



JULY 2013

E-News from The Danish Immigrant Museum

What's Up at the Museum?

Pergola

A new pergola at the entrance to the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park is the site for an ongoing exhibition about the life, career and legacy of Jens Jensen. Adapted from the museum's recent gallery exhibition, outdoor interpretive panels introduce park visitors to this Danish immigrant and the impact he has had on landscape architecture in America.



Wisconsin

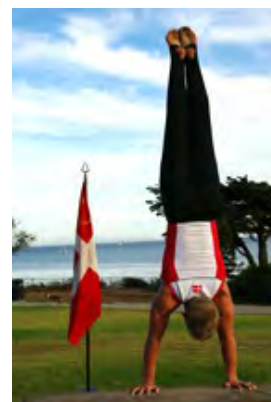
Executive Director John Mark Nielsen traveled to Luck, Wisconsin, to speak at the West Denmark Lutheran Church Family Camp held June 30-July 3. Nielsen described the evolving experience of Danish immigration to the United States and how The Danish Immigrant Museum is telling that story as they seek to work with the widely scattered Danish-American community.

Two museum staff members and two interns will travel to Madison, Wisconsin for the Association of Midwest Museums 2013 conference, "Locally Grown, Community Created" held July 14 -17. Sessions will be held on education, exhibits, collections management, technology, finance and fundraising. The conference offers a chance to learn from other museum professionals, visit several museums in the host city, and come back with new ideas to apply to their work in Elk Horn.

Fun fact: As of Sunday, June 30, 2013 the state pastry of Wisconsin is kringle!

Danish Gymnastics

Elk Horn will be hosting "The Ringsted Boys" traveling Danish gymnastics team on Sunday, July 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton High School. The team will be coming from a stop in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Forty-one team members will be hosted in homes around Elk Horn. The Danish Immigrant Museum is co-sponsoring the event with the [Danish Windmill](#).



3,000 Bicyclists

The *Des Moines Register's* Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa ([RAGBRAI](#)) participants will have the option to loop through the Danish Villages on July 22 between Harlan and Perry on the Karras Loop. The loop adds 24 miles to bring the day's total to 107 miles. Official commemorative patches will be handed out near the southwest corner of the museum between 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. by RAGBRAI staff to registered riders. Nearly 3,000 cyclists can be expected to participate in the loop, including our very own Curator of Collections Angela Stanford!

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, July 11: “Compassion in the Criminal Code: Denmark’s Treatment of Mental Disability”

Jesper Jacobsen, intern from Denmark working at the Family History & Genealogy Center, will share this window into Danish culture from 1866 to the present day. Jesper will present research from his bachelor’s thesis that used the Danish legal system to trace society’s understanding of and response to mental disability.

Upcoming programs:

August 15	Christina Roelofs, Shelby County Naturalist: “Summer in the prairie – What is growing out there?”
October 17	Anne Mette Ravn Nielsen, “New Nordic Cuisine”
November 14	Nathan Buman, Shelby County Historical Society

94th Regular Board of Directors Meeting Held

The museum hosted its 94th regular board meeting in line with the 30th anniversary festivities. Pictured below preceding dinner at Danish Countryside Vines and Wines near Elk Horn, Front Row (L-R) President Dagmar Muthamia, Vice President Garey Knudsen, Secretary Eric Smitsdoff, Treasurer Kenneth Larsen, Executive Director John Mark Nielsen. Middle Row (L-R) Cynthia McKeen, Dorothy Feisel, Anna Thomsen Holliday, Lone Christensen, Cindy Adams, Linda Steffensen. Back Row (L-R) Mittie Ostergaard, Ronald Bro, Jerry Schrader, Kristi Johnson, Tim Burchill, and Erik Andersen.



Photos from the board meeting and 30th anniversary celebration can be found on our [Facebook page](#).

Family History and Genealogy Center Hours

On summer hours at our location on 4210 Main Street: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm; Saturday, 10:00am – 5:00pm. Admission is free for museum members, \$5 non-members. Visitors are always welcome, but if you wish individualized research assistance we strongly urge you to make an appointment via genealogy@danishmuseum.org or call 712.764.7008.

Bedstemor's House Hours

Bedstemor's House is open to the public from 1-4 p.m. from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day at 2105 College Street. Admission is free with regular museum admission (always free for members!). Just this spring museum collections staff and interns have rearranged rooms, the front porch has been repaired, and new windows have been installed to keep Bedstemor's House looking "historic" in the best of ways. The story of Bedstemor's House can be found [here on YouTube](#).

Innovation: The Danish Way

[Register now](#)—the early bird registration discount ends August 1! The Danish-American Heritage Society's upcoming conference, *Innovation: The Danish Way* will take place at the downtown Des Moines Embassy Suites October 10-12.



Ambassador Laurie Fulton to speak

US Ambassador to Denmark, Laurie Fulton, will speak at the banquet Saturday evening. Fulton served as Ambassador from July 2009 through February 2013. She co-founded a bilateral, public-private initiative Green Partnerships for Growth, developing a dedicated network for Danish and U.S. business opportunities in the sectors of green technology and sustainable growth.

