



museum of danish america

E-NEWS | JUNE 2015

sankt hans aften

AKA MIDSUMMER, DANISH-STYLE!



Join the museum on Saturday evening, **June 27**, for a celebration of Midsummer. All events are free and open to the public, including a hot dog supper, live music, and a family-friendly Danish film. (Free-will donation.) Rain or shine, we'll be celebrating the longest days of the year.

6pm Hot dog supper available

7-9pm Live music from local old-time country musicians

7-9pm Ringriding. All ages are welcome to try this version of "bicycle jousting." No points or awards given this evening, just a chance to get a ring on a lance while riding a bicycle!

7pm "Antboy" shown in the Bro Dining Room. Synopsis: 12-year-old Pelle accidentally gets bitten by an ant and develops unimaginable superpowers. With help from his friend, comic book nerd Wilhelm, Pelle creates a secret identity as the superhero Antboy, and becomes a local crimefighter. *Danish film with English subtitles, 77 minutes, released 2013.*

9pm Lighting the bonfire

Find out more about the Sankt Hans Aften tradition on our website: <http://www.danishmuseum.org/sankt-hans-aften.cfm>.



aquavit workshops

PRESENTED BY LEXI OF SEATTLE'S OLD BALLARD LIQUOR COMPANY

Aquavit is a flavored spirit that is principally produced in Scandinavia, where it has been produced since the 15th century. Learn about the history, production, and traditions of Scandinavian aquavit – and learn how to flavor your own! The workshops will include tastings of various aquavits, plus instruction in how to flavor your own aquavit or snaps. All paying participants will take home a pint of custom-flavored spirits. The workshops will be led by Lexi, founder and proprietor of Old Ballard Liquor Company in Seattle and Deb Christensen Larsen, the museum's Development Manager and aquavit do-it-yourself expert!

Due to popular demand, we've added a second session of this workshop on **Friday, June 26!**
Hurry - space is limited!

Friday, June 26 or **Saturday, June 27**

2-5 pm

\$35 for museum members / \$45 for non-members

** Designated Drivers attend for free**

All attendees must be 21 years or older

Register with Tova Brandt at 712.764.7001 or tova.brandt@danishmuseum.org

NOTE JULY 4 HOURS: The museum and Genealogy Center will be open from 12-5 pm.



June board meeting and festival in portland

June 11 - 13 the museum's Board of Directors will hold its three-day 100th Regular Meeting in Portland, Oregon. Museum board members will conduct their business meetings at the [Scandinavian Heritage Foundation's](#) new Nordic Cultural Center, which will celebrate its official opening on June 27-28.

Following the board meetings, on **Saturday June 13** the Museum of Danish America will participate in the city's summer solstice festival - the 87th annual [Portland Scandinavian Midsummer Festival](#). It's always a fun, family-friendly day filled with games, dancing, food, Scandinavian crafts and, of course, the raising of the Maypole. Museum staff John Mark Nielsen, Terri Johnson, Deb Christensen Larsen and Danish interns Charlotte Keimig and Johannes Kristoffersen will be at the museum's booth. *Be sure to drop by and say hello!*



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](#).

JUNE 25

Midsummer Skål

Lexi, founder and proprietor of Old Ballard Liquor Company in Seattle, will provide the history, production, and traditions of Scandinavian aquavit.

JULY 30

Wine and War

Don and Petie Kladstrup, museum members from Paris and Normandy, will speak about their latest book that explores the French wine industry during the Nazi occupation. The Kladstrups are former journalists who have written extensively about wine and France for numerous publications. Don, a winner of three Emmys and numerous other awards, was a foreign correspondent for ABC and CBS television news. Petie, an Overseas Press Club winner, was a newspaper journalist and more recently protocol officer for the U.S. ambassador to UNESCO.



two new art exhibitions open

HIGHLIGHTING THE WORK OF CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS

In the Main Floor gallery, the career of Danish immigrant Helle Scharling-Todd is represented by glass, mosaic, metalwork, and silkscreens. Born and raised in Denmark, Helle Scharling-Todd has lived in California since 1980. Her training and career has encompassed many countries, including Italy, Ecuador, Germany and Mexico. Scharling-Todd is best known for art in public spaces – libraries, parks, schools, churches, and other places where art becomes integrated into daily life. The works on display at the museum represent the range of her work in more portable formats, suitable for a gallery setting.

