

# museum of danish america

**E-NEWS** | APRIL 2015



## exhibit opening: *skål! scandinavian spirits*

PRESENTED BY AALBORG & LINIE AQUAVITS

April 25 - October 25

The new national traveling exhibition developed by our museum, “Skål! Scandinavian Spirits,” will open here in Elk Horn on Saturday, April 25. The exhibit is an exploration of the history of beer and aquavit in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden and the drinking traditions of Scandinavian-American communities. Thanks to the generosity of presenting sponsors Aalborg and Linie Aquavits, several special opening events are planned.

On **Friday, April 24** a Members’ Preview will be held from 4-6 pm in conjunction with the [Rebild National Park Society’s Annual Meeting](#) events. Following welcome remarks at 4:15 pm, appetizers, libations, and aquavit tastings will be enjoyed.

### SCHEDULE FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Free admission and the Design Store’s Spring Open House\*: **10 am - 5 pm**

Gallery Talk: **1 pm**

Refreshments: **1 pm - 4 pm**

Lecture “Aquavit Then and Now - A Taste of Nordic Heritage” by Aalborg and Linie Aquavit representatives from their Norwegian headquarters, followed by a guided tasting: **2 pm**

*\*Pop a balloon to receive a bonus Design Store discount, while balloons last!*

### EXHIBITION CATALOG AVAILABLE

The 100-page, full color exhibition catalog featuring exhibit content, essays, and recipes is expected to be published just prior to the exhibit’s opening and can be preordered for \$19.95 + shipping. Members receive a 10% discount. Call the shop to order: 800.759.9192.

**In the Omaha area?** Don’t miss an appearance by exhibition curator Tova Brandt on KMTV’s Morning Blend talk show on **Thursday, April 23** at 9 am!

## rebild national park society annual meeting

OMAHA & THE DANISH VILLAGES | April 22-25

The Rebild National Park Society’s Annual Membership Meeting for 2015 will be hosted in Omaha, NE, gateway to the heart of the Midwest and the American city with the highest number of Danish descendants (according to the 2000 U.S. Census).

The museum is cohosting with the Heartland Chapter of the society. There will be tours, luncheons, meetings and a gala dinner. [Click here for the event schedule.](#)





## victor borge legacy award piano recitals

BRO DINING ROOM | April 26

The public is invited to enjoy the sounds of four talented young musicians as they perform on Victor Borge's first piano on **Sunday, April 26** at 2 pm. A reception will follow.

This is the fourth year of the Victor Borge Legacy Award, a program organized by the museum and funded by R. James and Janet Borge Crowle of Saint Michaels, Maryland, with additional support from the Eric and Joan Norgaard Trust. The Victor Borge Legacy Award is designed to encourage young pianists in the Omaha and Southwest Iowa regions while honoring the Danish immigrant musician and comedian.

The 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 have also prepared a written essay about the legacy of Victor Borge.

### **This year's winners are:**

Jonathan Vusich of Sutton, Nebraska

Katie Payne of Woodbine, Iowa

Anna Reelfs of Council Bluffs, Iowa

Jonathan Herman of Cambridge, Iowa



## 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! Videos from a few past presentations, including March's presentation "Confirmation: Coming of Age in Denmark and the U.S.," can be [found on YouTube](#).

### **APR 16**

#### **Community Conversation**

Museum staff invite you to learn about and contribute to the museum's next strategic plan for the years 2016-2020.

### **MAY 14**

#### **Coal Mining in Iowa**

While not as familiar in Southwest Iowa, coal mining is part of the history of this state. Doug Wilson will share the story of this little known part of Iowa industry.



## curator's choice: art from the permanent collection

ON VIEW THROUGH MAY 10

What are some of the past favorites and new treasures in the museum's art collection? Enjoy works by Danish and Danish-American artists – paintings, prints, sculptures, and more!

*At left: "Jesus the Light of the World" stone bust by Gutzon Borglum. Borglum's most recognizable work is Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. Borglum, born March 25, 1867, was the son of Danish immigrant parents.*



## golden immigrants

Only three weeks left to include information on your Danish immigrant relative who lived for a century or more! We would like to include their photo and life information in our upcoming summer photo exhibit at the Genealogy Center. A [submission form](#) may be downloaded from our website. **Entry deadline is April 17.** Past exhibits are archived [on our website](#).

