn Wiinblad

Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle, Washington

collections

Throughout 2017, the museum graciously received a number of artifacts that communicate unique stories which we are excited to share with our members and visitors through our exhibitions, on and off site programs, and View Our Collection. One of those pieces is a lace wedding dress that was first worn in 1939 in the U.S. and then in Denmark in 1947. Another is a set of letters notifying a military family during World War I that their son had been killed in action, and then retracting that information and relaying that he was instead wounded and recovering in a hospital in France. Also new to our collection are dishes and photos documenting a Danish-immigrant owned restaurant and motel in Illinois that operated between the 1940s and 1980s.

These, and so many more stories are now preserved and shared – we are grateful. Thank you for your continued and kind support.

ARTIFACT DONORS

David Andersen, Marion, IA
 Muriel Bacon, Harlan, IA
 Karen Beall, Santa Fe, NM
 Virginia Beck, Monument, CO
 Steve Berg, DeKalb, IL
 Lois Bornemeier, Danbury, CT
 O. Keith Bowman, Des Moines, IA
 Kenneth Bower, New York City, NY
 Dorte Brandenhoff, San Francisco, CA
 Christian Castenskiold, Thousand Oaks, CA
 Borge Christensen, Rochester, MN
 Rosa Clemsen, Exira, IA
 Norman Danielsen, Randolph, KS
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #35, Homewood, IL
 Marilyn Denison, Rapid City, SD

Carol Ekberg, Tyler, MN
 Kristen Frank, Decorah, IA
 Erik Frodsham, Fresno, CA
 Rosanne Fulton, Council Bluffs, IA
 Family of Clara (Tange) and Arndt Hanson, Philomath, OR
 Raymond Holland, Bettendorf, IA
 Anni Holm, West Chicago, IL
 Family of Howell and Hanson, Mojave, CA
 Esther Jensen, Santa Maria, CA
 Kris Johnson, Seguin, TX
 Jeff Jul, Davenport, IA
 Art Koff, Chicago, IL
 Kolding Kunstforening, Kolding, Denmark
 Jacob Jensen, Lunderskov, Denmark
 David and Barb LaMaster, Park Rapids, MN
 Jeanette Lillehoj, Kimballton, IA
 Henrik Linnet, Tønder, Denmark
 Anja Lyager, Esbjerg, Denmark
 Darlene Maddox, Portland, OR
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 Waverly, IA
 Elvira Meyer Nielsen, New York City, NY
 John Mark Nielsen, Blair, NE
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 Ed Shada, Council Bluffs, IA
 Christian Slinkard, Tenino, WA
 Dane Stauffer, St. Paul, MN
 The Thanks-Giving Foundation, Dallas, TX
 Pamela Whitmore, Des Moines, IA



By
 Angela
 Stanford

genealogy center

In 2017 the Genealogy Center saw the highest number of visitors in a year since opening (749). It is exciting to see so many people interested in researching their Danish roots! Our front room display, “Æbleskiver Pans: Past & Present,” featuring æbleskiver pans from the museum’s collection, opened for TivoliFest in alignment with the festival’s æbleskiver theme. In October, this was replaced by a local history exhibit in conjunction with the museum’s core exhibit redesign. The exhibit features artifacts and documents that tell the story of Danish settlement in Elk Horn and the surrounding area, emphasizing the Genealogy Center’s connection to the museum while illustrating the type of information that may be found within the library.

Scan Design Foundation intern Martin Armbrust helped catalog 491 new items for our library and Special Collections. The hiring of a two-year Archival Collections Manager, Cheyenne Jansdatter, ensures that the museum’s archival collection and Genealogy Center’s Special Collections will merge into a cohesive collection meeting archival standards.

Genealogy staff and volunteers completed 49 paid research projects and 29 translation projects, sent from around the country, in addition to working alongside walk-in patrons and responding to phone and email queries. Our Danish immigrant database has grown to over 10,000 files containing biographical and genealogical information. Volunteers donated over 2,000 hours to improving the Center’s resources, assisting with projects, and keeping us fueled on cookies and coffee.

A very special thank you to Dennis Andersen, owner and landlord of the Genealogy Center’s beautiful home on Main Street since its move there in 2003, for his generous decision this year to donate the building to the Museum of Danish America. We are very grateful for all the work Dennis has done on the building over the years, and now for this gracious gift.

We were thrilled this year to meet so many new faces and to be visited by old friends. Thank you to all patrons and donors for your kind and generous support.

