



## E-News from The Danish Immigrant Museum

### Brown Bag Lunch Series

This year's Brown Bag Lunch Series features 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 May 17**, guest speaker Robert Grese will be at the museum to discuss "Jens Jensen and His Contemporaries in Design". Grese is a professor at the University of Michigan, director of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, and author of the biography, "Jens Jensen: Maker of Natural Parks and Gardens." See the Calendar of Events for additional opportunities to hear his presentation in Ames and Omaha.



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

- June 14 William Tishler, "From Denmark to America: The Landscape Legacy of Jens Jensen"
- July 19 Cynthia McKeen, "A Designer's Perspective on Jens Jensen"
- August 9 Rich Patterson, "What Early Danish Settlers Found in Iowa"

### Did You Know?

Copenhagen's *Tivoli* amusement park is one of biggest and popular in Europe. Actually, it is one of the oldest amusement parks in the world. Once Walt Disney visited *Tivoli* and he was so exited with it that later he decided to make something similar. As a result, he built the famous Disneyland.

**An Invitation For You**

**"The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams."** Celebrate with us as we pursue our dreams by becoming a member of the museum. Your membership support makes possible the museum's many activities. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about membership [benefits](#).

## Copenhagen Gas Lamps Find New Home at Museum



In 1857, the City of Copenhagen erected gas lamps to light the streets through the long winter nights. A hundred years later, some of these lamps were being replaced with electric street lights. Learning of this, Dana College professor Norman C. Bansen wrote to the Lord Mayor suggesting that some of these antique lamps be given to the college to celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1959. Copenhagen responded generously, gifting four gas lamps. One, however, was damaged beyond repair during the trans-Atlantic voyage, but three stood along the sidewalk on the Dana College campus (Blair, Nebraska) until this year.

Professor Norman Bansen served as chairman of the English Department at Dana College from 1958 to 1986. He was also the individual who, along with Thorvald Hansen of Grand View University (Des Moines, Iowa), suggested the creation of The Danish Immigrant Museum. Both of them were charter members of the museum's Board of Directors. To honor the memory of Professor Bansen, Dana College English graduates donated the funds to purchase the Copenhagen gas lamps and to erect them on the sidewalk leading up to The Danish Immigrant Museum. We would like to think that Hans Christian Andersen, who died in 1875, walked under the very lamps that now stand proudly in Elk Horn!



## Tentative Planting Dates – Volunteers Needed!



Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park's progress is "on track". During the month of April, the park underwent extensive dirt work, including grading of existing berms and construction of its first council ring. Country Landscapes, Inc., plans to plant thousands of "plugs" of prairie plant materials on May 30-31. **Volunteers are needed to assist with the planting. No expertise is needed!** Volunteers will be broken into teams and Country Landscape staff will instruct and provide oversight. Please call the museum (800-759-9192) to volunteer and learn the details.



## Digitization of Historic Danish-American Archival Collections Made Possible

The Danish Immigrant Museum is pleased to announce The A.P. Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller Foundation of Copenhagen has awarded the Museum a major grant of \$158,000 to digitize and provide global, on-line access to historic Danish-American archival collections. This is the foundation for the Mærsk Company – the world's largest, privately held shipping company.

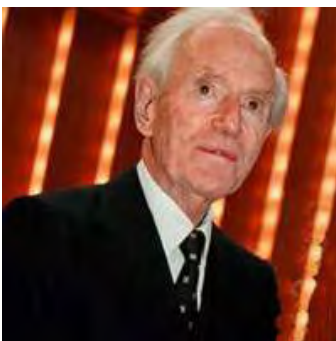
The project, which is the first of three phases, involves digitizing important Danish-American newspapers like *Den Danske Pioneer* and *Bien* as well as a collection assembled by the great Danish heroic tenor, Lauritz Melchior who sang more Wagnerian roles at New York's Metropolitan Opera than any other artist. This 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. Northern Micrographics of La Crosse, WI will oversee the digitizing process.

The Museum is grateful to the A.P. Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller Foundation as this grant represents the largest single gift the Museum has received from a Danish foundation. Ex-officio board member, Nils Jensen of Portland, Oregon was instrumental in working with museum staff to secure this grant.