Keynote by Søren Hermansen

As the Director of the Energiakademiet (Energy Academy) on the Danish island of Samsø, Hermansen has been a key player in a great social and scientific experiment—the effort to transform Samsø into Denmark's Renewable Energy Island. For his innovative work, Hermansen was named one of the "Heroes of the Environment" by Time magazine in 2008, and in 2009 he won the Gothenborg Award (which some call the Nobel Prize for the Environment).

Find details on the many other great presenters on the [conference website](#).

Activities and Attractions

- Friday afternoon activities including an option to travel to Elk Horn, Iowa for dinner and tours!
- Saturday tour of the Grand View University campus and the Danish Immigrant Archives with Songfest
- Exhibits and shopping

The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams. Your membership support makes possible the museum's many activities. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about membership [benefits](#). Join for as little as \$30/year!

Piet Hein – The Rational Idealist

Article contains text from the [Piet Hein website](#).

He has been called an universalist. In that way a spiritual affinity existed between him and the Renaissance ideal - a modern variant of Leonardo da Vinci. However, contrary to the historical ideals, in Piet Hein's works is found an easily recognizable element whether it is a matter of scientific publications, essays, poetry or architecture. The special Piet Hein touch is the superiority of the form in relation to the objectives, the medium and, for that matter, the contents.

Classic Danish Design

Piet Hein - always in vogue. The first time Piet Hein utilized the super ellipse was in connection with the design of Sergels Torv in Stockholm in 1959. In the years that followed, he toyed with other uses for this harmonic figure, leading to Super Egg, sports arenas, trays, textiles and many other fascinating items.

Available for your Home

In the museum shop we carry Piet Hein's renowned candlesticks, vases, salt and pepper shakers and grinders, bowls, and of course—the Super Egg. In addition to the designs, we have two volumes containing Piet Hein's famous Grooks, his short, insightful poems.



The Grooks

The Grooks first saw the light of day in *Politiken* on April 14, 1940. They were enthusiastically received by the Danish people and subsequently appeared daily in *Politiken's* column 'Just Think'. In 1943, Piet Hein had to 'go underground', his writing being a contributory factor. He traveled to Argentina, but collections of Grooks continued to appear at *Politiken's* printing house.

Find our selection of Piet Hein items, *exclusive to the U.S.*, in our [online shop](#).
As always, museum members receive a 10% shop discount.

LEGO Exhibition in New York

The largest display of LEGO art ever assembled, including several never before seen constructions, Nathan Sawaya's acclaimed exhibition 'The Art of the Brick' has arrived at Times Square! The New York-based artist Sawaya actually worked (for a short time) for LEGO after quitting his day job as a lawyer in 2004. Since then he has built everything from a seven-foot replica of the Brooklyn Bridge to copies of the two lions outside of the New York Public Library on 42nd Street - in LEGO.

"The exhibition reminds us that LEGO constructions are amazing not primarily because of what they are but how they came to be what they are." - New York Times

Through January 5, 2014 | 'The Art of the Brick' | Discovery Times Square, New York



Museum Calendar, July

- Through July 31 Museum exhibition “The Danish Pioneer” on view at the Luck Historical Museum in Luck, Wisconsin
- Through Oct 27 Museum exhibition “Jens Jensen: Celebrating the Native Prairie” on view at the German American Heritage Center in Davenport, Iowa, as part of their “Land and Water / *Land und Wasser*” installation.
- July 11 Brown Bag Lunch, “Compassion in the Criminal Code: Denmark’s Treatment of Mental Disability” by Jesper Jacobsen
- July 14 The Ringsted Boys Danish gymnastics team performance, 7 p.m.
- July 22 Official [RAGBRAI](#) Karras Loop patches distributed at the museum, 7-11 a.m.

Other Upcoming Danish-American and Danish Events, July - September

- July 13 The Ringsted Boys perform in Kenosha, WI
- July 14-20 [Danebod Family Camp](#), Tyler, MN
- July 15 The Ringsted Boys perform in Denver, CO
- July 21 The Ringsted Boys performance at [The Danish Lutheran Church](#), Yorba Linda CA
- August 4-10 [Danebod Folk Camp](#), Tyler, MN
- August 5-9 [Danish day camp](#) for 5-10 year olds in Seattle at Harmony Hall
- August 7 [Danish American Chamber of Commerce New York](#) Stambord, 6-9 p.m.
- August 21-25 Danebod Folk Meeting, Tyler, MN. Registration information [here](#).
- August 25-31 “A Taste of Denmark” at [Danebo Folk School](#)
- September 8 [Scandinavian Day Festival](#) at Vasa Park, South Elgin, IL
- September 15-21 “The Mississippi River” at [Danebo Folk School](#)
- September 20 [Kierkegaard Repetitions](#), Baltimore, MD
- September 20-22 Solvang, CA [Danish Days](#)

Denmark-America Cup (Soccer) in Pennsylvania July 9-21, 2014. Registration is open for boys ages 15 & 16. For more information contact EduTours@aol.com.



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