



# museum of danish america

E-NEWS | OCTOBER 2014



## curatorial center grand opening

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18** | 2-4 p.m.

It's (finally) complete! A celebration honoring the construction of the Curatorial Center and the generosity of the many donors, bequest gifts, and foundations that made it happen will occur on Saturday, October 18, 2014 from 2-4 p.m.

The recently completed 8,000-square-foot curatorial addition now houses many of the museum's largest and most fragile artifacts. The new space also features areas for staff, interns, and volunteers to do what they do best.

A program will be held from 2-2:30 p.m, followed by appetizers and libations. Admission to the museum will be waived for everyone that day in honor of the opening. Plan to explore the exhibits *Danish Children Growing Up American*, *Nude Vases*, *Cubist Faces: Modernism at Rookwood Pottery*, *Exploring Danish Happiness*, and *Across Oceans, Across Time*.

The grand opening coincides with the museum's 31st Annual Meeting and 98th Regular Board Meeting in Elk Horn. The 25-member board includes regional representation from throughout the United States.

With the exception of gallery space at the entrance to the Curatorial Center on the museum's lowest level, the addition will not normally be accessible to the public unless by appointment. The new gallery space will be used as a multimedia room with features made possible through contributions by members of the Board of Directors in honor of Executive Director Dr. John Mark Nielsen and wife, Dawn.

New landscaping at the museum's main entrance is expected to be completed prior to the opening celebration. The design incorporates the existing curving landscape features and integrates a pathway to the green roof, where visitors can walk atop the structure and find information about the roof and plants.

Visitors to the museum will also notice new interpretive signage around the 30-acre site. The durable outdoor signs provide context and explanation for the many features of the park including the council rings, rose meadow, outdoor fitness equipment, and native plants. Community members and tourists are encouraged to use this privately-owned park responsibly at their leisure.

**We look forward to celebrating with you!**



## brown bag lunch programs

**Programs begin at 12 noon in the Bro Dining Room and are FREE to the public. Bring your own lunch – we'll provide the coffee!**

### **October 16** | *Dr. Panum and Measles on the Faroe Islands*

Craig Molgaard is a Professor and Chair of the School of Public and Community Health Sciences at the University of Montana, as well as a member of the Museum of Danish America's board of directors. His interest in public health and epidemiology led him to learn about Dr. Panum, a 19<sup>th</sup> century Danish physician who pioneered methods of observation and documentation in the study of disease.

### **November 13** | *Growing Up Bi-culturally*

Wanda Sornson grew up in the Danish-American community of Audubon, Iowa, and spent much of her career as an educator on a Navajo reservation. How do these experiences of childhood compare?

### **November 20** | *Fredericia – The Capitol of Denmark?*

Marianne Frøsig Sorensen is a Danish graduate intern at the museum. She will present a virtual tour of Fredericia, a planned city in Denmark with a unique history.

### **December 11** | *Christmas Hygge*

Join museum staff for a celebration of Danish holiday traditions.



## happy danes on the plains

### **AN INTERNATIONAL TRAVELING EXHIBITION**

The Museum of Danish America is proud to present the American version of “Grundtvig på prærien – danske indvandremiljøer i USA,” an exhibition organized by the Skanderborg Museum and currently touring Danish museums. This exhibit explores the history of Danish-American communities that were organized with the goal of preserving Danish heritage in America, inspired by Danish theologian N.F.S. Grundtvig. Now translated into English, the exhibit is traveling this country, especially visiting the communities that comprise its story.

#### **Where can you see the exhibit?**

- Danish Lutheran Church – Yorba Linda, CA      Nov. 30, 2014 – Jan. 25, 2015
- Elverhoj Museum – Solvang, CA      February-March, 2015
- Racine Heritage Museum – Racine, WI      June 2015
- Luck Historical Society - Luck, WI      July 2015
- Museum of Danish America – Elk Horn, IA      November 2015
- Columbia Hall – Dannebrog, NE      June 2016

## danish brotherhood project wraps up

A decade-long collaborative project between the Genealogy Center and the Danish American Archive & Library (DAAL) in Blair, Nebraska, is coming to an end! Thanks to hundreds of hours of work by volunteers and staff at both institutions, both locations now have indexes to the membership registers of all but 4 of the 339 Danish Brotherhood lodges formed prior to 1975. The Danish Brotherhood records are an important source of information about the origins of nearly 85,000 Danish immigrant men. Information about what the membership registers contain and how to obtain copies of individual records may be found [here](#). And coming soon, a new index to Danish Brotherhood members who died prior to 1916 to join our existing Danish Brotherhood Death Index, 1916-1995. **If anyone knows the location of the membership registers for New Denmark, WI (#13), Pelican Lake, WI (#27), Rutland, WI (#23), or Burlington, IA (#24), we would like to talk to you!**



## in the galleries

***Danish Children Growing Up American*** has opened in The Kramme Gallery (mezzanine level) and will run until April 4. Organized by the [Danish American Archive & Library](#) in Blair, Nebraska, this exhibit presents photographs of Danish immigrant children at play, at school, and in all facets of early 20th century life. The photographs are accompanied by children's toys, clothing, and furniture from our collection for a celebration of childhood.

