



# museum of danish america

E-NEWS | MAY 2014



## tivoli fest | MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

[View the full event schedule online at danishvillages.com](http://danishvillages.com)

**NEW FOR KIDS:** On the east lawn of the museum enjoy *ringridning*, a traditional competition that is most alive in Southern Jutland. *Ringridning* is typically performed on horseback, however, our kid-friendly version will be performed on bicycles. The rider who lances the most and smallest rings wins the competition. Prizes will be awarded in two different age categories (4-7 and 8-12) and for the Overall Best Decorated Bicycle. Free registration begins at noon on Saturday, May 24. The competition will start at 1:30 p.m. Ice cream for all participants!



## danish modern exhibit opens at the nordic heritage museum in seattle

The Ant, Peacock and Artichoke are heading west and can be enjoyed at the [Nordic Heritage Museum](#) from May 16 through August 31. The public is invited to a gallery talk by Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish American Culture Tova Brandt on Sunday, May 18 at 1 p.m. Museum of Danish America members in the Pacific Northwest will be receiving additional information about the Members' Preview on May 15, at which Museum of Danish America Executive Director Dr. John Mark Nielsen will be present.



## kierkegaard exhibit opens at the danish american center in minneapolis

Danish intern Sofie and American intern Madeline recently delivered the traveling exhibit *Søren Kierkegaard: The Global Dane* to the [Danish American Center](#) (DAC) in Minneapolis, MN. The exhibit opens at DAC May 22 and will be on view through June. The opening reception will feature a performance by Claus Damgaard, a Kierkegaard performer from Denmark who is currently a resident scholar at the Hong Kierkegaard Library at St. Olaf College.

While in Minneapolis, Sofie and Madeline visited the American Swedish Institute, the Mill City Museum, and went to a Twins game at Target Field. They also attended The Festival of Nations in St. Paul. They thank DAC for hosting them during their stay, and Erik Bruun of DAC.

On a side note, the interns bumped into current board member Cynthia McKeen at the American Swedish Institute, where a selection of her paper cutting artwork is on display. In addition, they also spoke with past board member Consul Anelise Sawkins at The Festival of Nations while she was working at the Danish cuisine booth. Small world!



## remembering the schleswig war of 1864: a turning point in danish and german national identity

### SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS IN IOWA

Julie Allen, associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, presents this exploration of the legacy of the Second Schleswig War, which concluded 150 years ago this spring. Offered in conjunction with the exhibit *Schleswig-Holstein: Turmoil on the Danish-German Border*, this program will be held in three different locations in Iowa:

#### Thursday, May 15

12 noon at the Museum of Danish America, as part of the Brown Bag Lunch Series  
7pm at the German Hausbarn in Manning

#### Friday, May 16

2pm at Grand View University, in the Rodholm Room on the second floor of the Humphrey Center (Old Main)

This program and the exhibition is supported by a grant from Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities.



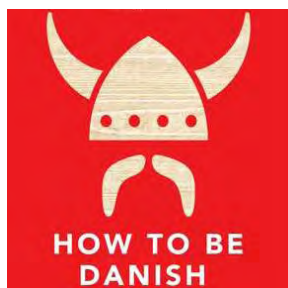
## a decade of kindergarten visits

Thanks to a very exceptional teacher, for nearly a decade the local kindergarten class has been making special visits to the museum several times during each school year. This month marks the retirement of beloved Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton teacher Deborah Madsen. Her current kindergarten students will accompany her to the museum on May 14 for a special “thank you” visit. Through the years, Development Manager Debra Christensen Larsen has led these tours infused with games, storytelling, films, exhibits and of course, homemade treats. To the children’s delight, many times Larsen receives assistance from the current Danish interns. Next week intern Sofie Krøgh Nielsen will teach the young pupils an outdoor Danish game or two (weather permitting) and a special “secret” contest will be held.

We have been blessed with many visits by school children this year. We are actively developing new programming for children's education. [Recent research](#) found that children who visited a museum during kindergarten had higher achievement scores in reading, mathematics, and science than children who did not.

All of us here at the Museum of Danish America say **thank you** to teacher Deb Madsen for enlightening her students with a museum experience. Wishing you all the best for your retirement!

**PHOTO:** *Teacher Madsen (left) along with her students listen to a trunk program presented by a former Danish intern.*



## new book in the museum shop: how to be danish

Patrick Kingsley, a journalist for the *Guardian*, has created a series of cultural essays that is part reportage, part travelogue. [How to be Danish](#) is an introduction to contemporary Danish culture that spans television, food, design, architecture, politics, and race. The New York Times said it was “fascinating”. It was a travel book of the month at The Sunday Times, who called it “eloquent and inquiring”. The lovely books blog BookBag judged it “so interesting that you’re likely to want to run through it in one go.”

