



museum of danish america

E-NEWS | DECEMBER 2013

INSTALLED: Danish Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Nine pieces of Danish outdoor fitness equipment are now part of the 30-acre Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park surrounding the museum. The Danish-designed powder coated steel equipment is simple and attractive while retaining the basic functions required to train and maintain the body. It can be used by people of all ages and fitness levels. Funding for this project was made possible by grants from the Shelby County Health Foundation, Iowa Great Places, and the Shelby County Community Foundation.

The equipment was purchased from motionUSA, a company that has served the park and recreation industry since 2006 when they began a partnership with Norwell, the Danish manufacturer of the equipment.

Why place fitness equipment in a prairie restoration park?

Jens Jensen (1860-1951), a Danish immigrant, was one of America's greatest landscape designers in the early 20th century. Best known for his designs for the Chicago Park System, Jensen was also an advocate for all people to have access to natural environments and outdoor recreation. He disliked straight lines in park design – and there are no straight lines in the Danish-designed fitness stations!

Photos from Julefest

1: The museum had a successful book and frame sale. **2:** The Museum Shop fulfilled many a Christmas wish this year. **3:** Danish interns Anne Mette and Lotte were getting crafty at the Genealogy Center. **4:** Many festive and educational displays were at the Genealogy Center. Record attendance for all locations!

Brown Bag Lunch Series

Join us for Brown Bag Lunch programs – monthly public programs exploring topics related to Danish history and culture, museum activities, and the Elk Horn community. All programs begin at 12 noon and are FREE to the public, so grab your lunch and enjoy learning something new!

Next program, December 12: “Christmas ”

Join staff for a celebration of the sights, sounds and tastes of Danish holiday traditions. The Brown Bag Lunch Series takes a break in January and February, to resume in March.

See *Danish Modern: Design for Living Before it's Gone!*

Time is running out to see our popular 30th anniversary exhibit! The chairs, lamps, toys, silverware and more will pack up in January to head for the Twin Cities and later Seattle. If you haven't seen the exhibit in person, be sure to purchase a copy of the [exhibition catalog](#) through our Museum Shop.



Sneak Peek of Exhibitions Coming in 2014

Søren Kierkegaard: The Global Dane

On view February 1 – April 13

Schleswig-Holstein: Turmoil on the Danish-German Border

On view February 22 – September 1

Nude Vases, Cubist Faces: Modernism at Rookwood Pottery

On view April 26 – October 19

Danish Children Growing up American

On view September 27 – February 2015



Celebrate Nisser, Gnomes, and Elves at the Petersen House

We hope you will join us for a Danish Christmas Open House at the Niels Petersen House, 1414 W Southern in Tempe, Arizona on Sunday, December 15, from 1 - 4 p.m. See this beautiful 1892 Victorian House built by one of Tempe's founders and earliest Danish residents. This event is sponsored by the Museum of Danish America. The museum's Debra Christensen Larsen and Nicky Christensen will be there serving kringle and cider.



Now Available in the Museum Shop

If the only Danish your child knows is a fruit filled pastry, you can broaden their world view with a set of Danish language blocks. This 27 block set handcrafted from sustainable Michigan basswood features four complete alphabets, numbers, and animal pictures.

27 1.75" cubes (44mm)

Ages 2+

\$39.00

MEMBERS: Don't forget your 10% discount!
Call the Museum Shop to order: (800) 759-9192.

"The Museum of Danish America celebrates Danish roots and American dreams."
Your membership support makes possible the museum's many activities. Help us continue our 30-year legacy of excellence by becoming a member for as little as \$30 per year. Many other giving opportunities are available; please [visit us online](#) to learn more about how to be a part of the preservation of Danish and American cultural experience.



New Book: *Encounter on the Great Plains: Scandinavian Settlers and the Dispossession of Dakota Indians, 1890-1930*

In 1904, the first Scandinavian settlers moved onto the Spirit Lake Dakota Indian Reservation. Norwegian homesteader Helena Haugen Kanten put it plainly: "We stole the land from the Indians." With this largely unknown story at its center, *Encounter on the Great Plains* brings together two dominant processes in American history: the unceasing migration of newcomers to North America, and the protracted dispossession of indigenous peoples who inhabited the continent.

Drawing on fifteen years of archival research and 130 oral histories, Karen V. Hansen explores the epic issues of co-existence between settlers and Indians and the effect of racial hierarchies, both legal and cultural, on marginalized peoples. Hansen offers a wealth of intimate detail about daily lives and community events, showing how both Dakotas and Scandinavians resisted assimilation and used their rights as new citizens to combat attacks on their cultures. In this flowing narrative, women emerge as resourceful agents of their own economic interests. Dakota women gained autonomy in the use of their allotments, while Scandinavian women staked and "proved up" their own claims.

Hansen chronicles the intertwined stories of Dakotas and immigrants-women and men, farmers, domestic servants, and day laborers. Their shared struggles reveal efforts to maintain a language, sustain a culture, and navigate their complex ties to more than one nation. The history of the American West cannot be told without these voices: their long connections, intermittent conflicts, and profound influence over one another defy easy categorization and provide a new perspective on the processes of immigration and land taking.

Museum Calendar, December

[Admission and hours information](#)

December 12	Brown Bag Lunch, "Christmas <i>Hygge</i> "
December 14	Museum staff help celebrate the season at the Petersen House in Tempe, Arizona
December 20	Museum closing at 3 p.m. for staff event
December 24-25	Closing at noon on December 24 to re-open on December 26
Dec 31 – Jan 1	Closing at noon on December 31 to re-open on January 2
January 5	Final day to see <i>Danish Modern: Design for Living</i> before it begins its national tour

Other Upcoming Danish-American and Danish Events

Through January 18	<i>Danish Paintings from the Golden Age to the Modern Breakthrough: Selections from the Collection of Ambassador John L. Loeb Jr.</i> at Scandinavia House, New York City
December 12	Creative Christmas Open House , 2-4 p.m., 3200 Whitenhaven St., Washington D.C. 20008
December 14	Danish Christmas Service 3 p.m. Edison Park Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL
December 14	<i>Julefrokost</i> - Christmas Luncheon, 11 a.m. Social, 12 p.m. Lunch. Danish American Center, Minneapolis, MN. RSVP and payment.
December 14	<i>Julefest</i> 2-4 p.m. Bethany Lutheran Church, Portland, OR
December 15	Children's Christmas Party, 3-6 p.m., Danish American Center, Minneapolis, MN. Sunday Bring a gift with your child's name on it for Santa's bag. No reservations needed.
December 15	Danish American Society Family Christmas Party , 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Aamann's-Copenhagen, Downtown, NYC
December 29	Cedar Valley Danes <i>Julefest</i> , 2-4 p.m. At Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, IA

Museum of Danish America

2212 Washington Street, Elk Horn, IA 51531
T: (712) 764-7001 E: info@danishmuseum.org
www.danishmuseum.org

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