



## E-News from The Danish Immigrant Museum

March 2012

### Opening Soon:

#### *Jens Jensen: Celebrating the Native Prairie*

As the museum creates the 30-acre Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park this year, learn more about the man whose life and career inspired the project! Jens Jensen was a Danish immigrant, a creator of public parks and gardens, and a pioneer in the Prairie School of landscape architecture. He was an early advocate for using native plants in landscape design and preserving open spaces for human enjoyment. Watch the museum's calendar of events for public programs related to Jens Jensen, and ongoing developments of the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park.



Exhibit on view March 24, 2012 through March 8, 2013. A traveling version is also available: contact Tova Brandt at [dkcur@metc.net](mailto:dkcur@metc.net) for more information.

*Supported by a grant from Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities*

Photos courtesy of Chicago Park District Special Collections.

### Brown Bag Lunch Series

This year's Brown Bag Lunch Series is back with a special focus on Jens Jensen, the native landscape, and landscape architecture. All programs begin at 12 noon and are FREE to the public! Bring your own lunch – we'll provide the coffee!

**On March 15**, join us at John Mark Nielsen presents "Jens Jensen as Nature Writer." Though best-known as a landscape designer, Jens Jensen's writings are also an enduring part of his legacy. John Mark Nielsen will discuss Jensen, Aldo Leopold, Henry David Thoreau, and other writers whose words have influenced landscape development and land use.

### Coming Soon in the Brown Bag Lunch Series:

- April 12** Brown Bag Lunch: Anna Mullen, "Can You Dig It? Museum Artifacts from the Land and the Landscape"
- May 17** Brown Bag Lunch: Robert Grese, "Jens Jensen and His Contemporaries in Design"
- June 14** Brown Bag Lunch: William Tishler, "From Denmark to America: The Landscape Legacy of Jens Jensen"

## 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](#).

## Danish Folk Schools in America

Today folk schools are found in many countries and in many versions, but the concept originated in Denmark in the 1840's, the brain child of N.F.S. Grundtvig. Grundtvig developed the idea of a school for the people, *folket*, in contrast to the academic high school, *Latin Skolen*, which was geared towards educating the elite. He was inspired by the ideas that sparked the revolutions and changes in governing that was happening all over the western world. He recognized that a broad based education of the population was the prerequisite for a healthy democracy.

Danish immigrants brought the folk school tradition to America, and some Danish-American communities have continued to embrace the opportunities for lifelong learning and multi-generational activities. [Read more](#) about this tradition on the museum's website, where you will find an article written by Erik Bruun, Gitte Mohr, and Ed Andersen of the Danish American Center in Minneapolis.

## Museum-Sponsored Tour Across Iowa Offered During Tivoli Fest 2012

The Danish Immigrant Museum is planning a tour of area museums and attractions along with participation in Tivoli Fest, the annual Danish Festival in Elk Horn, Iowa in May 2012. A 7-day package is being offered for the week of May 21-27 which includes luxury bus transportation, hotel accommodations, museum and attraction admittance, several meals, an opening night cocktail party, and membership to The Danish Immigrant Museum. Plans include visits to the Strategic Air and Space Museum in Omaha, Living History Farms and Grand View University in Des Moines, The Amana Colonies near Iowa City, The Bridges of Madison County and John Wayne Birthplace Museum near Winterset, and all the Tivoli Fest activities in Elk Horn.

For more information including costs and details please contact Bruce Bro, Museum Development Officer (515-314-2190-cell or [dkdevdir@metc.net](mailto:dkdevdir@metc.net) ) or Mittie Ostergaard, Museum board member (949-770-2663-cell). Click [here](#) for a complete brochure.



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



### **Wanted: Long-Term Lovers!**

Were your Danish immigrant ancestors married for 50 years or longer? If so, we would very much like to have their photographs and stories for this year's FHGC summer photograph exhibit. How did these couples meet and court? What was their marriage like? And did they have a secret to their long lives together? Both marriage and older anniversary photographs are desired. Background information and narratives should accompany the photographs, which may be sent as .jpg files or print copies. A submission form may be found at Library & Genealogy>Photo Gallery or be obtaining by emailing Michele at [librarian@danishmuseum.org](mailto:librarian@danishmuseum.org).