In 2017 we received and/or processed donations from the following individuals and institutions:

Peer Louis Aarestrup, Vejle, Denmark
Martín Adair, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Ruth Amernick, San Francisco, CA

Annette Andersen, Kimballton, IA
Ardean Andersen, Aurora, NE
Gwendolyn Andersen, Rockville, MD
Roger Andersen, Ames, IA
Bradley Arakelian, Del Mar, CA
Dennis Barten, Kirkwood, MO
Karen Beall, Santa Fe, NM
Raymond & Joan Beebe, Forest City, IA
James & Deb Bieker, Elk Horn, IA
Lois Bornemeier, Danbury, CT
Doug Bro, Claremont, CA
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Lis Clark, Boynton Beach, FL
Rosa Clemens, Exira, IA
Linda Coulter, LeMars, IA
Reinhard Danger, Rochester, NY
Danish American Historical Society of California, Fresno, CA
Dannevirke Lodge #9, Sparks, NV
Lois Eagleton, Eugene, OR
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Karen Eilers, Cottage Grove, MN
David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA
Karen Fahn, Harlan, IA
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Federation of Danish Associations in
Canada, Gloucester, Ontario, Canada
Dorothy Stadsvold Feisel, Chestertown, MD
Gloria Richelieu Fiedler, Davenport, IA
Violet Fifield, Willmar, MN
Susan Goodhope, Veronia, OR
Dennis Gray, Winston-Salem, NC
Berniece Grewcock, Omaha, NE
Edie Grim, Dannebrog, NE
Arnold & Doris Gude, Elk Horn, IA
Donna Gude, Elk Horn, IA
June Haas, Kimballton, IA
Anne-Mette Hansell, Drexel Hill, PA
Charles M. Hansen, Sausalito, CA
Joyce Hansen, Kimballton, IA
Lucy Hansen, Tipton, IA
Walter Hansen, West Branch, IA
John Havick, Stone Mountain, GA
Mette Haydt, Hemet, CA
Marie Henriksen & family, Arco, MN



By
Kara
McKeever



Clarence & Evelyn Holtze, Rosemount, MN
Joy Ibsen, Villa Park, IL
Barbara Jacobsen, Atlantic, IA
Beverly Jensen, Lake St. Louis, MO
James & Jane Jensen, Harlan, IA
Judy Jernberg, Eugene, OR
Alen & Penny Johnson, Marshfield, WI
Connie & Lynn Johnson, Exira, IA
Muriel Johnson, Littleton, CO
Robert Johnson, New Brighton, MN
Timothy Jorgensen, Rockville, MD
Richard Juel, Cedar Falls, IA
Magne Juhl, Viborg, Denmark
Maren Kennedy, Mansfield, OH
Andrew & Fern Kissel, Elk Horn, IA
Constance Klein, Lincoln, CA
Kathleen Klem, Rosemount, MN
Mike Koehler, Waupaca, WI
Edward Kruse, Apple Valley, MN
Shirley Kuhlman, Westminster, CO
Kenneth Larsen, Harlan, IA
Knud Larsen, Roseburg, OR
Sheri Larsen, Marshalltown, IA
Randy Leete, Elk Horn, IA
Debbie Leistad, Atlantic, IA
Jeanette Lillehoj, Kimballton, IA
Barb Lynch, Bettendorf, IA
Richard Macdonald, Tremont, IL
Darlene Maddox, Portland, OR
Linda Madsen, Billings, MT
Gary & Betty Martens, Walnut, IA
John Masengarb, West St. Paul, MN
Michele McNabb, Iowa City, IA
Russell McNeas, Atlantic, IA
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Lori Nielsen, Blair, NE
Margarita Nielsen, Jupiter, FL
Mike Nielsen, Council Bluffs, IA

Patricia Nielsen, Audubon, IA
Raymond Nielsen, Homewood, IL
Stanley Nielsen, Monona, WI
Liv Norderhaug, Eden Prairie, MN
Erik Nørkjær, Aulum, Denmark
Brent & Shirley Norlem, Monticello, MN
Ginger Nuesser, Winter Haven, FL
Charles Olsen, Viborg, SD
Ann Ostergaard, Pittsburgh, PA
Marian "Mittie" Ostergaard, Mission Viejo, CA
Robert Ostergaard, Minneapolis, MN
William Packwood, Rosemount, MN
Georg Pedersen, Seattle, WA
Charlotte Peebles, Plummer, ID
David Petersen, Lincoln, NE
Lisa Petersen, Owings, MD
Muriel Petersen, Elk Horn, IA
Susan Petersen, Yorba Linda, CA
Helen J. Phillips, Altoona, IA
Cleone Pritchard, Stillwater, MN
Merle Rasmussen, Huxley, IA
Suzanne Rasmussen, Kirkman, IA
Thomas Rasmussen, Lake Elmo, MN
Don Richelieu, Irene, SD
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Diane Skov, Lacey, WA
Christian Slinkard, Tenino, WA
Terry Smith, Portland, MN
Theresa Sorenson, Denver, CO
Martha Staby, Loveland, CO
Dane Stauffer, St. Paul, MN
Carl Steffensen, Houston, TX
Gayle & Leo Stuart, Walnut, IA
Dick & Sonja Switzer, Omaha, NE
Arthur Tempel, Brooklyn, NY
The Danish Home, Croton-on-Hudson, NY
Craig Thiesen, St. Paul, MN
Finn H. Thomsen, Aalborg, Denmark
Craig Wilkinson, Salt Lake City, UT
Minna Williams, Calistoga, CA
Dee Wittkopp, Mesa, AZ
Marilyn Wittrup, Scituate, MA
Julie Wrase, Little Canada, MN

