

museum of danish america

E-NEWS | NOVEMBER 2015

julefest

BLACK FRIDAY AND SATURDAY



Visit the Danish Villages of Elk Horn and Kimballton to start off the holiday season with Danish traditions. Events at the museum and throughout the community offer food, shopping, and family activities. [Community-Wide Julefest Flyer](#)

FREE admission at the Museum of Danish America, Bedstemor's House, and the Genealogy Center! You will also find seasonal activities and some tasty treats to warm your hands and heart.

Museum Hours: Friday 9-5; Saturday 10-5; Sunday 12-5 | **Bedstemor's House:** Friday 1-4; Saturday 1-4 | **Genealogy Center:** Friday 10-5; Saturday 10-5

- Ryan Ray, an official LEGO All Star, will be at the museum on the afternoon of Saturday, November 28 for special demonstrations, activities, and challenges.
- There will be gallery talks on "Happy Danes" both Friday and Saturday at 2pm.

exhibit opening

HAPPY DANES ON THE PLAINS



Julefest will mark the opening of the exhibit "Happy Danes on the Plains" in the Kramme Gallery. This exhibit describes the story of Danish-American communities that have worked to preserve Danish culture – even into the 21st century, long after the immigrant generation has passed on. Many of these towns were started as intentional colonies of Danes in the Midwest and Great Plains in an attempt to create communities that shared a common cultural heritage and worked to keep that heritage alive through generations.

This exhibition is an English-language version of "Grundtvig på Prairien (Grundtvig on the Prairie)" that is traveling among Danish museums. The Danish exhibit title refers to N.F.S. Grundtvig (1783-1872), a Danish church leader whose influence encompassed social issues, education, and politics, and who continues to resonate today. Grundtvig was an advocate for "education for life" through the creation of folk schools. He believed that cultural heritage was important for communities to celebrate together.

At the Museum of Danish America, visitors will enjoy a special addition to the exhibition that highlights Kimballton - only three miles to the north of the museum. Local artifacts, photographs, and interviews bring to life the experience of growing up in a "Happy Dane" town. Danish-style gymnastics, community bands, theater productions, and folk dancing were some of the activities that set Kimballton apart from its neighbors.

"Happy Danes on the Plains" has been traveling to Danish-American communities nationwide since Summer 2014: After the exhibit closes at the museum in April 2016, it will again be available to travel. Contact curator Tova Brandt to learn more about hosting this exhibit in your community.



new website

Have you visited our website recently? Browse the updated look and feel at <http://www.danishmuseum.org>. The new design is responsive to different screen sizes and is a much-improved experience on a mobile device. We have reorganized the content and optimized the aesthetics from top to bottom. Give it a try and let us know if you encounter any issues!



end-of-year giving

PLEASE, [DONATE TODAY](#)

We invite your support for the Museum of Danish America during our annual End-of-Year Appeal. As some of you may know, we are facing a cash-flow challenge this year due to late summer fluctuations in the market. We hope you will consider contributing to the museum this season. Giving [gift memberships](#) is another way to help us preserve Danish heritage for future generations.



position opening

GENEALOGY CENTER MANAGER

With the retirement of Genealogy Center Manager and Librarian Michele McNabb expected next summer, we have begun the search for a personable, organized and energetic individual to do genealogy research and manage our genealogy department. If you know of anyone that would be interested, please direct them to the [job description on our website](#).



the simple gift of walnut grove

DOCUMENTARY DVD_s TO BE AVAILABLE THIS WINTER

Pre-orders are being taken for copies of the award-winning short film *The Simple Gift of Walnut Grove*. The documentary is about the life of an early 20th century Danish immigrant named Hans Hansen (1876-1953), as told by his son, 96-year-old Walter Hansen. Hans emigrated from Denmark to the United States in 1899 and built a farm out of the native timber he found alongside a marginal piece of land on the Cedar River near West Branch, Iowa. Within Walter's soft-spoken account emerges the dynamic of a father-son relationship forged under the harsh conditions of the early Midwestern settlement. The film's powerful soundtrack includes works performed by Victor Borge and the Danish String Quartet.

Now that its festival run is complete, DVDs of the documentary will be made available exclusively through our Design Store for \$14.95 each, plus shipping. We are also carrying the Danish String Quartet's Wood Works album, which much of the music in the documentary came from. [\\$16.99 for the CD](#), [\\$32.99 for vinyl](#). Yes, you read that right - vinyl. It's a wonderful experience.



shop our design store

Have you browsed [our new webstore](#)? It has many new things that weren't in this year's print catalog! Your purchases in the Design Store help support our many activities and programs.