***Nude Vases, Cubist Faces: Modernism at Rookwood Pottery*** is open in the main floor gallery until November 9. This exhibit will be on view at the [Dubuque Museum of Art](#) from December 13, 2014 - March 1, 2015. [Museum members](#): read an essay by the guest curator, Annemarie Sawkins, Ph.D, in the summer edition of the *America Letter*, beginning on page 28.

***Exploring Danish Happiness*** will be open in the new multimedia room on the lower level until April 30.

***Across Oceans, Across Time***, our permanent exhibition on the lower and main levels, shares the story of early Danish immigrants to the United States.

***Veterans of '64*** may be viewed in the Genealogy Center lobby through the end of October.



## danish immigrant wall of honor

The Danish Immigrant Wall of Honor provides families and friends with a means of preserving the memory of those who immigrated to America from Denmark. Over 4,250 immigrants are recognized on this memory wall to date. Their stories and the stories of their families are now preserved forever in the archives of the museum and the Genealogy Center.

An index of the immigrant names currently appearing on the Wall of Honor plaques is [available on our website](#). The list is updated through October 1, 2014. The immigrants' names are in alphabetical order.

You, too, can memorialize your name or an ancestor's by adding your name or their names to the Wall. To register names, please submit your contribution of \$250 per name and this [Wall of Honor form](#).

## dane cook

Long-time museum members Svend and Grethe Petersen of Bloomington, Minnesota, are about to be famous! Grethe's superb Danish cooking will be featured on the Cooking Channel's series "My Grandmother's Ravioli." It will first air on October 15. Traditional fare will be featured, and there are rumors of a "Pancake Balls of Fury" scene!

## wanted: volunteers

The Genealogy Center is looking for several individuals to join the volunteer staff to do data entry and proofreading of special project databases. A familiarity with Excel and/or photo editing, an ability to pay attention to detail, and a commitment to work 3-4 hours a week are the necessary requirements. For further details contact Michele at 712.764.7008.



## museum shop catalog released

The pages of the annual shop catalog are ready for you and your friends and family to browse! Check it out today on [Issuu.com](http://Issuu.com)!

## university of iowa videos to feature danish intern

Marianne Frøsig Sorensen, one of the current Danish graduate interns, will be doing some cooking soon, and it will all be filmed and produced by the University of Iowa Museums for their upcoming Iowa Foodways exhibit! University of Iowa staff will travel here to do the filming, editing, and production of the films. Both of our museums will then have the right to share the final products.

## visitor hours

Monday-Friday 9 am – 5 pm; Saturday 10 am – 5 pm; Sunday Noon – 5 pm

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

May – October: Tuesday-Friday 9am – 5 pm; Saturday 10 am – 4 pm

November – April: Tuesday-Friday 10 am – 4 pm

## upcoming museum events

October 16 Brown Bag Lunch: *Dr. Panum and Measles in the Faroe Islands*, Noon.

October 16-18 Board of Directors Regular Meeting and Annual Meeting, Elk Horn, IA.

October 18 FREE admission in honor of the Curatorial Center's Grand Opening!

October 18 Curatorial Center Grand Opening, 2-4 p.m.

November 9 *Nude Vases, Cubist Faces: Modernism at Rookwood Pottery* Closes.

## other upcoming danish-american & danish events

October Family History Month.

October 12 Genealogy Workshop: "Schleswig-Holstein, The Danish Angle" at the German American Heritage Center in Davenport, Iowa.

October 16 Frikadeller Dinner at the Danish Seamen's Church in New York, 6 pm.

October 19 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15 Æbleskiver Brunch at Luther Memorial Fellowship Hall in Des Moines, IA. 10:30 am – 1 pm.

November 1 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15's *Det Danske Kolde Bord* at Knudsen Hall, Grand View University, Des Moines, IA.

November 8 Scandinavian Christmas Bazaar, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. 10 am – 2 pm.

November 20 [Denmark's national dish announced.](#)