## new databases available at the genealogy center

We are happy to announce that we've added two new databases to our current in-house resources. These will be nice additions to our digitized Danish newspapers:  
Proquest Obituaries (from major newspapers from 1851 on)  
Newspaper Archive (full-text issues of newspapers from the upper Midwest and Plains states)



## danish cedar falls: the immigrant experience

The first known Danish immigrants arrived in Cedar Falls, Iowa in 1855, and by 1871, Danish immigrants made up ten percent of the city's population. Cedar Falls quickly became the second largest Danish community in Iowa, after Elk Horn. The Cedar Falls Historical Society has opened an exhibit called "Danish Cedar Falls: The Immigrant Experience" that will run through **December 6**. Visit the exhibit to discover how Danes shaped Cedar Falls through their traditions, businesses, churches, and civic organizations. From folk tales to needlework, several programs are scheduled to complement the exhibit. [Click here for the program guide](#).

### PRESENTATIONS BY OUR GENEALOGY CENTER'S MICHELE MCNABB

In connection with the exhibit, Genealogy Center Manager and Librarian Michele McNabb will be giving two presentations in Cedar Falls on **Wednesday, April 29**:

- 10 - 11:30 am Cedar Falls Public Library ([www.cedar-falls.lib.ia.us](http://www.cedar-falls.lib.ia.us))  
"Searching for Danes in Iowa Sources"
- 2 pm Cedar Falls Historical Society ([www.cfhistory.org](http://www.cfhistory.org))  
"From Denmark to America: The Immigration Experience"



## danish modern: design for living at the figge

Iconic examples of 20th-century Danish furniture design are on display at the [Figge Art Museum](#) in Davenport, Iowa **through June 21**. Museum of Danish America Executive Director, John Mark Nielsen, and the exhibition's curator, Tova Brandt, hosted a talk and tour on April 2.

## help wanted

The Genealogy Center is looking for several individuals to join our dedicated volunteer staff interested in doing 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 *at the Genealogy Center* are the necessary requirements. [Contact Michele](#).

## æbleskiver brunch

Des Moines' Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15 is holding an æbleskiver brunch on Sunday, **April 12** at Luther Memorial Fellowship Hall from 10:30 am - 1 pm. Æbleskiver will be served with sausage, applesauce, fruit salad, juice, and coffee. Cost is \$6 adults and \$4 children/students.

## danish capital of texas fun run

This 3rd Annual 5K Fun Run on April 18 in Danevang, TX will benefit Danevang's [Danish Heritage Preservation Society and Museum](#). The one-mile Children's & Family Run/Walk will start at 8:30 am followed by the 5K at 9:15 am.



## staff travels and other museum news

On the evening of **April 7**, the museum will be hosting key individuals from the three-county area of Audubon, Cass and Shelby counties for a strategic planning and brainstorming session as we prepare our 2016-2020 strategic plan.

On **April 9**, we will host the Elk Horn Volunteer Fire Department for a walk-through of the building to familiarize the department with infrastructure changes both in the museum and the new Curatorial Center. The museum will also present the department with a check in appreciation for its services, including its prescribed burns of our prairie park.

On **April 18**, Executive Director John Mark Nielsen and wife Dawn will represent the museum board and staff at the 40th anniversary banquet of the Central Iowa Associates of the [American Scandinavian Foundation](#). John Mark will bring greetings from the museum and share with them news of our coming exhibit, *Skål! Scandinavian Spirits*. He will also acknowledge ASF's generous support for this exhibit.

On **May 2 and 3**, John Mark will be attending the meeting of the [Danish American Heritage Society](#) in Chicago. John Mark and former museum board member Jim Iversen are the museum's representatives on the DAHS board. The meeting will be held at the hotel which will host the October 2017 DAHS Conference.

From **May 15 - 25**, John Mark will be in Denmark and will be a keynote speaker at a conference hosted by Aalborg University.

Interns at the Museum of Danish America keep a blog about their experiences at [danishmuseuminterns.tumblr.com](http://danishmuseuminterns.tumblr.com).



## documentary about modern danish immigrants

Today there are over 100,000 first generation Danish immigrants living in the U.S. and approximately 1,500,000 Danish-Americans who can trace their ancestral roots directly back to Denmark. Danish journalist Kim Aronson ([Danes.TV](#)) and his American wife Rosy are making a documentary about Danes in the U.S. Catalyzed by the Danish Parliament's decision in December 2014 to allow dual citizenship, the film will follow Kim as he wrestles with his own decision to apply for American citizenship and embarks on a soul-searching journey to connect with other members of the "Danish tribe."

