



museum of danish america

E-NEWS | JUNE 2014

tivoli fest review



Sixteen contestants tried their luck and skill at the “Ringridning” bicycle competition during Tivoli Fest, and six were rewarded for their impressive displays of accuracy.

Winners in the 4-7 year old age group were

- King: Turner Juelsgaard
- Crown Prince: Jakob Morris
- Princess: Lucy Juelsgaard

Winners in the 8-12 year old age group were

- King: Truman Juelsgaard
- Crown Princess: Mollie Rasmussen
- Princess: Deanna Evans



Also part of the competition was a prize for the Best Decorated Bicycle, as determined by a panel of judges. With many festive touches including red and white paper streamers interwoven between the spokes of her tires and along the bicycle’s frame, several Danish flags, and red and white playing cards on the spokes, Mollie Rasmussen received this award for her spirited efforts.

Prizes included cash and LEGO lunch boxes, water bottles, and storage pieces from the Museum Shop. All participants enjoyed ice cream cones in the favorable weather after their attempts.



Ringridning is a traditional Danish sport most alive in Sønderborg in Southern Denmark. Sønderborg is home to Sønderborg Castle which likely began as a fortified tower constructed by in 1158. Like knights in medieval times, ringridning lets competitors participate in a jousting-like activity where riders (on bicycles, in this instance) charge down an alley through the “gallows” and aim to spear a small metal ring on a lance. Riders are given four tries, with the ring becoming progressively smaller. Each ring is worth a certain amount of points, and the rider with the most points wins.

Due to the success and popularity of the event, the museum is holding a similar competition for both children and adults at Sankt Hans Aften on Saturday, June 21.

OTHER TIVOLI FEST ACTIVITIES

Attendance was over-the-top for all aspects of Tivoli Fest, aided by the great weather. Free admission at the museum, Genealogy Center, and Bedstemor’s House was well-received.



The interns were active in Tivoli Fest this year participating in the parade, ringridning, front desk duties, and Tivoli Feud. A previous Danish intern, Anne Mette, even made it back with her family to help with all of the fun! The interns placed second in the Tivoli Feud competition.



schleswig-holstein immigration to iowa

PRESENTATION BY BILL ROBA, Ph.D

Prof. William Roba, Scott Community College, took his M. A. in European History at Cornell University and his Ph. D. in American Studies at the University of Iowa. He began researching German-Iowan history and literature in the early 1980s and has continued this specialization with publication of three books and numerous essays/articles. He is currently President of the Society for German-American Studies and joined the American Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society when it was formed.

Two opportunities to hear this lecture on Thursday, June 19

Noon, Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, Iowa, part of the Brown Bag Lunch Series

7pm, Schleswig Public Library, Schleswig, Iowa

This lecture is presented in conjunction with the museum's exhibition "Schleswig-Holstein: Turmoil on the Danish-German Border." The exhibit and public programs are supported by a grant from Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

UPCOMING BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAMS

July 24 | Wendy Rahbek Thomsen, *A Glimpse of Maritime Denmark*

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.)

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

Kenneth 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.

new learning opportunity: denmark without a passport!

Friday and Saturday, July 25 – 26 | Instructor: Wendy Rahbek Thomsen

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. A detailed schedule will be available soon.

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 or 712-764-7001.





group tours

UPCOMING TOUR INCLUDES BOARD OF DANISH CROWN

'Tis the season when the tour buses start showing up! We are overjoyed to have many tours scheduled this month and into the summer. From buses to family reunions, we are happy to host group visits.

As part of a study tour, a visit has been scheduled by 17 members of the Board of Directors of [Danish Crown](#), the largest meat company in Denmark and Europe's largest pork producer. On June 5, visiting board members will be treated to a tour by Executive Director John Mark Nielsen and Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish American Culture Tova Brandt, followed by a coffee and kringle reception in the Bro Dining Room.

A local deli meat and bacon facility, Plumrose in Council Bluffs, Iowa, is a subsidiary of Danish Crown.

If you would like to plan a group outing to the museum, Bedstemor's House, Genealogy Center, or a combination of these, please feel free to contact Kathy Pellegrini, Administrative Assistant, to help plan your trip. Don't forget the many picnic areas in the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park as part of your experience. We look forward to seeing you soon! 712.764.7001.



fun-filled sankt hans aften celebration planned

EVENT INCLUDES SHOWING OF "JENS JENSEN THE LIVING GREEN" DOCUMENTARY

Sankt Hans Aften (St. John's Eve) is the annual summer solstice event that has been celebrated since the times of the Vikings. Although it is traditionally held on June 23 in Denmark, the Museum of Danish America marks the occasion annually on a Saturday. This year, the celebration will occur on Saturday, June 21 at the museum.

