

# museum of danish america

**E-NEWS** | OCTOBER 2015

## museum purchases elim childrens home property



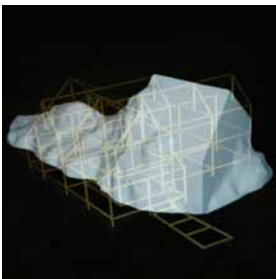
On October 5 the Museum of Danish America closed on the purchase of land that adjoins its current property, adding five acres to its grounds. The land, purchased from the recently-dissolved First Baptist Church with the help of the congregation and a number of individual donors, is the site of the former Elim Children's Home. From 1890 to 1961 the Elk Horn Lutheran Church operated a children's home in a two-story house, and nearly 300 boys and girls passed through its doors. At times there were as many as 30 children living and working there. Following its closure, the home was privately owned and later destroyed by fire. In 1983, 20 acres of the site was donated to the organizing body of The Danish Immigrant Museum (now Museum of Danish America) by the Elk Horn Lutheran Church for the construction of the museum building.

"For many years, the museum's Board of Directors has felt that, should the Elim Children's Home property become available, because of its location, proximity, and historic nature, the museum should acquire it," stated John Mark Nielsen, Executive Director of the Museum of Danish America.

In the exhibit video [Growing Up at Children's Homes](#) you can see interviews with former residents of the Elim Children's Home and Chicago Danish Children's Home, recounting memories of everyday life. The museum does not have any immediate plans for development of the site.

## sculpture exhibit opening

**HOME: SCULPTURE BY DENNIS ANDERSEN**



A new exhibit featuring the works of Danish-American artist Dennis Andersen, formerly of Elk Horn, will open at the Museum of Danish America on **October 22** and will run through May 8, 2016 in the Main Floor Gallery. Titled "Home: Sculpture by Dennis Andersen," this assemblage exhibit represents the various aspects of the houses that create the homes we desire and experience. A gallery talk by the artist will be held on **Saturday, October 24** at 2 p.m.

"The individual pieces of this assemblage reflect the various developments and memories during my life as I experienced these stages of creating a home, by others as well as myself."

--Dennis Andersen, Artist

## fresh new look for jens dixen house



The Jens Dixen House, located just north of the main museum building, is receiving a facelift. Old paint has been scraped, holes filled, and window frames and glazing replaced as needed. Now with fresh coats of red and white paint, the single-room house is looking good as new!

Special thanks to Building and Grounds Manager Tim Fredericksen for taking on this project.



## final tour and a tasting

OCT 9 | 3 p.m.

Curator Tova Brandt will lead you around the “Skål! Scandinavian Spirits” exhibit giving you all the highlights and then complete the experience with a tasting of **five** different import and domestic aquavit brands. \$10 for members | \$15 for non-members. Reserve your spot ASAP: tova.brandt@danishmuseum.org or (712) 764-7001. Attendees must be ages 21+. This opportunity can be arranged for groups by request before the exhibit closes on October 25.



## closing time event for skål exhibit

On **Friday, October 23** at 6 p.m. museum members and members of the public are invited to a “last call” event that will mark the launch of our exhibit “Skål! Scandinavian Spirits” on its national tour. Appetizers and drinks (including aquavit and beer tasting) will be served for a free will donation from 6-8 p.m. or until supplies last. A final tour of the exhibit, led by curator Tova Brandt, will occur at 7 p.m. A grand finale group singing will mark the end of the event and exhibit at approximately 8 p.m. The Design Store will remain open late (until 8 p.m.) for shoppers.



## 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!

### OCT 22 | Lyle Feisel, Ørsted: The Other Hans Christian

Learn about the “magnetic” Danish scientist who discovered that electric currents create magnetic fields.

### 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 **October 8 and 9** John Mark Nielsen and Deb Christensen Larsen will attend the Rebuild Society Leadership Meeting in Minneapolis.

Then, in Mid-October, John Mark, Deb, Chelsea Jacobsen, and Ida Jensen will attend the Danish Sisterhood National Convention in Denver, Colorado. The museum will have an exhibit and a booth at the convention, among other event presence. The Danish American Heritage Society board, of which John Mark is a member, will be meeting at the same time in Denver.

The museum will hold its regular board meeting and annual meeting on **October 22-24** in Elk Horn. Due to the museum board meetings in Elk Horn, the Genealogy Center will be closed all day on **Friday, October 23**.

The last open Saturday for the Genealogy Center this season is **October 31**.

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



## shop our design store online

Have you browsed [our new webstore](#)? We have a lot of freshly-arrived things for you to explore, including some [Halloween and fall items](#)! Our popular print Christmas catalog should be arriving in members' mailboxes very soon. Your purchases in the Design Store help support our many activities and programs. Museum members, don't forget your 10% discount!



## skål exhibit in edison, new jersey

The Danish Home in Edison, New Jersey is displaying the banner version of the "Skål! Scandinavian Spirits" exhibit on **Saturday, October 10** from 2-5 p.m. Appointments are available to view the exhibit on weekdays by calling 732-287-9855. The exhibit explores the role of aquavit and beer as symbols of Scandinavian heritage. The Danish Home is located at 855 New Durham Road.



## museum of danish america film screening in nyc

*The Simple Gift of Walnut Grove*, a film produced by the Museum of Danish America, will be having its East Coast premiere in New York City at the Nordic International Film Festival **October 31 - November 1**. [Find details here.](#)

Find a list of the Danish or Danish-themed Official Selections in the festival [here](#).



## iowa culture app

We are pleased to share that the Museum of Danish America is included in a new mobile app Iowa Culture - a free, fun and interactive way to discover arts, history and cultural destinations in Iowa. Explore places by category and location, browse featured tours and save favorites to create your own Iowa Culture adventure. The possibilities are endless with mapping tools to direct you to more than 3,500 sites across 99 counties covering 56,272 square miles! Get the FREE app, available at the Apple or Google Play app stores!



## do you shop on amazon.com?

Make sure you shop by using the link [smile.amazon.com](https://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! When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Museum of Danish America. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/42-1204613>



## des moines christkindlmarket planned for 2016

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



## inaugural chamber of commerce event in arizona

A free inaugural event for the new Danish-American Chamber of Commerce, Arizona is planned for Thursday, October 22 at 6 p.m. at Copenhagen Living in Phoenix. All Danes and friends of Denmark are encouraged to attend.

## 28th annual leiv eriksson international festival

Enjoy parts of this two-week-long fall festival in Minneapolis, co-sponsored by the Danish American Center. [Details here.](#)



## danish home of chicago fall fest

Join the Danish Home of Chicago for their annual Fall Fest on Sunday, November 1. Enjoy a frikadeller dinner, gift market in a heated tent, and more! [Click here for more information.](#)

## the great thanksgiving listen

This year, NPR and StoryCorps are encouraging young people to record the voices and stories of their elders on Thanksgiving weekend. Teachers and high school students across the country are invited to use the StoryCorps app to preserve the voices and stories of an entire generation of Americans over a single holiday weekend. More details here: <https://storycorps.me/about/the-great-thanksgiving-listen/>



## 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. A LEGO® construction contest is planned for early November. The exhibit runs through January 3.



## 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](mailto:anders.have@museummors.dk).