Condensed Financial Statements
Years Ended August 31, 2017 and 2016

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

	2017	2016
Assets		
Cash and Investments.....	5,556,703	4,466,888
Inventory.....	87,830	99,535
Property and Equipment (Net).....	4,600,425	4,715,828
Total Assets.....	10,244,958	9,282,251
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accrued Payroll Taxes.....	0	424
Lines of Credit.....	200,000	263,000
Total Liabilities.....	200,000	263,424
Net Assets.....	10,044,958	9,018,827
Total Liabilities and Net Assets.....	10,244,958	9,282,251

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

	2017	2016
Support and Revenue		
Contributions and Support.....	1,726,535	1,159,005
Admissions and Program Fees.....	16,015	18,169
Gift Shop Revenue (Net).....	52,921	51,211
Investment and Other Income.....	623,669	290,108
Total Support and Revenue.....	2,419,140	1,518,493
Expenses		
Program Services.....	842,799	892,329
Supporting Activities.....	550,210	507,161
Total Expenses.....	1,393,009	1,399,490
Change in Net Assets.....	1,026,131	119,003
Net Assets - Beginning of Year.....	9,018,827	8,899,824
Net Assets - End of Year.....	10,044,958	9,018,827

endowment

The Museum of Danish America's endowments provide the opportunity for members to perpetuate their contributions and at the same time help guarantee the museum's long-term financial viability. Current market value as of December 31, 2017, was \$5,241,734.97.

bequests

In 2017 the museum received \$242,027.38 in bequests, \$2,593.30 (1%) has been invested in the museum's endowment funds and the balance \$239,434.08 (99%) has been or is being used for operations, special projects and programming. The Museum of Danish America gratefully acknowledges the following estates, trusts and individuals:

Rita Neergaard Hansen, Kenosha, WI
Elise Jensen, Newell, IA
Doris Sorensen, Tulsa, OK
Erik Sorensen, Knoxville, IA

merit of recognition

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

LIFETIME LEGACY GIVING

Recognition includes five categories of giving. This reflects ALL cumulative donations 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 2017, the Board of Directors was pleased to add the names of

David W. & Helen A. Esbeck, San Diego, CA (*Bronze*)
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Agnita M. Christensen Stine Schreiber Foundation, Inc.,
Shepherdstown, WV (*Bronze*)
Erik Sorensen Trust, Knoxville, IA (*Silver*)
Todd & Jalynn Wanninger/Carroll Control Systems,
Carroll, IA (*Bronze*)

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

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Please contact them by calling (712)764-7001 or toll free (800)759-9192; email address: Rasmus.Thoegersen@danishmuseum.org , Deb.Larsen@danishmuseum.org , or pjohnson@firstheartland.com . Your inquiry will be treated confidentially.

THE HERITAGE BUILDERS

Over the past 34 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 2017 **five** new Heritage Builders plaques were added to the recognition board and they are indicated in bold. With their permission while living or the permission of their executors, the names of *Heritage Builders* are permanently inscribed on a plaque in the museum.