"To Be or Not To Be... (an American)" will be the first full-length documentary film to tell the story of modern Danes and their life in the U.S. Danes that move to the U.S. today experience an entirely different, multicultural society than the one experienced by the early Danish immigrants who came to the U.S. 100 years ago. Still, these modern immigrants have one thing in common with their ancestors: a deep desire to maintain their Danish culture, customs and connection.

The Aronsons are raising funds for the film through a Kickstarter campaign. The project will only be funded if at least \$35,000 is pledged by **April 22** at 11 am. [Check out the trailer on the Kickstarter page to get a sense of the story.](#)



## earth day events to honor jens jensen

For Earth Day on **April 22**, get to know Jens Jensen (1860-1951), a Danish immigrant landscape architect with an interesting history. Jens Jensen arrived penniless to Chicago in 1885 when it was a fast-growing city teeming with urban squalor. Jensen joined world-famous architects Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan and played a big part in the city planning of the “new” Chicago. He was known for his passionate battles with Chicago’s political bosses over the city’s future. Today, Jensen is hailed as a pioneer of sustainable design and is known as the “Dean” of prairie-style landscape architecture.

### GRAND REOPENING AT JENSEN’S GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY

The Garfield Park Conservatory in Chicago is recognized as one of the largest and most impressive conservatories in the United States. Four years (and \$15.5 million) after hail shattered more than half of the glass roofs on the Jensen-designed conservatory, it will reopen its renovated greenhouses with a celebration on April 22. The Show House has been redesigned to follow the original layout of the room, as it was configured when the Conservatory first opened in 1908.

[More information and history about Garfield Park.](#)

### CELEBRATION AT THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Join a screening of the documentary “Jens Jensen: The Living Green” and a panel discussion to explore Jensen’s work and its relevance for today’s urban environmental issues at the New York Botanical Garden’s Ross Lecture Hall on April 22 from 6:30-8:30 pm. The Consul General, Ambassador Jarl Frijs-Madsen, will be attending to speak on the occasion. [Register here.](#)

### VISIT THE JENS JENSEN PRAIRIE LANDSCAPE PARK

The Museum of Danish America’s 30-acre site has been developed into a prairie recreation park featuring design principles of Jensen, such as native plants and council rings. A pergola exhibit shares the tale of Jensen’s life and philosophies.



## the elusive prairie

IOWA HUMANITIES FESTIVAL | April 10-11 in Des Moines

The 3rd Annual Iowa Humanities Festival welcomes Iowans to explore significant themes through the lens of the academic and public humanities. Join in exploring this year’s theme, The Elusive Prairie, from the perspective of the arts, biology, ecology, history, languages, literature, performance, philosophy, and religion, with presenters from Iowa colleges, universities, museums, libraries, and archives. A \$10 admission includes the reading and reception Friday, a choice of sessions throughout the day on Saturday, a box lunch, and a closing reception. [Details here.](#)



## danish ‘slow food’ in sacramento

On **April 6** at 6 pm the Danish Consulate in Sacramento (One Capitol Mall Suite 670) is hosting a demonstration and talk with Danish cookbook author and Slow Food International Councilor Katrine Klinken and University of the Pacific food historian Professor Ken Albala. Klinken is a cookbook author and food craftsperson who believes in good, clean, and fair food for all. She will demonstrate delicious food preparation that builds on Danish traditions, employs modern twists, is beautiful, and is accessible to the modern cook with limited time. In addition to learning about and enjoying these treats, attendees will hear about the state of food in Denmark, informed by Ken Albala’s historic perspective as a preeminent food historians. \$20, limited to 40 attendees – [Purchase tickets and reserve a spot for this event.](#)



## mads men performance in california

Mads Tolling is an internationally renowned violinist, composer, and two-time Grammy Award-Winner. Born in Copenhagen, Denmark, he moved to the U.S. at the age of 20 to pursue jazz. As a former nine-year member of both the Turtle Island Quartet and the Stanley Clarke Band, Mads has spent most of his professional life touring internationally. Bringing together some of the hottest instrumentalists around, Mads Tolling has assembled the ultimate show of instrumental strength: Mads Men. In Mads Men, Tolling takes the audience on an auditory exploration, inspired by the revolutionary sounds of the 1950s and 60s. Mads Men will perform **Saturday, April 11** at 8 pm at Rhythmix Cultural Works in Alameda, CA. Cost is \$20 in advance, \$25 day of show, and \$35 for reserved seating and the meet-the-artist reception after the show.



