



# museum of danish america

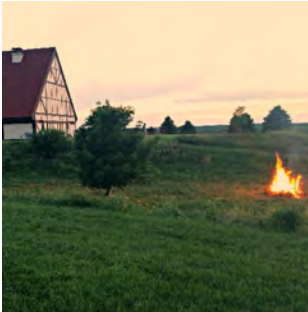
E-NEWS | JULY 2014

## board meeting held in luck, wi



The Museum of Danish America Board of Directors held its 97th regular meeting at the West Denmark Parish Hall on June 14 in Luck, Wisconsin. Seventeen board members were present for the meeting and the coinciding activities. A dinner and a screening of the documentary *Jens Jensen – The Living Green* was held on the evening of Friday, June 13. Around 60 Museum of Danish America members and guests from all across Wisconsin and Minnesota attended. The next board meeting, including the Annual Meeting, will be held October 16-18 in Elk Horn.

## sankt hans aften review



A Sankt Hans Aften celebration was held on the evening of the summer solstice on Saturday, June 21. Over 75 guests enjoyed tours of the museum, Danish-style hot dogs, *ringridning* bicycle jousting, old-time country music, a screening of the documentary *Jens Jensen—The Living Green*, and the bonfire. Musicians and friends stayed into the night roasting s'mores and enjoying the fire in the large stone council ring.

New picnic tables, benches, and trash receptacles were used for the first time at this event. The equipment was purchased for the public's use through the Iowa Great Places grant program.

## green roof



During the week leading up to Sankt Hans Aften, much progress was made on the curatorial center's roof. After the challenge of installing foam insulation in the recent high winds, growing media, rocks, and other elements of the living roof were set in place. This medium, consisting of sand, pebbles, dirt, and compost, will sustain many varieties of plants, all of which will be described on information signs scattered throughout the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park. Later in the week and throughout the weekend native plants arrived and a crew diligently set to work planting and watering the new greenery. Progress on the roof can be safely and closely viewed from inside the museum through a window in the west hall.

## america letter



From our recent survey to members, we know that our *America Letter* newsletter publication is highly regarded by those who receive it. The newsletter is a benefit of membership to the museum. To become a member or to give the gift of membership to someone so that they too may enjoy the in-depth articles, please visit our website at <http://bit.ly/becomeamodamember>. Look for the summer edition in late July!



## brown bag lunch

### A GLIMPSE OF MARITIME DENMARK

July 24 | Wendy Rahbek Thomsen

Wendy works at a language and immigration center in Denmark, specializing in teaching Danish as a second language to adults. She lives near the sea outside of Copenhagen and sails in her leisure time. (Want to learn more about Denmark and Danish language? Stay for Wendy's workshop, "Denmark Without a Passport" – see below for more information.)

### UPCOMING BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAMS

August 14 | Ken Johnston, *Was Peter Lassen America's Most Famous Dane? And Why?*

Ken Johnston previously worked as a park ranger at Lassen Volcanic National Park, where he developed a living history program on Peter Lassen. In the 1840s Lassen pioneered the Lassen Trail to California, over which one-third of the 1849 Gold Rush Argonauts traveled.



## denmark without a passport

**Instructor:** Wendy Rahbek Thomsen

**Dates:** Friday and Saturday, July 25 – 26

**Cost:** \$50 for museum members, \$75 for non-members

Are you preparing for a trip to Denmark? Or do you wish you were?

Come to Elk Horn and immerse yourself in an introduction to Danish culture – learn a bit of everyday Danish language, trace Danish history from the Vikings to today, eat Danish food and enjoy Danish film.

### ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Your guide for this Danish experience is Wendy Rahbek Thomsen, who lives in a thatched house near the sea in the countryside around Copenhagen. She is trained as a language instructor and currently works at a language and immigration center. She has been teaching and counseling for many years, specializing in Danish as a second language for adults. Wendy is educated in Anthropology and Turkish Language and Culture at the University of Copenhagen. In her leisure time she likes to sail, read and work in the garden – and of course she enjoys learning about different cultures.

***Space is limited and pre-registration is required – contact Tova Brandt to reserve your place: [curator@danishmuseum.org](mailto:curator@danishmuseum.org) or 712-764-7001.***



## dinner & a movie | A ROYAL AFFAIR

Friday, July 25 | 6:00 Dinner, 7:30 Film

Danish Countryside Vines & Wines

\$20 for dinner and film

A gripping tale of brave idealists who risk everything in their pursuit of freedom for the people, but above all it is the story of a passionate and forbidden romance that changed an entire nation. Oscar-nominated film (2012) in Danish with English subtitles. Rated R, running time 132 minutes.

***Reservations required by July 22. Call Tova Brandt at 712-746-7001 or email [curator@danishmuseum.org](mailto:curator@danishmuseum.org).***



## danish canadians

Did you know that our neighbor to the north has over 40 active Danish associations ranging from Victoria, British Columbia to New Brunswick? And that Canada also has a national Danish museum? The latter, located in the midst of a beautiful park-like setting in Spruce View, Alberta, is open from Victoria Day (the Monday preceding May 25<sup>th</sup>) through Labor Day. Many Danish-American families have relatives who migrated to the Prairie Provinces. You can learn about Danish settlement in Canada at the museum's website [www.danishcanadians.com](http://www.danishcanadians.com).

The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada's 33<sup>rd</sup> annual conference was held at The Westin Hotel in Ottawa from May 22 – 25, 2014 and was attended by Genealogy Center Librarian and Manager Michele McNabb. The Conference was hosted by The Danish Club of Ottawa. Vancouver will host the Danish Canadian Conference in 2015.