Just \$16! [ Don't forget your 10% [member](#) discount! ] Place your order [online](#), by phone 800.759.9192 or by e-mail to [giftshop@danishmuseum.org](mailto:giftshop@danishmuseum.org).



## june board meeting to be held in luck, wi

The museum's Board of Directors will hold its 97<sup>th</sup> 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!



## group tours picking up

'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.

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.



## victor borge legacy award recital held

Two winners of the third Victor Borge Legacy Award performed for the public on the stormy afternoon of Sunday, April 27 at the Museum of Danish America. The program was opened with remarks by Dr. John Mark Nielsen, Executive Director of the museum. Dr. Nielsen also read a letter from Janet Borge Crowle, daughter of the late Danish pianist, comedian, and conductor for which the contest is named. Borge's first piano is part of the museum's collection, having been given to the museum by Borge.

Emily Umphreys of Council Bluffs, Iowa, winner in the Southwest Iowa region performed Sonata in F Major, Hob. XVI:23 L:38 by Joseph Haydn, Impromptu Op. 90 No. 1, D.899 by Franz Schubert, and "General Lavine" – Eccentric by Claude Debussy. Emily Zhang of Omaha, Nebraska, winner in the Omaha region performed Sonata Op. 31, No. 2 in D Minor (first movement) by Ludwig van Beethoven, Nocturne No. 1 in C Major by Jackson Berkey, and Sonatine (II and III movement) by Maurice Ravel.

Cash prizes were awarded after the performances, followed by concluding remarks and a reception for the performers and audience members. **The public is invited to enjoy the recital of the two second-place winners on Sunday, June 1 at 2 p.m.**

The award winners were selected in piano competitions organized by the Southwest Iowa Music Teachers Association and the Omaha Music Teachers Association. Each competitor performed multiple piano solo works in front of a judge, and winners also prepared a written essay about Borge's legacy. The Victor Borge Legacy Award is organized by the Museum of Danish America and funded by R. James and Janet Borge Crowle of Saint Michaels, Maryland, with additional support from the Eric and Joan Norgaard Trust.

**PHOTO:** *Emily Umphreys, winner in the Southwest Iowa region, Dr. John Mark Nielsen, Executive Director of the Museum of Danish America, and Emily Zhang, winner in the Omaha region, pose for a photograph following the recital on Sunday, April 27.*

alvin saunders johnson (1874-1971)

**HUMANITARIAN – EDUCATOR - ECONOMIST**

On May 30, 2014, John Mark Nielsen will participate in the induction of Alvin Saunders Johnson



## mcnabb to present at the federation of danish associations in canada conference

On Friday, May 23, Genealogy Center Manager and Librarian Michele McNabb will present at the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada's Danish Canadian Conference, hosted by the Danish Club of Ottawa in Ontario, Canada. The 33<sup>rd</sup> Danish Canadian Conference theme is "Getting Involved." McNabb will speak about the museum and services regarding family history and genealogy.



## volunteer banquet held may 5

The annual Volunteer Banquet was held on May 5 at the Danish Inn to recognize volunteers for the outstanding work they did for the Museum of Danish America in 2013.

Recognized at the banquet were Nancy Sand who has cumulatively volunteered 119 hours for the Genealogy Center; Lene Sepstrup – 187 hours for the Genealogy Center; June Haas – 865 hours for the Genealogy Center; Suzanne Rasmussen – 1,264 hours for the Genealogy Center; Jeanette Lillehoj – 2,000 hours for the museum and Genealogy Center; and Rosa Clemesen – 2,121 hours for the museum.

Volunteers are permanently recognized on a display board inside the museum after completing 1,000 hours. A gold star is engraved under their name after 1,000 more hours have been completed.



## volunteers needed

The Genealogy Center has volunteers throughout the U.S. who clip obituaries of Danish immigrants or descendants from their local newspapers for our files. However, we need input from the states of **Washington** and **Oregon** as well as **northern California** and the **San Diego** and **metro Washington DC** areas. If you are one of those individuals who turn to this part of your newspaper first, we need you! Online newspaper citations, funeral announcements and obituary cards are also desired. For further information contact Michele (librarian@danishmuseum.org).

The Genealogy Center is also looking for a local volunteer to assist with organizing incoming obituaries one or two half-days a week. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Genealogy Center family, please drop by or call Michele at 712.764.7008. Training and coffee will be provided.



## 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.



## staff and interns visit lincoln museums

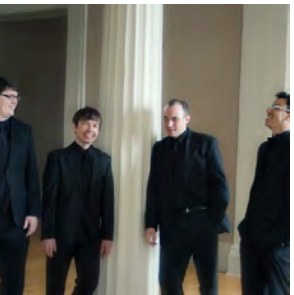
On Friday, April 25, interns Maddie, Sofie, and Helle traveled with Curator of Collections & Registrar Angela Stanford to Lincoln, Nebraska to visit two University of Nebraska museums. Their first stop was the Sheldon Art Museum where their guide was Natalie Smith, former intern at the Museum of Danish America. The afternoon was spent at the International Quilt Study Center and Museum. At both venues, they received behind the scenes tours of collections storage and work areas and were able to visit with staff about how each institution cares for and develops their collections.