## danish artist jeppe hein making splash in nyc

In a new gallery exhibition at 303 Gallery in New York City, Danish artist Jeppe Hein invites visitors to being spiritual state and more aware of their own body and mind. Jeppe Hein is known for his adventurous art of labyrinths, mirrors, benches and playful rooms that urge the audience to take part in his art and explore it with their own bodies. The exhibition “All We Need is Inside” will run from **April 16 - May 30**.

Also in May, Hein is installing a number of his site-specific and interactive art pieces in Brooklyn Bridge Park. The project is a unique collaboration between Jeppe Hein and The Public Art Fund. Water fountains, a maze of mirrors, and colorful benches in different shapes are being planned. The pieces, called “Please Touch the Art,” are expected to be in place through April 2016.



## new danish american chamber of commerce establishing in arizona

Keld Jensen and Torben Riise, Phoenix-area Danes and businessmen, have taken the initiative to start a Danish American Chamber of Commerce in the Phoenix area. The Chamber will be a forum for business people with an interest in Denmark; the Chamber will organize a monthly event with a high-level and relevant speaker at a central facility. An inaugural event is tentatively scheduled for the second half of April. If you want to be on the Chamber mailing list, contact Torben (pictured) at [torben.riise@gmail.com](mailto:torben.riise@gmail.com).



## danish canadian conference

The annual national Danish Canadian Conference will be held at the Inn at Westminster Quay in New Westminster, B.C., overlooking the Fraser River, from **May 21 - 24**. The host is The Danish House Society, Burnaby. The theme of the Conference is “Keeping Traditions Alive”. The Conference, which is open to everyone, is an opportunity to meet Danes from across Canada, to network, to exchange ideas and experiences, and to socialize and have fun. For more information contact Ed Kuhlman at [kuhlman@shaw.ca](mailto:kuhlman@shaw.ca).

## fiddle camp with renowned danish instructor

The West Denmark Fiddle School will be held on the shores of Little Butternut Lake near Luck, WI on **June 14-18**. Harald Haugaard’s West Denmark Fiddle School is modeled after Harald’s extremely popular fiddle school in Breklum, Germany. In a beautiful setting, fiddlers are encouraged to explore their own musical expression and potential in a supportive environment. [More information here.](#)



## university exhibit features danish cooking videos

The University of Iowa’s Old Capitol Museum in Iowa City, Iowa just opened an exhibit called “The Land Provides: Iowa’s Culinary Heritage.” The exhibit showcases a range of objects that relate to cooking and agriculture in Iowa’s early years of statehood, with a distinctly immigrant perspective. Last October, a representative from the Old Capitol Museum filmed former Museum of Danish America Intern Marianne Frøsig Sørensen preparing a number of traditional Danish dishes in Elk Horn. Sørensen is trained as a chef and describes herself as a “foodie.” She prepared bread, meats, salads, condiments, sandwiches, and desserts for the camera. The exhibit will run through **August 1**, but those not able to see it in person can view the video footage online at <http://bit.ly/landprovides>.



## exhibit about danish architecture in dc

On the heels of its summer blockbuster BIG Maze, the Danish-founded design firm BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group) returns to the National Building Museum with a behind-the-scenes look at its creative process. The exhibition, “HOT TO COLD: an odyssey of architectural adaptation,” is open until **August 30** and takes visitors from the hottest to the coldest parts of our planet and explores how BIG’s design solutions are shaped by their cultural and climatic contexts. More than 60 three-dimensional models will be suspended at the second-floor balconies of the museum’s historic Great Hall.



## join us for tivoli fest

ELK HORN, IOWA | May 23-24

We have quite a number of fun and interesting things planned for this annual Memorial Day Weekend festival in the Danish Villages! Here are some of the activities that will be going on under our umbrella:

### BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS

Curator-led tours of artifact storage on Saturday only, including the new Curatorial Center. Sign up at the front desk. *Space is limited.* Tours begin at 10 am and 3 pm.

### EXHIBITS

Enjoy free admission to see the following exhibits. Details about each are available on our website.

- Skål! Scandinavian Spirits
- Contemporary Stained Glass and Mosaics
- Sense of Place
- Across Oceans, Across Time

### MADSEN SEATING AREA RIBBON CUTTING

A ribbon cutting will be held in the museum lobby on Saturday to unveil a new seating area in honor of long-time museum volunteer Earl Madsen and late wife Annabelle – a tribute from their daughters, Carolyn Larson and Kim Williams. The space features authentic Danish Modern furniture from the mid-20th century.

### PLAY BREAK AND SHOPPING

Festival goers of all ages can enjoy some creative free-play in our LEGO area, and our Design Store will be open for business with fresh Scandinavian décor, jewelry, books, and more.