## veterans of '64 exhibit

The Genealogy Center's summer photo exhibit, **Veterans of '64**, will be on display in the Genealogy Center lobby through the end of October. In addition to photographs and accounts of soldiers who served in the war or whose families were affected by the conflict and its aftermath, the display has a listing of the names of nearly 1,400 immigrants who were veterans and still living 50 years afterward. If you would like to add a veteran or additional information to our files, a form may be downloaded from the museum website. See Library & Genealogy > Photo Gallery.

## resources on our website

New on our website are indexes to the membership records of the three Danish Brotherhood lodges in Canada. You can find them under Library & Genealogy > Danish Brotherhood & Sisterhood.



## NEW! mugs & watches in the museum shop

Look cool while keeping your beverage warm. Matte black exterior and glossy white interior. Holds a full 12 fluid ounces! The new MoDA Cafe Mug won't burn your hand or your wallet at **just \$7!**

**Danish Design Watches** are famous for their simple, elegant and non-obstructive designs at a very affordable price. Men's and women's watches shown here start at \$175. Call for details.

Place your order by calling (712) 764-7001 or e-mailing [giftshop@danishmuseum.org](mailto:giftshop@danishmuseum.org)  
**As always, don't forget your 10% member discount.**





## curatorial center

The interior of the curatorial center continues to develop into recognizable spaces. The dry wall is up, mudded, and sanded. A few walls have now been primed and will be ready for paint soon. The HVAC systems and ducting are nearing completion, and we will complete the compact storage units, doors, hallway carpeting, and other finishes in the next several weeks.

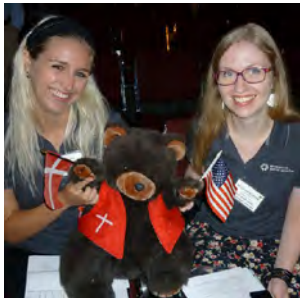
A Grand Opening is being planned to coincide with the Annual Meeting in October.



## hoover's hometown days

Take some time with the family and come out to West Branch, Iowa on August 2 for a fun day of crafts, vendors, food and heritage. We are excited to again have a presence with staff and interns providing a visual taste of museum activities – including a LEGO play area. The festival's eastern Iowa location is held on the National Park grounds of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library & Museum, currently exhibiting "America's First Ladies."

Over a century ago, many Danish immigrants risked their lives and meager possessions to build new lives from this area's rich black soil. Today the West Branch area is still home to their brave descendents; many of whom are members of the Museum of Danish America. We look forward to welcoming everyone!



## danish interns visit pacific northwest

On June 17 the current Danish interns, Helle Christensen and Sofie Nielsen, traveled to Seattle where they met with the Scan|Design Foundation that sponsors their internship. Among other things they also went to the Nordic Heritage Museum, the EMP Museum and on an Underground Tour where they experienced the underground of Seattle.

On June 20 they drove to the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center near Portland to attend the Danish Cultural Conference sponsored by the Northwest Danish Association. Here they gave a presentation about the Museum of Danish America and what it has been like to be interns there, showed the film *Jens Jensen--The Living Green* and Sofie gave a presentation about daily life in 1864.



## in the galleries

***Nude Vases, Cubist Faces: Modernism at Rookwood Pottery*** is open on the main floor gallery until October 19. This exhibit will be on view at the [Dubuque Museum of Art](#) from December 13, 2014 - March 1, 2015.

***Schleswig-Holstein: Turmoil on the Danish-German Border*** is open in The Kramme Gallery (mezzanine level) until September 1. This exhibit will be on view at the [German American Heritage Center](#) from September 27 - December 31.

***Across Oceans, Across Time***, our permanent exhibition, shares the story of early Danish immigrants to the United States.

## visitor hours

Monday-Friday 9 am – 5 pm; Saturday 10 am – 5 pm; Sunday Noon – 5 pm  
Independence Day hours: Noon to 5 p.m.

### **GENEALOGY CENTER | 4210 Main Street, PO Box 249**

May-October: Tuesday-Friday 9 am – 5 pm; Saturdays 10 am – 5 pm

### **BEDSTEMOR'S HOUSE | 2105 College Street**

Open daily Memorial Day – Labor Day  
1 pm – 4 pm

## upcoming museum events

- July 4 Museum open Noon to 5 p.m.
- July 24 Brown Bag Lunch: A Glimpse of Maritime Denmark
- July 25 Dinner and a Movie: A Royal Affair at Danish Countryside Vines & Wines
- July 25-26 Denmark without a Passport Workshop
- July 29 Iowa Dept. of Cultural Affairs community meeting at the museum, noon

## other upcoming danish-american & danish events

- Thru July 3 *Danish Gymnastics in America* exhibit at the West Denmark Lutheran Church Family Camp, Luck, WI.
- Thru July 31 *Schleswig-Holstein: Turmoil on the Danish-German Border* exhibit at the Luck Historical Society, Luck, WI.
- June 28-29 Hjemkomst Festival 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Moorhead, MN. If you're attending the festival, drop by and *hils på os* or attend one of the 4 sessions Michele will give about Sleuthing in Slesvig and Online Danish Resources.
- July 2 [Stambord](#) 6-10 pm at Asellina/La Taverna Bar at the Gansevoort Hotel in New York, NY.
- July 4 [Rebildfest](#) in Rebild, Denmark.
- July 4-Sept 1 [BIG Maze](#) at the National Building Museum, Washinton D.C.
- July 25-Aug 2 Physical Theatre Festival in Chicago with a Danish touch - "Next Door" by [Out of Balanz](#) at Links Hall.
- July 25-Aug 21 *Happy Danes on the Plains* exhibit at the Danebod Folk School, Tyler, MN.
- August 2 Museum of Danish America booth at Hoover's Hometown Days in West Branch, Iowa.
- August 9 Museum of Danish America booth at AtlanticFest, Atlantic, Iowa.