**PHOTO:** *The group paused for a photo op next to "Fragment X/O" by Juan Hamilton on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.*



## scholarship for study in denmark

The Upper Midwest Rebuild Scholarship Corporation 501(c)3 is pleased to announce that applications for the 2014 scholarship award are now being accepted through June 15, 2014. The award will help support a semester of study (Fall 2014 or Spring 2015) at a Danish university or college by a student of Danish background or who has demonstrated a strong interest and commitment to Denmark and Danish related matters. The application and instructions are available online at [www.umrsc.org](http://www.umrsc.org) or [dansklegat.org](http://dansklegat.org). The Upper Midwest Chapter of the Rebuild National Park Society is a primary supporter of the corporation. If you would like to learn more about the scholarship corporation please send an email to [info@umrsc.org](mailto:info@umrsc.org) or contact Carla Sorensen at 850.994.2414/952.215.2931.



## ephawk quartet to perform in elk horn

The EpHawk Quartet, a group of graduate students from the University of Iowa, will be giving a free concert on Wednesday, May 21 at 7 p.m. at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church, 4313 Main Street. A reception with light refreshments, hosted by the Museum of Danish America, will be held at the church at 6 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Performers include Thiago Ancelmo, clarinet, Sasha Burdin, piano, Andrew Gentzsch, violin, and Tom Maples, cello. The program includes works by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750), Claude Debussy (1862–1918), Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827), Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924), and the Quartet for the End of Time by Olivier Messiaen (1908–1992).



## upcoming museum events

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|-----------|--|
| May 15    | Brown Bag Lunch: "Remembering the Schleswig War of 1864: A Turning Point in German and Danish National Identity." Free at noon.  |
| May 21    | EpHawk Quartet at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church. Free, 7 p.m.   |
| May 24-25 | Tivoli Fest. Free admission to the museum, Genealogy Center, and Bedstemor's House. <a href="#">See all the events here.</a>   |
| May 26    | From Memorial Day to Labor Day, admission is FREE for all active duty, National Guard and Reserve military personnel and their families through the Blue Star Museums program! |
| June 1    | Piano recital by winners of the Victor Borge Legacy Award. 2 p.m.  |
| June 9    | Atlantic, Iowa Friends of the Museum meeting at the museum   |



## other upcoming danish-american & danish events

- Until May 25 *Papercut!* Psaligraphy (papercutting) of Danish-Norwegian artist Karen Bit Vejle at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, MN.
- May 10 Grand Finale of the Eurovision Song Contest in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Eurovision Song Contest is an annual song competition held among the member countries of the European Broadcasting Union. The show is one of the longest-running in the world. The contest is taking place in Copenhagen following Emmelie de Forest's win (*left*) in the 2013 contest. [Watch online](#). 2 p.m. Central Time
- May 10 Danish-American pianist Glen Henriksen performs at the Danish American Center in Minneapolis, MN. 7:30 p.m.
- May 16-Aug 31 *Danish Modern: Design for Living* at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, WA. Exhibit developed by the Museum of Danish America.
- May 17 Æbleskiver brunch by the Danish American Historical Society of California, Fresno. Contact [dahscfresno@gmail.com](mailto:dahscfresno@gmail.com)
- May 18 Art of Sandwich Making, Danish Club of Tucson at Streams In the Desert Lutheran Church at 5 p.m.
- May 18 Author Dr. Martha Aas will speak about her book *Threads of Hope: Caring for Babies Across Three Continents* at 3 p.m. at the Danish American Center in Minneapolis, MN. Her memoir traces the story of a woman doctor, a Danish immigrant, and of her work in northern Minnesota and in Cameroon in Africa.
- May 19 Dwight Lamb with Jensen & Bugge Concert at [Danish Countryside Vines & Wines](#), Elk Horn, IA. 7 p.m.
- May 22-25 Federation of Danish Associations in Canada's Danish Canadian Conference, hosted by the Danish Club of Ottawa.
- May 22-Jun 22 Opening Reception for *Søren Kierkegaard: The Global Dane* exhibit at the Danish American Center, 7 p.m. Featuring a performance by Danish Kierkegaard interpreter and communicator Claus Damgaard.
- May 26 Danish Toubadour Flemming Behrend performs at the Northwest Folklife Festival in Seattle, WA 1:30-2 p.m.
- June 1 Grundlovsfest in La Habra Heights, CA
- June 7 Grundlovsfest in [Dannebrog, NE](#)



### **Museum of Danish America**

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