The atmosphere of friends gathering together makes this one *hyggeligt* (cozy) event. You do not have to be Scandinavian to join in the fun!

- 6 p.m.** A roast-your-own hot dog meal will be available for a free will donation beginning at 6 p.m. in the large Council Ring and will be available throughout the evening as supplies last. Danish-style toppings will be provided.
- 7 p.m.** Ringridning on bicycles for kids and adults – BYOB (Bring Your Own Bicycle). This event was such a hit at Tivoli Fest that it will be continued for children AND adults at Sankt Hans Aften.
- 7:30 p.m.** Showing of the new documentary film "Jens Jensen The Living Green" about the park's namesake who rose from street sweeper to "dean of landscape architects" to pioneering conservationist. The film will be shown inside the museum in the Bro Dining Room. Find out more about this award-winning film at <http://www.jensjensenthelivinggreen.com>

Then, have your chairs and blankets handy for:

- 8 p.m.** Live old-time country music for maximum *hygge*.
- Around 9 p.m.** Sunset marks the beginning of the traditional Sankt Hans Aften bonfire.

All elements of this celebration are "Free Will Donation" to the Museum of Danish America.

This year's event is also sponsored by the Danish Brotherhood in America Lodge #15 (Des Moines, Iowa), Marne Elk Horn Telephone Company, Shelby County State Bank, and the Heartland Chapter of the Rebild National Park Society. *Mange tak!*



june board meeting to be held in luck, wi

The museum's Board of Directors will hold its 97th regular meeting June 12 – 14 in Luck, Wisconsin. Meetings will be held at the West Denmark Lutheran Church located on the shore of Little Butternut Lake. On Friday evening the museum will host members of the community to a showing of the film "Jens Jensen: The Living Green" and a picnic supper. The historic grounds and buildings offer insight into the life and legacy of the community of immigrants from Denmark who settled here. The congregation was founded in 1873; three churches have been built on the site since 1900. The historic site is also home to a gym hall / *forsamlingshus* that features an upper level with exhibits tracing the history of the community. A "Dane School" is also located nearby. The board and staff are very much looking forward to meeting members of the Luck community in June!



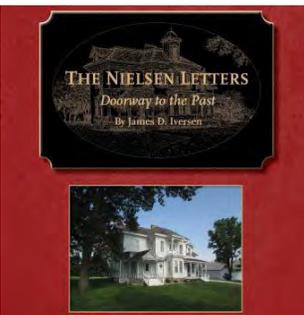
victor borge legacy award recital held

Two winners of the Victor Borge Legacy Award performed on the Museum of Danish America's Victor Borge piano on Sunday, June 1. Katie Payne (Woodbine, IA) and Moriah Hellstrom (Omaha, NE) each played classical solo pieces that highlighted their musical accomplishments, ranging from Bach to Beethoven to contemporary American composers.

As a special finale, Moriah Hellstrom and her mother, Kathy Hellstrom, performed a duet by Randall Compton which was dedicated to Victor Borge by the composer. Weaving together "Chopsticks" with familiar elements of Borge's best-loved routines, this duet featured mother and daughter pushing each other off the piano bench (in the best style of Borge himself) while delivering a high-energy musical flourish. A standing ovation immediately greeted the duo after their final notes.

The performance on the Borge piano was particularly meaningful for three generations of the Borge family attending the recital: Borge's daughter, Janet Borge Crowle; granddaughter, Jennifer; and great-granddaughter Meghan. Janet Borge Crowle and her husband, R. James Crowle have provided financial support for the Victor Borge Legacy Award since it started in 2012.

Pianist Glenn Henriksen of Armstrong, IA, gave an impromptu performance near the end of the post-recital reception at the request of Janet Borge Crowle. Henriksen included Victor Borge's great-granddaughter Meghan in part of the act.



the nielsen letters: doorway to the past

Christian and Anna Nielsen immigrated to Franklin County, Iowa in 1905 and purchased the Harriman acreage in 1920. They and their two daughters, Petrea and Nielsine lived on the Harriman acreage until Nielsine's death in 2001.

Nielsine willed the estate to the Franklin County Historical Society. Volunteers found more than 2,000 letters and many other documents and photographs on the estate dating from the 1890s to 1999, more than 100 years. *The Nielsen Letters* by James Iversen tells the story of the Nielsen family through this fascinating and historically important collection.