### **Museum Represented on Capitol Hill**

The American Association of Museums sponsored Advocacy Days in Washington DC on February 27th and 28th. Executive Director John Mark Nielsen joined other museum professionals in seeking continued support for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and full deductibility of charitable gifts. He met with members of the Iowa Congressional delegation, including Senator Chuck Grassley and staff members for Senator Tom Harkin and Congressman Steve King. While in Washington, Nielsen also met with Danish Ambassador Peter Taksøe Jensen and Anne Mette Vestergaard, Minister Counselor for Public Diplomacy and Communication.

### **ATTENTION: Danish and Danish-American Artists and Designers**

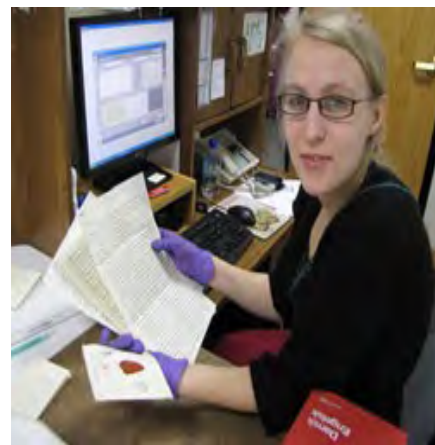
The gift shop is currently looking for new products to bring into the shop. If your artistic talent is glass blowing, pottery, jewelry design, metal work or leans toward modern Danish design, I would like to visit with you! Please contact Joni Soe-Butts, gift shop manager at 800.759.9192.

### **Funded Internship: Scan | Design Foundation by Inger & Jens Bruun, Seattle, WA**

Karen Brøcker, the current Danish intern at The Danish Immigrant Museum, arrived in Elk Horn in early February to begin her five month position in the Collections Department. Karen, a 2011 graduate of Aarhus University, has a Bachelors Degree in Linguistics.

While in Elk Horn, Karen is cataloging an 800+ piece collection of materials referencing Aage and Magda Clement and their daughter Annelise. Aage and Magda each went to work in Japan prior to World War II, met and married, and had their only daughter Annelise in Yokohama. Aage was interred and later "downgraded" to house arrest during the Second War. Following the end of the war, the family immigrated to the United States.

This collection of letters, immigration documents, family photographs, and more are being translated and digitized. Once the collection is completed, it will be accessible online through the Museum's View Our Collection.



## Museum Calendar, March - April

- March 15      Brown Bag Lunch: Executive Director John Mark Nielsen, "Nature Writing"
- March 24      Exhibit Opening Day for *Jens Jensen: Celebrating the Native Prairie*
- March 28      Executive Director John Mark Nielsen speaks at the Danish American Center in Minneapolis, 10:00 am. Visit [www.danebo.com](http://www.danebo.com) for more details.
- April 12      Brown Bag Lunch: Anna Mullen, Collections Assistant, "Can You Dig It? Museum Artifacts from the Land and the Landscape"
- April 21      Artist Reception and Gallery Talk with Mia Furlong  
Spring Open House in the Museum Store
- April 22      Piano Recital by winners of the Victor Borge Legacy Award

## Other Danish-American and Danish Events Coming Soon:

- March 31      The Diplomatic Ball (Ethnic Enrichment Commission) in Kansas City, MO  
Contact [dlarsen1@kc.rr.com](mailto:dlarsen1@kc.rr.com)
- April 25-28      Rebild Society Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL  
<http://www.rebildchicago.org/>
- May 21-27      Museum-Sponsored Bus Tour Across Iowa  
<http://www.danishmuseum.org/tivoli-bus-tour.cfm>
- May 24-27      Danish Canadian National Conference  
Contact [Ostergaard@rogers.com](mailto:Ostergaard@rogers.com)
- June 22-24      Danish Cultural Conference, Corbett, OR  
<http://www.northwestdanishfoundation.org/about-our-foundation/programs/danish-cultural-conference>
- July 3      The Danish Emigration Archives 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Aalborg, Denmark  
Contact [emiarch@emiarch.dk](mailto:emiarch@emiarch.dk)
- July 4      The Rebild Festival, Rebild Hills, Denmark  
<http://www.rebildfesten.dk>
- August 15-19      Danebod Folk Meeting, Tyler, MN  
Contact [r.bly@mchsi.com](mailto:r.bly@mchsi.com) or call 507-247-3000



The Danish Immigrant Museum

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