In the lower level Multimedia Room, *Sense of Place* shares photographs of public places throughout Elk Horn and Kimballton. In November 2014, community members in the Danish Villages participated in an artist-in-residence project with Danish photographer Diana Velasco. Participants completed postcards that identified public spaces with significance in their lives. Velasco then created this set of photographs, based on the locations identified by community members. The written responses that inspired the photographs are displayed with the final photos. The *Sense of Place* project was funded in part by a grant from the Iowa Arts Council.



skål! scandinavian spirits

PRESENTED BY AALBORG & LINIE AQUAVITS

The new national traveling exhibition developed by our museum, *Skål! Scandinavian Spirits*, is open until **October 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.

EXHIBITION CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE

The 92-page, full color exhibition catalog featuring exhibit content, essays, and recipes can be ordered for \$19.95 + shipping. Members receive a 10% discount. Call the Design Store to order: 800.759.9192. It's quick and easy.



photo exhibit open

When in Elk Horn, be sure to drop by to see the *Golden Danes* photo exhibit, a celebration of Danish immigrants who reached the age of 100 or more. It will be on display in the Genealogy Center lobby through October. And if you have a golden Dane (or a descendant) in your family, you can contribute [information about them here](#).

staff travels and other museum news

Dr. John Mark Nielsen was a keynote speaker at a conference sponsored by the Department of Culture and Global Studies of Aalborg University in Denmark on **May 20 - 21**. Entitled "Migration in a Historical and Contemporary Perspective," the conference analyzed and explored the importance of factors found in different migration and integration processes and in different historical contexts. The purpose was to create a new and better understanding of the contemporary challenges regarding inclusion and exclusion of immigrants. Nielsen focused on the experience of Danish-American immigrants as well as the evolving politics in the United States surrounding immigration issues.

Nielsen will be traveling to the northeast on **June 4** for speaking engagements at the Danish Home in Croton-on-Hudson, New York, and with members of the Danish Brotherhood in Philadelphia.

On **June 8**, the Atlantic Friends of the Danish Immigrant Museum will be hosting a meeting at the museum. On **June 29**, the State Historical Society of Iowa's Board of Directors will be meeting at the museum. Our Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American Culture, Tova Brandt, is a member of the board.

Interns at the Museum of Danish America keep a blog about their experiences at danishmuseuminterns.tumblr.com. Take a look!



tour a historic immigrant home

NEW THIS YEAR: FREE ADMISSION EVERY DAY!

Bedstemor's House is open for the season! The home, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is open each day until Labor Day from 1-4 pm. 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.



obituaries galore

Did you know that the Genealogy Center has a growing collection of indexes to obituaries and death notices for Danish Americans as part of its in-house collections? They are just one of the many hidden gems available to patrons doing research in our library.

extended hours at the genealogy center

From May through October the Genealogy Center will be open on Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm in addition to its year-round Tuesday through Friday schedule. If you are planning a visit for research assistance, we recommend that you call in advance to reserve time with Genealogy Center staff to get the most out of your visit.



new 'cozy corner' at the museum

A special tribute at the museum was revealed during Tivoli Fest this year. Select pieces of authentic mid-century Danish Modern furniture have been installed at the museum for the relaxation of all visitors. The area has been dubbed "Madsens Hyggehjørne" and was dedicated in honor of Earl and the late Annabelle Madsen by their daughters, Carolyn (Jerry) Larson and Kimberly (Mike) Williams. Earl is a long-time volunteer at the museum's front desk and can often be found engaged in conversation with the guests. He had expressed to his daughters his desire for a place for museum visitors to rest and chat - perhaps while waiting on companions who are shopping in the Design Store. Earl and Annabelle's grandchildren are also pictured here.



last call for *danish modern* THROUGH JUNE 21

This is your **last chance** to see the museum's traveling exhibition that celebrates the furniture and housewares designed in Denmark in the mid-20th century. The [Figgie Art Museum](#) in Davenport, Iowa is the final stop on this national tour – but you can still enjoy the book format of this exhibition, on sale through the museum's Design Store. Order today! 800.759.9192.



