



November 2011

## E-News from The Danish Immigrant Museum

### Iowa Great Places Awards Major Grants

The Danish Villages of Elk Horn and Kimballton have been awarded \$175,000 from the Iowa Great Places fund - \$100,000 for the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park (JJPLP) and \$75,000 for the Little Mermaid Trail.

Designated as an "Iowa Great Place" in 2010, this was the first year that money was available and the committees were pleasantly surprised that their grants were approved for the total amount requested.

Work on the JJPLP will begin next spring with the removal of existing drainage tiles, grading for improved amphitheater site, wetland area and elevation transitions. We will also prepare the land for seeding, plantings, and council ring installation.

Phase I of the Little Mermaid Trail, linking Elk Horn and Kimballton, will begin with hard surfacing of the north end of the trail in Kimballton between the ball park and the Little Mermaid Park. The south end of the trail, known as "The Friend's Walk" connecting the museum and Bedstemor's House on College Street, will also be hard surfaced.



### 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](http://www.DanishMuseum.org) to learn more about membership benefits.

## Family History & Genealogy Center Workshop

The Danish Immigrant Museum's Family History and Genealogy Center are hosting a series of workshops February 9-11, 2012 at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Foster City-San Mateo, California. The workshops will appeal to people who have just started with genealogy and also to experienced researchers who are unfamiliar with Danish sources.

There will be five different workshops:

### **Look Before you Cross (the Atlantic)**

A presentation of pitfalls in Danish-American research and intro to US resources.

### **You've Gotten to Denmark-Now What?**

A presentation of key Danish resources.

### **Were they German or Danish?**

An overview over the History Duchy of Schleswig & researching ancestors from there

### **Cyber Genealogy – Danish Style 1**

### **Cyber Genealogy – Danish Style 2**

Hands-on look at the many online resources for Danish genealogy

For more information check our website

<http://www.danishmuseum.org/workshops-and-talks.cfm>

or contact Michele McNabb at [librarian@danishmuseum.org](mailto:librarian@danishmuseum.org)/712-764-7008

## A Whole New World

One of the things that the museum has been working on is exploring the possibilities of digital media. This has resulted in a new category on our website, the Online Medias category. It allows the museum to share more artifacts and stories to an even larger audience. Currently you can explore the past exhibit *Church Basements and Children's Homes* via a massive photo-gallery and text. You can also check "Sampling the Collection" where some of the museum's more unique artifacts are displayed.

The museum also has a video library where you can browse through our many interesting YouTube videos. You can also follow us on Facebook and be kept up to date with all the interesting things that goes on at the museum.

## Danes in American History:

A new YouTube series about Danes or Danish-Americans who somehow played a role in American History is now out on the museum's YouTube channel. The first episode is about Christian Febiger, a Danish immigrant who was an officer during the Revolutionary War. The video feature pictures from the war and the story is narrated by Danish intern, René Christiansen.

The next episode is in the making and is about "The Lone Dane at the Alamo".

## Events for November/December

**November 25:** New exhibit opens: *Faces of Copenhagen*

The opening of the *Faces of Copenhagen: Photographs by Itzick Lev* exhibit coincides with our Julefest. The exhibit is on loan from the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, Washington, and will be on view through February 26, 2012. This collection of portraits reveals modern Copenhagen as a diverse and cosmopolitan city.



**November 25-26:** *Julefest 2011*

Begin celebrating the holiday season at The Danish Immigrant Museum. Julefest is an annual celebration held in the Danish Villages of Elk Horn-Kimballton on the days immediately following Thanksgiving. Both communities will be festively decorated for Christmas.

At the museum we will be teaching Danish crafts such as how to make your own Christmas cards or traditional Danish paper decorations. Refreshments will be available to all. Friday will also be the opening of the new exhibit *Faces of Copenhagen*.

**December 6:** *Brown Bag Lunch: Christmas "hygge"*

Join the Staff for a celebration of Christmas music and stories and the special "hygge" (coziness) that is part of Danish traditions. There will be "Nisse" stories and singing of Danish and American Christmas carols.

## Museum Shop – Ready For Your Christmas Orders!



**2011 Christmas Card**  
\$10.00/pkg of 10  
individual card/envelope \$1.25

To purchase this year's museum collector's Keepsake Ornament and Christmas Card, contact Museum Shop Manager, Joni Soe-Butts, or order [online!](#)



**2011 Porcelain Keepsake Ornament** - \$13.25

## You Can Follow Us From Anywhere!



[www.Danishmuseum.org](http://www.Danishmuseum.org)



**DanishMuseum's channel**