Museum director John Mark Nielsen (with co-pilot, his son Kaj) sets off with a load of historic Danish-American newspapers to be digitized in La Crosse, WI

## Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller dead at 98



The company that bears his name is one of the world's largest and most successful shipping giants (Photo: Scanpix)

On April 16, AP Moller-Maersk A/S issued a press release announcing the death of Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller, the shipping giant's patriarch.

Møller's daughter, Ane Mærsk Mc-Kinney Uggle, said in the release: "On behalf of the whole family I wish to express our deep sorrow at the loss of our father, grandfather and great grandfather, Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller. We are grateful that our father lived a long and eventful life and that he made a significant mark on our time."

Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller became a partner at A.P. Møller in 1940. Following the death of his father 1965, he became the chief executive officer and chairman of the board of the most significant companies in the AP Moller-Maersk Group. He was CEO until 1993 and remained the chairman of the board of AP Moller-Maersk A/S until 2003.

Thanks to the enormous success of his shipping company and other business ventures, Møller died as Denmark's richest man.

## Tivoli Fest, Annual Danish American Festival in Elk Horn

The Danish Village of Elk Horn is gearing up for its annual celebration, Tivoli Fest, held on May 26 and 27. A sampling of Tivoli Fest events held on Saturday and Sunday include fun run/walk, parade, open-air market, Danish food, live entertainment, Vikings, Danish folk dancing, **Danish and Danish-American crafters giving demonstrations at The Danish Immigrant Museum**, fireworks, and Tour de Tivoli bike ride. Plus a lot more!



Soren A. Larsen of Vidstrup, DK, demonstrating the lost art of making straw shoes

The Danish Immigrant Museum will be open for Tivoli Fest on Saturday from 9am-5pm and Sunday from noon-5pm. In addition to its core exhibit *Across Oceans, Across Time* which documents Danish immigration and Danish-American settlement, the museum is proud to offer the following exhibitions to its visitors: *Jens Jensen: Celebrating the Native Prairie*, *Mia Furlong – Artist with a Danish Spirit*, and a traveling display about The Danish Pioneer.

The Family History & Genealogy Center located on Main Street is open for visitors on Saturday and view the “Long-term Lovers” photo exhibit and the charming Victorian house known as “Bedstemor’s House (Grandmother’s in Danish) open on both Saturday and Sunday, is located at College and Union Streets.

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

### Summer Hours Now in Effect

The museum's Family History & Genealogy Center located on Main Street is now on summer hours. From May to October the Center will be open 9am-5pm Tuesdays through Fridays and 10am-5pm on Saturdays.



## The Museum Shop Has that Perfect Gift



**Mother's Day  
Graduation  
Father's Day  
Wedding**

We have the unique gift for that special person or event.

Visit with shop manager, Joni Soe-Butts, (712-764-7001)

or

shop online at

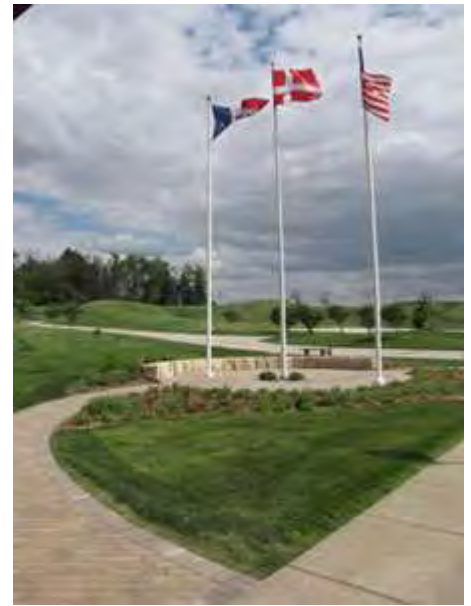
[www.danishmuseum.org/shop.cfm](http://www.danishmuseum.org/shop.cfm)



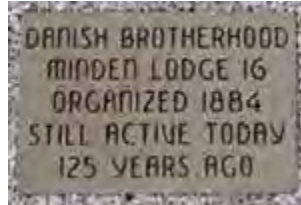
## Engraved Commemorative Bricks Pave Flag Plaza

Just in time for Tivoli Fest (Memorial Day Weekend), a new group of Commemorative Bricks will be engraved for hundreds of visitors who will visit the museum and walk the Jens Jensen Heritage Path and Flag Plaza. The next scheduled engraving will be in place for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Donations for small, medium and large bricks are \$110, \$250, and \$500 respectively. Find more details and an order form on the museum's website, [www.danishmuseum.org](http://www.danishmuseum.org) under the "Support" menu.