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The T.G. Jensen Family in honor of all who served to protect America

Peter & Irma Ørum, Saint Charles, IL

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The Whimsical World of Bjørn Wiinblad

Mr. Lars Gert Lose, Ambassador, Royal Danish Embassy, Washington, DC

Denmark, October 1943: Occupation and Resistance

The Danish Home, Croton-on-Hudson, NY

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IN PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS FILM

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Landmands Bank, Audubon, IA

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360° Cardboard Viewer

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MODA in Solvang

René Kærskov, Solvang, CA

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danish immigrant wall of honor

The purpose of the Museum, among other things, is to tell the continuing story of the Danish immigrant experience and influence in America and the evolving story of the Danish-American heritage. As a way of paying tribute, the Wall of Honor was established listing the name of the immigrant, year of entering the United States, and place of settlement. Their stories and family histories, if available, are part of the growing repository connected with the Museum 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 2017:

PEDER MØRCK HANSEN (1996) Omaha, Nebraska – Andrea Hansen, Omaha, NE; Kaylan & DJ Bradley; William Hansen, Omaha, NE

CARL JOHAN HOLM (1912) Fort Dodge, Iowa – Dale & Jan Johnson, Fremont, NE

JENS P.C. (CHRIS) JENSEN (1906) Greenfield, Iowa – Verla Elliott, Woodward, IA

OTTO JENSEN & MARIE POULSEN JENSEN (1890 | 1925-26) Albert Lea, Minnesota – Pearl Swank, Poplar, MT

RENE GROSS KÆRSKOV (1991) Solvang, California – René Gross Kærskov, Solvang, CA

CHRISTIAN FREDERICK LARSEN (1909) Bergenfield, New Jersey – Brenda K. Ryan, Auburn Hills, MI

LARS J. LARSEN & LAURA HANSEN LARSEN (1905 | 1928) Dagmar, Montana – Svend Larsen, Dagmar, MT

PHILIP EUGEN LUND (2007) Portland, Oregon – Julie Lund, Portland, OR

BODIL KATRINE MADSEN (1924) Laurel, Nebraska – Linda Madsen, Billings, MT; Merle Nielsen, Cody, WY

JENS KRISTIAN MADSEN (1924) Laurel, Nebraska – Linda Madsen, Billings, MT; Charles Madsen, Worland, WY

KRISTEN & INGER (MIKKELSEN) MADSEN (1923 | 1924) Laurel, Nebraska – Linda Madsen, Billings, MT

POULINE MADSEN (1924) Laurel, Nebraska – Donna Hausmann, Butte, NE

ELISABETH MORTENSEN (1958) San Jose, California – Bente Ellis, San Jose, CA

HANS MARTIN NIELSEN (1913) Vinton, Iowa – Wanda Lastovka, Belle Plaine, IA; Dan Lastovka, Belle Plaine, IA

MARINUS NIELSEN & FREDERIKKA POULSEN (1907 | 1907) Albert Lea, Minnesota – Pearl Swank, Poplar, MT

LOUIS PETERSON & MARIE (JENSEN) PETERSON (1887 | 1892) Stanhope, Iowa – Donald K. Wall, Ames, IA

JENS POULSEN & KJERSTINE (CHRISTINA) HANSEN (1899 | 1901) Appam, North Dakota – Pearl Swank, Poplar, MT

SOREN FRIIS (SAM) POULSEN (1907) Albert Lea, Minnesota – Pearl Swank, Poplar, MT

ARNE CHRISTIAN RASMUSSEN (1958) San Jose, California – Bente Ellis, San Jose CA

BIRGIT MARGRETHE SABO (1965) Lakeland, Florida – Birgit Sabo, Lakeland, FL

JETTE SKOUBYE (1964) Corrales, New Mexico – Jim Tritten, Corrales, NM

ANDREW PETER SVENDSEN (1884) Woodbine, Iowa – Linda LaFleur, Albany, OR



By
Deb
Christensen
Larsen

memorials

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

Darlene Elouise Andersen, Avoca, IA
Opal Jean Schultz Baker
Lorraine Nielsen Barton, Omaha, NE
Gunver Berg
John H. Besson
Paul Blinkilde, my husband
Carl Bonnesen
Mr. and Mrs. Folmer Bonnesen
Charles E. R. & Elizabeth Boye
My Brodersen, Frederickson & Hoogensen Family Members
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Lorraine Jensen Cenovich
Jens & Magda Christensen
Ray Christensen
Ray Christensen, beloved announcer for
WCCO Radio-Minneapolis
Christiansen Olaf Christiansen
Jens & Elna Christophersen
Cecilie Petersen Clausen
Hans & Cecelia Clausen
Donald L. Clausen of Orlando, FL
Donald L. Clausen, my husband
George Clausen, my father
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Walter E. Hansen
Lydia Hansen of Rockford, IL
Carma M. Hansen, my wife
Ardis Elaine Henriksen, Minnesota
Celebrating the memory of Dr. LeRoy & Laura Henriksen,
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Tom Higgins
Herbert Hjortsvang

