



March 2011

News from The Danish Immigrant Museum's Staff

Brown Bag Lunch Series Returns!

After a winter break, we return to a new season of monthly Brown Bag Lunch programs. Join us on **Thursday, March 10** for **"F is for Fastelavn."** John Mark Nielsen and the museum's Danish interns, Bjørg Rasmussen and Julie Andersen, will discuss the celebration of *Fastelavn*, the feast before Lent begins. (In other cultures, called "Fat Tuesday" or "Mardi Gras.") Learn what it means to "hit the cat out of the barrel" = but don't worry, no cats will be harmed in the celebration of *Fastelavn*!



All Brown Bag Lunch programs begin at 12 noon in the Bro Dining Room. Admission is FREE to the public and all are welcome. Bring your own lunch – we'll provide the coffee!

Future Brown Bag Lunch programs:

April 14: **P is for Painter.** Bjørg Rasmussen introduces artists of Denmark's Golden Age.

May 12: **V is for Viking.** Julie Andersen shares her experience working at Denmark's Viking Ship Museum.

Exhibition Closes, Yet Continues



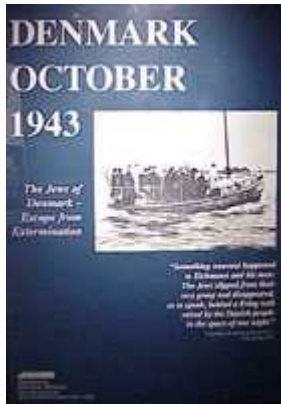
Last chance to see *Sampling the Collection, A to Å*! This has been on view in the museum's Mezzanine gallery since last year, and March 6 will be its final day. BUT the online version continues! You can enjoy the stories and photos of some of our wacky and wonderful artifacts on the museum's website.



The Danish Immigrant Museum in the Twin Cities:

Two museums in Minneapolis are each hosting exhibitions and programs from The Danish Immigrant Museum.

The American Swedish Institute is showing *Victor Borge: Life and Laughs of a Scandinavian Humorist*, which is a joint production of The Danish Immigrant Museum, the American Scandinavian Foundation, and the Borge family. On Wednesday, March 23, curator Tova Brandt will present “Across Oceans, Across Time: Danish-American Stories” as part of the ASI Forum series. Visit www.americanswedishinst.org for more information.



Just a few blocks away, the Hennepin History Museum will host *Denmark, October 1943: Rescue of the Danish Jews* from March 23 through April 24. A showing of the film “Tak for Alt: Survival of a Human Spirit” will take place on Thursday, March 24, featuring the story of Judith Meisel who found refuge in Denmark near the end of WWII. Visit www.hennepinhistory.org for more information.

CAP Grant Awarded



The museum has received a \$6840 award through the 2011 Conservation Assessment Program (CAP). CAP is sponsored jointly by Heritage Preservation and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. This award will allow the museum to hire two conservation professionals to complete a general conservation assessment of the artifacts and historic buildings in the museum’s collection.

The Conservation Assessment Program gives museums technical advice from conservation professionals. The conservators will observe the current condition of the museum’s collections and evaluate conditions affecting collections in exhibit, storage, and working areas. “The visiting conservators specialize in taking a comprehensive look at how museums care for their collections,” explained Angela Stanford, curator of collections. “This CAP assessment will help us identify what we are doing well, and what steps we can take for improvement.”

“I am looking forward to receiving the CAP assessment,” added John Mark Nielsen, executive director. “It will help us prepare detailed plans for a proposed Curatorial Center and articulate more clearly reasons for the project to potential donors.” A new Curatorial Center is part of the museum’s Strategic Plan, currently being reviewed by the Board of Directors, and will be critical to the ongoing growth of the museum’s collection and to supporting a more active traveling exhibition program.

