



museum of danish america

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our book project needs your support



Recently, we launched a [Kickstarter campaign](#) to help us publish a book of recipes, photos, and essays relating to Scandinavian drinking traditions and heritage - specifically focusing on beer and aquavit. The book is the catalog for the upcoming national traveling exhibition, "Skål! Scandinavian Spirits." Visit the website linked above to view the video and see what it's all about.

Please make a pledge of support soon--the campaign ends on February 28, and we have not yet met our goal. If we don't make our goal in time, it's unlikely that such a useful catalog will be produced. There are a number of rewards you may be interested in, including copies of the catalog, notecards, posters, and even having your name in the book or exhibit!



film selected for inclusion in festival

"The Simple Gift of Walnut Grove," a short film produced by the Museum of Danish America with filmmaker John Richard, has been selected for showing at the Siouxland Film Festival on **February 28** at the Orpheum Theatre in Sioux City, Iowa. Over 80 films from 8 countries and the United States were entered, and only 33 of the best were selected.

"The Simple Gift of Walnut Grove" is about the Danish-American experience in the early 20th century through the eyes of Walter Hansen, the son of Hans Hansen, a Danish immigrant who came to Iowa from Denmark in 1899 and built a farmstead in eastern Iowa out of native timber and without power tools. It is a stunning place to be, far from the hurry of modern life and in many ways, untouched from what it was 100 years ago.

Filming on this project took place over the course of two years. We also had access to a wonderful collection of medium-format photographic negatives from the family that were digitized and restored for the project. The film features music by The Danish String Quartet and Victor Borge and is currently showing daily in our Multimedia Room on the lower level.

SHOWING DETAILS

Saturday, February 28 - 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce Street, Sioux City, IA

Tickets are available at the door one hour prior to the start of the showings.

Tickets are just \$6 per person (\$3 per student), and credit cards are NOT accepted.

Cash bar available.



february board meeting in atlanta

On **February 5-7**, the Board of Directors of the Museum of Danish America will hold its annual February board meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Following each board meeting, members, supporters and donors from the area are invited to a luncheon. This is an opportunity for museum supporters to learn what's happening at the museum. It also gives our twenty-five board members from around the country an opportunity to learn about the activities of local Danish and Danish-American organizations.

This year's program will include a presentation by Lars and Hanne Andersen of [Maileg North America](#). *Maileg* (pronounced my'lye) is an innovative Danish toy company whose mission is "to give kids a reason to smile and to inspire the playful imagination of children of all ages." In 2012 *Maileg North America* won a prestigious award from the Danish Export Association for remarkable efforts in promoting and marketing Danish products and services abroad.



special collections relocated

With the relocation of museum artifact collections into the new Curatorial Center, space has now been allocated in the main museum building for a valuable group of Genealogy Center materials: the Special Collections.

These primarily non-book items, consisting of documents, newspapers, scrapbooks, collections of letters and photographs, audio/visual materials, maps and charts, research materials, club and organizational materials and ephemera, as well as family Bibles and rare books, cover a wide range of subject matter and geographical collections.

Here can be found such diverse material as the Atlantic Northern Railroad, the logbooks of Capt. Christian Henrik Bruun, Danish counted-cross stitch patterns, activities of Chicago-area organizations, The Danish American Heritage Society, Danish Baptists, family papers of the Aage and Oluf Davidsen or Refshauge families, and architectural drawings by Clarence Andersen.

For the first time, these often-unique materials are being stored in a temperature and humidity-controlled environment, thus preserving them for future use. For individuals and families who are downsizing or no longer interested in keeping Danish-language documents and materials, the Genealogy Center may be the right place for your heritage to be stored.

For further information about our Special Collections acquisitions policy, contact Michele McNabb at librarian@danishmuseum.org.



golden immigrants

PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED BY APRIL 17

The 2015 Genealogy Center photo exhibit will celebrate Danish immigrants who reached 100 years of age or more. We are looking for photographs – youthful as well as old -- and stories. Deadline for submissions is **April 17**. [Submission/permission forms may be obtained here.](#)

brown bag lunch programs on hiatus

The museum's Brown Bag Lunch Series will take a break for the winter months and will return on **March 19**. Videos from a few past presentations can be found on YouTube at www.youtube.com/danishmuseum.



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.

In 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>.



danish cedar falls: the immigrant experience

The first known Danish immigrants arrived in Cedar Falls, Iowa in 1855, and by 1871, 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," curated by Carrie Eilderts, a University of Northern Iowa graduate student. The exhibit 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](#).

ANOTHER DANISH EXHIBIT IN CEDAR FALLS

The traveling exhibit "Søren Kierkegaard: The Global Dane" will be on display at the Rod Library at the University of Northern Iowa through **March 15**.



exhibit featuring 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.