Museum members, don't forget your 10% discount. Login to your account to see your discount code.



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!

NOV 19 | Niels-Peter Gade, Danish Life in Germany: Southern Jutland 1864-1920

Niels-Peter Gade is a Danish graduate student interning at the museum. His own family roots are from Danish Slesvig, which was under German rule for almost 60 years.

DEC 17 | Christmas Hygge

Join museum staff for a celebration of the songs and traditions of the Danish holiday season.



staff travels and news

On November 17-18, Curator of Collections/Registrar Angela Stanford and interns Jennifer Olsson, Ida Jensen, and Niels-Peter Gade will take a trip to the Midwest Art Conservation Center to pick up a marching band drum from Kimballton, Iowa that has received restoration and repair work. The drum will be used in the exhibit "Happy Danes on the Plains." They will stay at the Danish American Center.

From December 3-8, Danish interns Ida Jensen and Niels-Peter Gade will be in San Diego, California to participate in the December Nights event at the House of Denmark in Balboa Park. Oda Audish with the House of Denmark is graciously hosting the interns.

Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American Culture Tova Brandt will travel to the Pacific Northwest on December 7 to participate in several events related to the exhibition "Skål! Scandinavian Spirits." She will be at Nordia House in Portland on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 8-9, and at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle for their Member's Preview on Thursday evening, December 10. She will be giving a public tour of the exhibition there on Saturday, December 12, at 2pm.

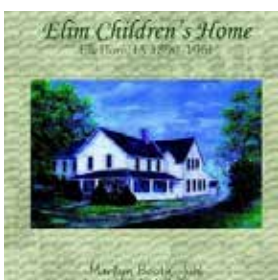
You can stay in touch with all the goings-on on our [Facebook page](#), too!



got a minute?

Our Danish intern Ida Jensen is doing a survey of the significance of the Danish cultural heritage for younger generations of descendants of Danish immigrants and how the Museum of Danish America is able to raise awareness and reach out to more great Danes!

If you are under the age of 40 and have Danish roots, please click on the following link to take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DG573PW>. Or share it if you know of anyone around you that fits the criteria. All respondents will be anonymous. Thank you for your time. Your help is very appreciated!



elim childrens home history book

Last month the Museum of Danish America purchased the property that is the site of the former Elim Children's Home in Elk Horn. Learn the history of the home through this volume featuring first-hand accounts and photographs. The home was established by the United Danish Evangelical Church in America in 1890 and closed in 1961. Marilyn Booth Juhl, who lived in the home from 1942-1949, tells the story of the Elim family and what it was like for her and the approximately 300 other children who called Elim "home" during those 71 years. [\\$15, available online.](#)



do you shop on amazon.com?

Make sure you shop by using the link smile.amazon.com so that a portion of your purchase is donated to the Museum of Danish America! We have received nice donations from the AmazonSmile Foundation through the program, and we thank you for it! AmazonSmile donates to us at no extra cost to you! <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/42-1204613>



ancestors from the danish island of mors?

In March 2016, [Morslands Historical Museum](#) will open a special exhibition called "The Emigrants." The exhibition tells the story of the large number of people who, over the years, emigrated from the small island of Mors in northwestern Jutland to pursue their happiness across the ocean, in America. For the exhibition, Morslands Historical Museum is looking for partners that can help provide knowledge about the emigration from Mors and Denmark as a whole and facilitate contact with descendants of emigrants from Mors. They would like to get in touch with people who have letters, pictures, artifacts, diaries etc. with relation to their ancestors, who left Mors. They would also like to know if any of them still carry on with some of the local traditions from the island or from Denmark in general. Contact: anders.have@museummors.dk.



sirius patrol

Please note that this event is sold out, but we would like to share the information with you regardless. Since the Cold War, Denmark patrols and protects its sovereignty over Greenland with a small naval unit called the Sirius Patrol.

Each autumn, six dog sledge teams - each manned by two soldiers from the Royal Danish Navy - spend up to six months patrolling an area of 60,000 sq. miles. They are the only people in a vast wilderness about three times the size of Denmark.

During winter the sun disappears for two months. The average yearly temperature is 14F and the mercury can dip as low as -67F - the lowest recorded temperature in the area. Injuries are virtually inevitable, as are hunger and exhaustion and frostbite. Team members are stalked by polar bears. There's no chance to visit family or friends, no opportunity to go on a date.