A book signing will be held at the Harriman-Nielsen Historic Farm near Hampton, Iowa on June 22 from 2-4 p.m. with live music from pianist Glenn Henriksen at 2:30 p.m.



curatorial center update

The Curatorial Center is a completely solid structure! Mid-April saw the final step in this process – the concrete roof deck. About 26 concrete trucks were needed to complete the roof in one single-day pour. Once this was finished, the interior began to change dramatically. Metal studs outline the rooms and doorframes are in place, electrical conduit and much of the sprinkler system is in, many of the heating and cooling units are installed, and even the windows are in for the offices. The next several weeks will be filled with lots of action as walls and floors are finished, lights are installed, and mobile storage units move in. Stay tuned for more updates!



intern presents at heritage house

American intern Madeline gave a presentation about the Museum to 30 Heritage House residents in Atlantic, Iowa at the end of May. She discussed current exhibits and programming, the new curatorial center addition, and the intern program.

Both Danish and American interns often give presentations to the public and at our Brown Bag Lunch program. You can follow the adventures of our interns on their blog at danishmuseuminterns.tumblr.com.

museum shop

How to be Danish has been flying off the shelves! At just \$16 (not including the membership discount), it is a great introduction to contemporary Denmark. [Get your copy today!](#)

NEW! MOUTH-BLOWN GLASS “BIRDY” CARAFES

SMALL | Purple | 16.9 fl oz | \$43

LARGE | Turquoise or Grey | 25.3 fl oz | \$47

Place your order by calling (712) 764-7001 or e-mailing giftshop@danishmuseum.org

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.

upcoming museum events

- June 5 Visit to the museum by Board Members of Danish Crown
- June 9 Atlantic, Iowa Friends of the Museum meeting at the museum
- June 12-14 Museum Board Meeting in Luck, WI
- June 19 Brown Bag Lunch Program: “Schleswig-Holstein Immigration to Iowa”
- June 21 Sankt Hans Aften beginning at 6 p.m.



other upcoming danish-american & danish events

- June 5 Living Loving Nordic Design, 6 p.m. at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, WA.
- June 7 Danish Constitution Day at the Danish Home in Croton-on-Hudson, NY.
- June 7 Grundlovsfest in [Dannebrog, NE.](#)
- June 8 Danish Day at Seneca Lake State Park, Route 5 & 20, in Geneva, NY.
- June 8, 15, 22 Scandinavian Music Festival at Billings Lawn in Fort Tryon Park in New York at 2p.m.
- June 14 Nordic Singers at The Carter Center, 453 Freedom Pkwy, Atlanta, GA. 6 p.m.
- June 19 Public lecture: Schleswig-Holstein Immigration to Iowa, 7 p.m. at the Public Library in Schleswig, IA.
- June 20 Smørrebrød luncheon, 1 pm. at 855 New Durham Road, Edison, NJ.
- June 20-22 Danish Cultural Conference at Menucha in Corbett, OR.
- June 21 Nordic Singers at 7:30 p.m. at the Minnehaha Academy Theatre, North Campus, 3100 West River Parkway in Minneapolis, MN.
- June 21 Sankt Hans Aften by the Danish American Chamber of Commerce Georgia, 5 p.m. at 165 Seville Chase, Sandy Springs, GA.
- June 21 Sankt Hans Aften/BBQ, The Danish American Club, CA.
- June 21 Sankt Hans Midsommer Celebration at Vlasik Park in Ballwin, MO.
- June 21 Danish film "In A Better World" (English subtitles), 1:30 p.m. at The Scandinavian Cultural Center, 206 Waltham Street, West Newton, MA.
- June 21 Scandinavian Midsommer Festival Omaha 1-6 p.m. Elmwood Park Pavilion, 802 S 60th Street, Omaha, NE.
- June 21 Scandinavian Park "Midsommar Celebration" at Vasa Park, South Elgin, IL.
- June 22 Annual Summer Festival and Fundraiser at The Danish Home, 5656 N. Newcastle Avenue, Chicago, IL.
- June 22 Book signing of [The Nielsen Letters](#), 2-4 p.m. Live music , 2:30 p.m. at the Harriman-Nielsen Historic Farm near Hampton, IA.
- June 22 Craft School: Nordic Beer Tasting and Drinking Songs, 6 p.m. at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, WA.
- June 22-25 Summer camp at Danish Church Yorba Linda, CA.
- June 24-29 Nordic Jazz Festival in Washington, D.C.
- June 28-29 Hjemkomst Festival 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Moorhead, MN **featuring a Museum of Danish America exhibit and booth!**
- July 4 [Rebildfest](#) in Rebild, Denmark.