Founded in 2005 by Danish architect Bjarke Ingels, BIG has taken the world by storm with its seductive, sustainable, and community-driven designs. Ingels has coined the phrase "hedonistic sustainability" to reflect his philosophy that environmentally responsible buildings and neighborhoods need not be defined by pain and sacrifice. BIG's projects are currently taking shape from Copenhagen to Manhattan, from Shenzhen to Paris, and soon in Calgary and Vancouver.

Now, with a major part of the practice located in New York—and a major stake in Washington, D.C.'s infrastructure as the designer of a \$2 billion National Mall and Smithsonian refurbishment—a BIG influence on American architecture and urbanism has begun.

intern and genealogy blogs

Interns at the Museum of Danish America and its Genealogy Center keep a blog about their experiences at danishmuseuminterns.tumblr.com. There is also a Genealogy Center blog for genealogy and family history-related tidbits: danishmuseumgenealogy.tumblr.com.



museum featured in national publication

Special thanks to the Daughters of the American Revolution for featuring us in the January/February edition of their beautiful magazine, "American Spirit." The article Understanding Our Identity: The Lessons of Immigration Museums spotlights seven immigration museums from Germany to San Francisco, and we are honored to be listed alongside these fine institutions.



smørrebrød fest

The Danish Club of Phoenix's annual Smørrebrød Fest will be held on Friday, **February 20** at 6:30 p.m. in Scottsdale, AZ. The Museum of Danish America's Executive Director, Dr. John Mark Nielsen, will be in attendance - graciously hosted by Kai and Starr Nyby. The menu will feature smørrebrød such as sild, medisterpølse, frikadeller, æbleflæsk, liverpostej, ostefad, and more. Desserts include æblekage and citronfromage. Contact Grethe Jepsen (480-398-6111) for information about reservations and pricing.



summer danish language village

The [scholarship](#) deadline for [Skovsøen Danish Language Village](#) (through Concordia Language Villages) is **February 20**. Language, culture and lifelong friendships await campers ages 7-18 this summer in Bemidji, MN at the following sessions:

- High School Credit Program: June 15-July 11
- One-week Exploratory Session: June 29-July 4
- Two-week Immersion: June 29-July 11
- Lego and Lego Robotics, Danish Style: July 6-11



aquavit event

Need a little liquid sunshine and good food to look forward to this winter? Join the Danish American Center in Minneapolis for its 4th Annual Aquavit Event on **February 22** at 12:30 p.m. This year, they are having herring three ways, a few classic Danish dishes, and, of course, cheese and coffee. This year's aquavits include Nordguld (Danish), jule snaps (Danish), Øvrevann Aquavit (Duluth, MN), Gamle Ode (Minneapolis, MN) Cost is \$25; reservations are required to DAC, 3030 West River Parkway S, Minneapolis, MN 55406 before February 18.



danish national performance team in the us

The Danish National Performance Team "Verdensholdet" is making its way to the USA! Verdensholdet is a group of 28 top-level gymnasts from Denmark, aged 18-28. They devote one year of their lives (with no pay!) to be ambassadors for Denmark and to help young people make better lifestyle choices. The team performs, does workshops, and educates young people at all levels with hands-on interaction. To learn more about this unbelievably talented team and its tour in the US (Texas, Louisiana, Georgia, Kentucky, and Maryland), visit <http://www.ndpt.dk>.



southern california travels + cultural frontrunners

February 28-March 4, Executive Director John Mark Nielsen and Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American Culture Tova Brandt will be in Southern California visiting members and donors. They will also participate in the Cultural Frontrunners meeting in Solvang, CA. The program includes presentations and discussions regarding cultural exchanges, Nordic cooperation, and diplomacy.



danish party

The Scandinavian Society of Cincinnati is having a Danish Party with a Danish buffet dinner on Saturday, **March 14** at the Manor House Restaurant at Maple Knoll Village in Springdale, OH. Cash bar and cocktails begin at 4:45 p.m. and a Danish presentation will be held at 7 p.m.

Cost is \$20 per adult, 18+ years; \$10 per youth, 12-17 years; \$5 per child, 5-11 years; free for children 4 yrs or younger.



fiddle camp to feature renowned danish instructor

Registration is now open for the first West Denmark Fiddle School to 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. It is an intensive study for people of all ages who share an interest in music based on Scandinavian and Anglo/Celtic traditions. In a beautiful setting, fiddlers are encouraged to explore their own musical expression and potential in a supportive environment. [More information here.](#)



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 are the necessary requirements. [Contact Michele.](#)

factoid

91,143 people saw an exhibit organized by our museum last year! [Click here](#) to see where our exhibits will be and learn how you can bring a Museum of Danish America exhibit to your city.

[Find our printable 2015 exhibits calendar here.](#)