Marcus Andersen, the son of Hanne and Lars Andersen of Maileg North America, is now back from his 2 years in Sirius. He has offered to tell members of the Danish American Chamber of Commerce, Georgia about this extraordinary experience on Friday November 20th.

DACC Georgia's Christmas luncheon will be on December 12 with a children's Christmas party on the 13th.



lego sculpture exhibit in atlanta

Marvel at 14 larger-than-life installations built from nearly 400,000 LEGO® bricks including a giant praying mantis, butterfly, hummingbird, flowers and more at the Atlanta Botanical Garden in Gainesville, Georgia. The exhibit runs through January 3.

the great thanksgiving listen

Become a part of this movement to record the voices of a generation of Americans. Here are [five ways that anyone can participate](#) in the Great Thanksgiving Listen.



pre-christmas concert at dac

BY PIANIST GLENN HENRIKSEN

Museum board member and talented Danish-American pianist Glenn Henriksen from Armstrong, Iowa, will perform a concert in the Danebo Atrium at the Danish American Center in Minneapolis on Sunday, November 29 at 3 p.m. Glenn has a repertoire that spans almost the whole musical universe. The concert will feature Christmas selections, but there will be other surprises that only Glenn will know. Glenn's talent and poise and genuine humor is a great start on the Holiday season - don't miss it. A reception will follow the concert. Cost: \$15 per person; children and students \$8.

Glenn is an accomplished, versatile pianist and organist. He began piano lessons at age seven, and continued through high school. At age thirteen, he became the organist at his hometown church. Glenn attended Luther College in Decorah, Iowa and received further musical instruction. Glenn's repertoire includes classical, ragtime, blues and jazz, standards, pop and rock, country, Latin, gospel, and sacred. He is a member of the variety rock band Galaxy. Glenn's lifetime experience in many musical genres has enabled him to develop a unique musical style, resulting in one-of-a-kind improvised arrangements. You can [purchase music by Glenn](#) through our Design Store.

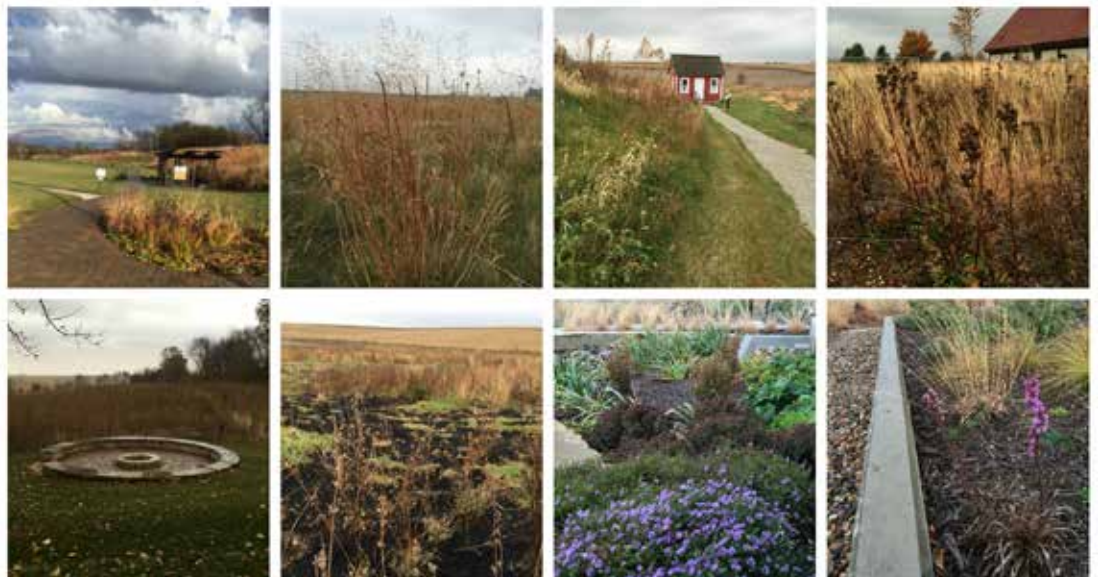
DAC is also hosting a julefrokost on December 12. [Click here](#) for more details.



des moines christkindlmarket planned for 2016

A group in Des Moines, Iowa has begun planning for a European-style outdoor Christmas market in downtown Des Moines for December 2016. They are currently seeking sponsors and partners for the project. [Find more details here.](#)

autumn in the jens jensen prairie landscape park



*Photos contributed by
Dawn Nielsen*