The George Hoegh Family - Betty Jean & Harriet Hoegh,
Bertha Molgaard Schukei, Becker & Kenneth Hoegh
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Jens & Anna Jacobsen
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Irving & Elizabeth Jensen
William R. "Bill" Jensen
Herluf Johansen, my husband
Clark Johnsen
Helen & Julius Johnsen
Ronald M. Johnson
Ronald Johnson, Raleigh, NC
Niels W. & Ingrid H. Jorgensen
Dr. Jim Jorgensen, DVM (grandfather)
Carol Jorgensen, my wife
The Parents of Richard & Rita Juhl
Tage Ketelsen
Hans Kiehn
Donald "Buck" King
Ruth & Peder Kirkegaard
Leo Kirkhoff
Dick Kramme
John S. Kristensen
Marius Landbo
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Alfred (Fred) Madsen
Dr. Paul O. Madsen
Clark Mathisen
H. C. Mathison
Rigmor Mattsen
Elizabeth (Hansen) McCoy
Ellen Mary Henriksen McKinzie

All four of my Danish grandparents (Marilyn Meyer)
 Connie Moeller
 Gotleib Mogensen (Berneta Mogensen Balsley's father)
 Karen Marie Mortensen & Carl Mortensen - In memory of
 my Great Grandmother Karen Marie Mortensen and my
 Grandfather Carl Mortensen, whose items of memorabilia
 on display as they were donated years ago.
 Anna Marie Madsen Nelson
 Larry Nelson
 Norma Lange Nelson
 Andy J. Nielsen
 LaVern & Marilyn Nielsen
 Marvin L. Nielsen
 Moe Nielsen
 Carl H. Nielsen (Dana grad)
 Andy Nyby
 Ole & Marie Olsen
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 Herbert Klint Paulsen (1931-2017)
 Tom Bech Paulsen, Bellevue, WA
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 Jim & Anna Petersen
 Norma I. Petersen
 Thorvald K. Petersen
 Alfred W. Petersen, my grandfather
 Harry & Frances Petersen, my parents
 Herbert & Mabel Petersen, my parents
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 Peter & Dorothea Wolff - my grandparents
 Agnes Jorgensen Zimmerline, my mother

in honor

The Museum of Danish America receives many contributions as gifts to honor beloved family members and friends on special occasions. In 2017 the following people were honored:

Martin Armbrust, Danish Intern
Muriel Bacon's happy and proud occasion and all the memories of my wedding dress 6/1/1939
Berneta Mogensen Balsley
Jacob Bergstrom
Elsie Bonnesen
Lotte Christensen's 90th birthday (Nov. 27, 2017)
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102
Elk Horn Class of 1950
Charles Faaborg Frederiksen
Genealogy Center
Genealogy Center - Tak for alt. Fortsæt det gode arbejde.
Keep up the good work
Peter Hansen, Danish Intern
Layne & Kristy Hansen's birthdays
Emery and Izy Hoegh, parents of Curtis & Nancy Hoegh
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Jim & Marge Iversen
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Doris Jensen, member & treasurer of Atlantic Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum
Terri Johnson's museum colleagues
Norma Keating
Dorothy Kerkhoff's birthday
Jens & Thora Krog

Lee Anne Lack's 8 Danish immigrant grandparents
Britha Marie Larsen, Løgstør, Denmark, my friend and celebrating 40 years ago living and working together as volunteers in Tanzania
Gloria Layton
Philip Eugen Lund
Kara McKeever and the Genealogy Center
Ellen Mary Henriksen McKinzie
Museum of Danish America being awarded accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums
Museum Staff and Museum's AAM accreditation
Museum Staff appreciation for opening of military exhibit
Norma Bernice Nelson, in honor of a woman with great strength, courage and wit. We are so happy to have had the chance to meet her.
Dr. John Mark Nielsen
John Mark & Dawn Nielsen
Dawn & John Mark Nielsen-hoping they are enjoying retirement-such a life change
Tom Nielsen's 80th birthday
John Mark Nielsen's retirement
Merete Nieto's birthday!
James Brent & Shirley Norlem
Poul Olesen and Benedikte Ehlers Olesen
Carl Rasmussen
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Anelise Sawkins, my mother
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Einer Viggo Thode (my father) came to US in 1992
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matching gifts

The Museum of Danish America wishes to thank these members for initiating matching gifts during the 2017 calendar year from the following corporations and foundations:

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The following companies and individuals, through their kind gifts, supported the Museum of Danish America in the calendar year of 2017:

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new, complimentary, and gift memberships

Throughout 2017 the Museum of Danish America attained 165 new members, awarded complimentary memberships or received contributions directed towards gift memberships for the following organizations or individuals:

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Corrections Every effort has been made to ensure that all information contained in the 2017 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.