Field Trip to Des Moines Museums

On February 17, the Museum's interns, along with Curator of Collections Angela Stanford, traveled to Des Moines. We first visited the State Historical Society of Iowa and received a guided tour of their artifact storage spaces which include the conservation lab where staff and volunteers are working on over 300 battle flags. In the afternoon, we visited the Des Moines Art Center where we received a similar tour and learned about their plans for expanding the museum facilities. The John & Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park in downtown Des Moines was our final stop before returning to Elk Horn. Each of the visits helped to broaden interns' perspectives about the museum field and how most museums work with similar policies and practices, opportunities, and challenges.



Danish Interns Julie Andersen & Bjørg Rasmussen, Angela Stanford, and Collections Assistant Brittany Deeds stand under Nomade sculpture

Baking with Bjørg and Julie – Now on YouTube!

Enjoy a lesson on baking *brunsviger*, a Danish cake with brown sugar topping. Museum interns Bjørg and Julie demonstrate their skills in the kitchen, and lucky museum staffers get to taste-test the results!

Find it on the channel "DanishMuseum" on www.YouTube.com.



Family History & Genealogy Center – also a Research Center!

The Family History & Genealogy Center provides a great service to people like Megan Boggess, a student at the University of Missouri in Columbia, MO. For her senior project in her American Studies class, Megan was researching immigrant women on the Midwest frontier – specifically Scandinavian immigrants – and how their experiences differed from other frontier women because of the added trials of immigration from another country.



Danish Roots, American Branches



Upcoming Genealogy Workshops in Downstate Illinois

Librarian Michele McNabb will offer “Useful Tips and Sources for Danish and Danish-American Research” and “Cyber Genealogy—Danish Style” from 10am-3pm on Saturday, April 30th, 2011, at The Urbana Free Library, 201 S. Race St., Urbana IL. Registration is required and may be done through Parkland College (workshop WCE 302-001). The cost for both sessions is \$30; registration deadline is April 22nd.



Is there a Civil War veteran in your Family Tree? The FHGC is compiling a list of Danish immigrants who served on both the Union and Confederate sides in the American Civil War. If you have a veteran among your ancestors, please tell us about him and what you know about his service! Immigrant Information sheets may be downloaded from the museum website under Library & Genealogy / Danish Immigration.

Museum to be Represented at Rebuild's Annual Meeting

Rebuild National Park Society, Inc., will hold its Annual Meeting in southern California on Wednesday, March 30 through Sunday April 3, 2011. Events include meetings, tours and a Gala Ball at Tom and Valley Knudsen Cultural Center, Yorba Linda, CA.

Museum staff, including John Mark Nielsen, Bruce Bro, Debra Christensen Larsen, and the museum's three scanIdesign Foundation Interns from Denmark, Bjørg Rasmussen, Julie Andersen, and Sara Sjölin (internship shared with Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, WA) will attend. The interns and Larsen will also make a whirlwind trip to Solvang to visit our museum members in that area and a special visit to the Elverhoj Museum of History and Art.

***It's Spring at the
Museum Shop!***



**Dansk Smykkekunst –
Necklaces, Bracelets, Earrings
To order or inquire about these items,
call the gift shop at 800-759-9192.**

Mark Your Calendar: Live and Learn in Scenic Environs

The Danish Immigrant Museum invites and encourages you to attend one or all of these cultural enrichment opportunities in the coming year. Each offers opportunities for intellectual, cultural and spiritual growth in the best tradition of the Danish folk high schools.



June 24-26, 2011 *Danish Cultural Conference* at the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center overlooking the beautiful Columbia River Gorge near Corbett, Oregon. A full conference schedule for 2011 will be available soon at the website of the Northwest Danish Association: www.northwestdanishfoundation.org



August 17-21, 2011 *Fall Folk Meeting at Danebod* in Tyler, Minnesota. A sample of the programming from 2010 gives one an idea of what is being planned for this year. It's available at www.danebodlutheran.org. Click on the "Fall Folk Meeting" under the banner.