



December 2011

## E-News from The Danish Immigrant Museum

### Exhibitions and Programming in December

Brown Bag Lunch: Christmas *Hygge*  
December 8, 12 noon

Join the museum staff for a celebration of seasonal songs and “nisse” stories, to get you in the mood for the holidays!  
The program begins at 12 noon and is FREE to the public.  
Bring your own lunch – we’ll provide the coffee!

Note: The Brown Bag Lunch Series will take a break in January and February, but will resume in March 2012.

Now on view: *Faces of Copenhagen: Photographs by Itzick Lev*



Imagine you’re strolling through the streets of Copenhagen – who will you see? How are people living their lives in this cosmopolitan city? Itzick Lev’s photographs invite us to enjoy the parade of people that are part of modern Denmark.

This exhibition was organized by the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle; its installation at The Danish Immigrant Museum is supported by a grant from the American-Scandinavian Foundation in New York.

### Get Ready for the Holidays with Traditional Danish Cookies

Following the tradition, started by previous Danish interns, of making baking videos, Maria Beisheim and Rene Christiansen decided to make their own video. Since it is close to the holidays they decided to make the traditional danish cookies, “klejner”. Maria does the baking and gives good advice on how to make the “klejner” just right, while Rene works behind the scenes with the camera and editing. So if you want to learn how to make these delicious cookies, check out the museum's Online Media section on the website or go straight to the museum's YouTube channel.



#### An Invitation For You

Our new mission statement is “**The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams**”. Support our celebration and dream when you become an active member. Your support makes possible all of the activities described in this e-newsletter. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about membership [benefits](#).

## News from the Museum

Since early November, The Danish Immigrant Museum has received major gifts restricted to important projects. More news on each of these gifts will be forthcoming.

### Archives Online

The A.P. Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller Foundation of Copenhagen, Denmark has awarded a major grant of \$158,000 to The Danish Immigrant Museum that will be used to digitize and provide global, on-line access to historic Danish-American archival collections. The project, organized and administered by the Museum, is a partnership with the Danish American Archive and Library in Blair, Nebraska, the Danish Immigrant Archive – Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa, and the Danish American Heritage Society, Salem, Oregon. The project will also include digitization of forty-nine (49) original scrapbooks of newspaper clippings by the world renowned Danish tenor, Lauritz Melchior, which he began keeping in 1925. These have recently come into the possession of The Danish Immigrant Museum and are in a very fragile and deteriorating condition. This gift represents the largest gift that The Danish Immigrant Museum has received from a Danish foundation.



### Curatorial Center

Bill and Berniece Grewcock of Omaha, Nebraska have presented the Museum with a gift of \$100,000 to complete studies and develop construction plans to expand the Museum's curatorial facilities. Their gift was motivated by concern that the Museum lacks adequate facilities to store potential artifact Gifts. The expansion will provide curatorial offices and workspace, a quarantine room, and as space for traveling exhibit fabrication and storage. Most importantly, it will provide additional-climate controlled storage as the Museum seeks to expand its collection of Post-World War II artifacts. The estimated cost of constructing this addition is \$2.2 million. Mrs. Grewcock wrote in her note accompanying their gift: "We hope this [gift] inspires everyone to help quickly."

### The Treasures of Dana College

In late October, the Museum was invited to purchase an inventory of historical and valuable artifacts that had been the property of Dana College. Artifacts included a Danish modern chair designed by Hans Wegner, which was a gift from Queen Margrethe II in 1976, paintings by Danish immigrant artists of the American West, Olaf Wieghorst and O.E. Seltzer, and a *Christian IV Bible* (the brother-in-law of King James I of England) the first complete Danish Bible published in 1632. An appeal to "Save the Treasures of Dana College" has been made to major Dana College donors, who have generously responded. In addition, the Museum has negotiated to buy the two Copenhagen Gas Lamps. These gas lamps date from 1857 and were gifted to Dana College in 1959 by the City of Copenhagen to celebrate the college's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Funds for their purchase have been provided by Dana College graduates who were English Majors in honor of the much loved Professor Norman Bansen, long-time chair of the English Department and an individual who is credited with the idea for The Danish Immigrant Museum. He was a charter board member of the Museum, serving from 1983 to 1990.



## Family History and Genealogy Center: Danish Roots, American Branches

### Emigration from Bornholm

Nearly a quarter of the population of Bornholm – around 10,000 individuals – left the island to emigrate elsewhere. The focus of this year's issue of *Bornholmske Samlinger*, the yearbook of the Bornholm Historical Society, is on emigration from Denmark's easternmost county and includes an article on the museum and its collections written by librarian Michele McNabb.

The volume costs DKK 250 and may be obtained from

Bornholms Ø-arkiv, Pingels Allé, Rønne,  
Mail: [Arkiv@brk.dk](mailto:Arkiv@brk.dk)

Bornholms Museum, Sct. Mortensgade 29, Rønne.  
[Bornholmuseum.dk](http://Bornholmuseum.dk)

[Williamdam.dk](http://Williamdam.dk)



### Is There a Danish Midwife in your Family Tree?

Nearly two dozen Danish midwives are known to have immigrated to the US in the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. We would like to know more about these professional women and what their experiences were like in their new homeland.

### Danish Genealogy on the Road Again!

The next batch of Danish genealogy workshops will be held in the San Francisco area on February 9-11, 2012, in conjunction with the museum's winter board meeting. The five sessions will cover US and Danish resources, researching ancestors who lived in Schleswig, and popular online resources one can access from home.

Whether you are a beginning researcher or unfamiliar with researching in Denmark, there is something for you! Further information and a registration form for Workshop and Talks may be found on the Museum's website under the Library & Genealogy menu.



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