*Continued...*



### DOCUMENTARY VIEWING

See the award-winning documentary short film *The Simple Gift of Walnut Grove* in the multimedia room on our lower level. Journalist Scott Samuelson gushed about it in *Little Village Magazine*, “It’s the kind of beautifully shot, sensitive film we all wish we had of our ancestors. I don’t have a drop of Danish in me, but I found myself tearing up at the stoicism and inventiveness of my own immigrant forebears.”

### OUTDOOR EXHIBITS

Outside in the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park, you’ll find picnic areas, outdoor fitness equipment, a homesteader’s cabin, and interpretive signage that tells you all about the park’s namesake and the museum’s innovative prairie green roof. The paved Friends Walk trail will take you back into the heart of Elk Horn and dump you off near Bedstemor’s House. *Convenient!*

### RINGRIDNING

Last year’s hit bicycle competition for ages 4-12 will be reprised this year on the lawn just east of the museum. Think you can spear a suspended ring while pedaling a bicycle? Test your skills in this take on a traditional Danish event from 2:30-4:30 pm on Saturday. Registration is at 1:30 pm. Prizes awarded. Extra bikes and helmets available.

### ARTISANS AND EDUCATORS

Guns and lace from 12-4 pm Saturday at the museum:

**Melissa Dinesen** of Harlan, IA will demonstrate hand stitching and “whitework” such as Hedebo and Hardanger embroidery.

**Carol Bassoni** of Gilroy, CA will be dressed in a Danish folk costume and demonstrating the making of Tønder lace, named after the village in Denmark where it originated.

**Dale Shinn** of Gilroy, CA will be bringing a couple of antique Danish weapons that would have been familiar to those who emigrated to America, and focusing on the inventions of Nicolai Johan Løbniz, a well-known gunsmith of Copenhagen and important military official in the 1800s. Dale will display an example of Løbniz’s most advanced weapon: a breech loader that was adopted by Norway in 1842 and touted to be the most accurate and best long-range weapon in Europe at the time. He will also have examples and descriptions of similar advanced breech loading weapons of Løbniz’s design which were adopted by Denmark in 1841, along with information on other important Danish firearms inventors. In addition, Dale will be bringing his Hurdy Gurdy (historic stringed instrument) and will play some period music!

### DANES IN THE MOVIES EXHIBIT

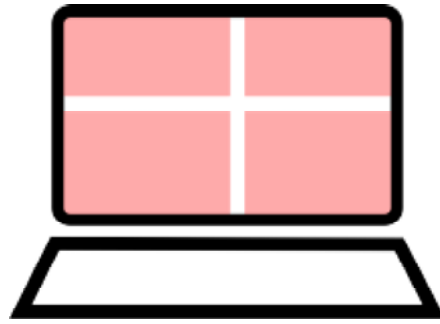
Get your Viggo Mortensen fix during the festival at our Genealogy Center on Main Street. To tie in with this year’s festival theme of “Where Memories and Movies are Made,” the Genealogy Center will have a small exhibit on “Danes in the Movies.” The Genealogy Center’s hours will be 9 am-5pm on Saturday. Closed Sunday.

### TOUR A HISTORIC DANISH IMMIGRANT HOME

Bedstemor’s House will open for the season on May 23. Bedstemor’s House was built in 1908 by Jens Otto Christiansen, a Danish immigrant and Elk Horn businessman. According to local stories, he built the house as an engagement gift for a young woman who sadly turned down his marriage proposal. The home, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, will be open from 10 am-4 pm on Saturday and 1-4 pm on Sunday. Each day from Memorial Day to Labor Day, the home will be open from 1-4 pm.







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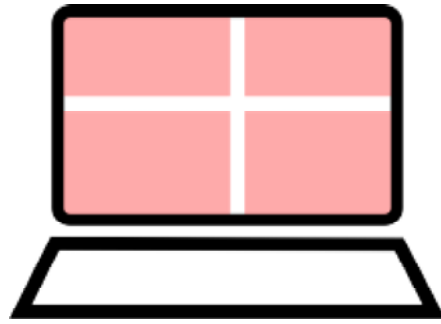
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For larger groups we recommend lessons of 90 minutes (more than 4 students).

We recommend a teaching course consisting of at least 10 lessons, but can be varied as desired.

## Prices

*These prices are valid until June 30, 2015!*

1 private tuition (45 min.)	US\$	15,00
1 group lesson (60 min.)	-	7,50
Materials*, corrections etc. (per 10 lessons)	-	20,00

\*Materials will depend on the agreed process.