grundlovsdag celebration in croton-on-hudson

The [Danish Home](#) in Croton-on-Hudson, New York is celebrating the Danish Constitution Day on **Saturday, June 6** from 11 am to 5 pm on their grounds at 1065 Quaker Bridge Road East. In addition to a Danish language church service, food and drink, art, music, activities for kids, and a showing of the film *Det Danske Hjem*, speeches will be given by keynote speaker Ambassador Jarl Frijs-Madsen, Flemming Heilmann, and Dr. John Mark Nielsen.



june is immigrant heritage month

The 2nd annual Immigrant Heritage Month is a nationwide effort to gather and share inspirational stories of immigration in America. Visit <http://welcome.us/> to read and share stories and see more information from the official Immigrant Heritage Month effort.

omaha scandinavian festival

A free Scandinavian Midsummer Festival in Elmwood Park (802 S 60th Street) in Omaha, NE will be held again this year from 1 to 5 p.m. on **Sunday, June 7**. Enjoy food, dancing, and revelry!

28th grundlovsfest in dannebrog, nebraska

Dannebrog, Nebraska will celebrate its Danish heritage on **Saturday, June 6** with a number of events including an æbleskiver meal, parades, food, art, kids activities, bingo, and more from 7 am to 9 pm!



danish day celebration in minnesota

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Celebrate Grundlovsdag (Danish Constitution Day) and all things Danish from 10 am to 4 pm at the Danish American Center in Minneapolis. Danish Day marks the heritage of the Danes and their descendants in Minnesota. This event, open to members and public, has been celebrated for over 50 years in Minneapolis where hundreds gather on the grounds for singing, open-faced sandwiches and fellowship. [See the schedule of events here.](#)

fiddle camp with danish flair

The West Denmark Fiddle School will be held on the shores of Little Butternut Lake near Luck, WI on **June 14 - 18**. The school is modeled after Harald Haugaard's extremely popular fiddle school. [More information here.](#)



retreat yourself in oregon

The Danish American Cultural Retreat, formerly the Danish Cultural Conference, provides a picturesque setting and opportunity to learn about Denmark and its links to the US, today and in the past. Cultural, historic and contemporary topics are presented to illustrate how Denmark has played a significant role on the global stage. Make your way to Corbett, Oregon **June 26 - 28**. [Menucha Retreat & Conference Center](#)

genealogy workshop in new jersey

The [Danish Archive North East](#) (DANE) is holding a Genealogy Workshop on **June 28** from 2-5 pm at the Danish Home, 855 New Durham Road in Edison, New Jersey. For more information call 732-287-6445 or e-mail danenj@aol.com.



calling all families to wisconsin

Registration is open for the West Denmark Family Camp on **June 30 - July 3**. "Working Together, Playing Together," marks the 38th year for this camp in the fashion of Danish folk schools. [Register early!](#)

high school group exchange opportunity

Interested in a High School Group Exchange? English teachers at Frederiksborg Gymnasium & HF in Hillerød, Denmark (north of Copenhagen) are interested in finding a high school for the purpose of exchanging small (15 or so) groups of students between Denmark and the US. If there's a school in your area that might be interested, you can contact teacher Lotte Jensen (lotte.jensen@skolekom.dk) for further details or visit the [school's webpage](#).



time travelers

ADDITIONAL BENEFIT FOR OUR MEMBERS

We are now a member of “Time Travelers,” a free reciprocal membership network for historical museums, sites, and societies throughout the United States. The Missouri History Museum created the program in 1998 so that members of historical institutions could receive exclusive benefits and privileges at museums and historical sites nationwide. Currently, the Time Travelers program includes over 300 organizations in more than 40 states across the country. Members of these organizations can receive a variety of exclusive benefits and privileges, such as free admission, gift shop discounts, and more.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of the program must be a member of one of the museums [listed on the website](#). We hope our museum members will take advantage of this new benefit! Not a member? [Join today for just \\$30 a year](#).

JUST FOR FUN: [A list of 10 “weird” things Danes do.](#)