Large



Medium



Small

## Where Are America's Best Faux European Villages?

National Geographic's website features many topics, one being Travel & Cultures – Intelligent Travel. Here they highlight places, practices, and people that are on the front lines of sustainable travel—travel that preserves places' essential uniqueness for future generations.

Christopher Elliott is National Geographic Traveler's ombudsman. He blogs about family travel for Intelligent Travel. After visiting three locations in the United States, he posted his article and provides an opportunity to vote for your favorite "faux" European Village. For fun you might want to visit the website and participate in the vote:

<http://intelligenttravel.nationalgeographic.com/2012/04/09/where-are-americas-best-european-villages/>



Helen, Georgia



Solvang, California



Leavenworth, Washington

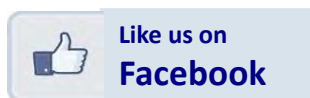
## Museum Calendar, May - July

- May 17 Brown Bag Lunch: Robert Grese, "Jens Jensen and His Contemporaries in Design"
- May 17 Public presentation by Robert Grese, "Jens Jensen and his Contemporaries in Design". Reiman Gardens in Ames, Iowa at 7:00 pm
- May 18 Public presentation by Robert Grese, "Jens Jensen and his Contemporaries in Design". Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha at 7:00 pm
- May 25-28 Book sale: Danish-language and English books for sale in the museum lobby
- May 26-27 Tivoli Fest
- May 28 Memorial Day – Museum open 12-5 pm
- June 3 Piano Recital by winners of the Victor Borge Legacy Award, 2 pm
- June 13 Public presentation by William Tishler, "Shaping American Landscapes: Jens Jensen and the Prairie Spirit." Reiman Gardens in Ames, Iowa at 7:00 pm
- June 14 Brown Bag Lunch: William Tishler, "From Denmark to America: The Landscape Legacy of Jens Jensen."
- June 15 Public presentation by William Tishler, "Shaping American Landscapes: Jens Jensen and the Prairie Spirit." Salisbury House and Gardens in Des Moines, Iowa at 7:00 pm
- June 16 Public presentation by William Tishler, "Shaping American Landscapes: Jens Jensen and the Prairie Spirit." Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, Iowa at 1pm
- June 20 Sankt Hans Aften (Midsummer celebration)
- July 4 Independence Day – Museum open 12-5 pm
- July 8 Final day for exhibition *Mia Furlong: Artist with a Danish Spirit*
- July 19 Brown Bag Lunch: Cynthia McKeen, "A Designer's Perspective on Jens Jensen"
- July 21 Opening day for Danish-American Artist exhibition featuring Neoma Thomas

**You Can Follow Us From Anywhere!**



**The Danish Immigrant Museum**



**DanishMuseum's channel**

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

- May 24-27 Danish Canadian National Conference  
Contact [Ostergaard@rogers.com](mailto:Ostergaard@rogers.com)
- June 22-24 Danish Cultural Conference, Corbett, OR  
[www.northwestdanishfoundation.org/about-our-foundation/programs/danish-cultural-conference](http://www.northwestdanishfoundation.org/about-our-foundation/programs/danish-cultural-conference)
- June 24-30 Himmelbjerget Danish Camp, Menucha Retreat Center in Corbett, Oregon  
[www.nwdanishcamp.com/](http://www.nwdanishcamp.com/)
- 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  
[www.rebildfesten.dk](http://www.rebildfesten.dk)
- June 24-30,  
July 8-14, and  
August 5-11 Summer Family Camps at Danebod, Tyler, MN  
[www.danebod.org](http://www.danebod.org)
- August 15-19 Danebod Folk Meeting, Tyler, MN  
Contact [r.bly@mchsi.com](mailto:r.bly@mchsi.com) or call 507-247-3000
- September 9 33rd Annual Scandinavian Day Festival, Vasa Park, South Elgin, IL  
[www.scandinaviandayil.com](http://www.scandinaviandayil.com)
- September 16-22 Danebo Folk School, Minneapolis, MN  
[www.danebofolkschool.org](http://www.danebofolkschool.org)



The Danish Immigrant Museum is proud to participate in the Blue Star Museum program, a national effort to offer military families free admission to over 1500 U.S. museums. Visit [www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](http://www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums) for more information and a complete list of participating museums.