



museum of danish america

E-NEWS | MAY 2015



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! 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

“MADSENS HYGGEHJØRNE” RIBBON CUTTING

A ribbon cutting will be held in the museum lobby on Saturday to unveil a new “cozy corner” 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.

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 will take you back into the heart of Elk Horn and dump you off near Bedstemor’s House. *Convenient!*

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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-5 pm 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.

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](#).

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.

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.





aquavit workshop

PRESENTED BY LEXI

Learn about the history, production, and traditions of Scandinavian aquavit – and learn how to flavor your own! The workshop will take place **Saturday June 27, from 2-5 pm** and 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.

Workshop 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!

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

** Designated Drivers attend for free**

All attendees must be 21 years or older

Space is limited! Register now!

Contact Tova Brandt at 712.764.7001 or tova.brandt@danishmuseum.org

After the workshop, stay and enjoy the museum's Sankt Hans Aften events into the evening!

skål! scandinavian spirits

PRESENTED BY AALBORG & LINIE AQUAVITS

Through October 25

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.

staff travels and other museum news



April 22 - 26 more than 110 people from Europe, the Virgin Islands and across the United States were in Omaha for the successful annual membership meeting of the Danish-American friendship organization, Rebild National Park Society. Co-hosted by the Museum of Danish America and Rebild's Heartland Chapter, members and guests attended business meetings and were entertained with various tours in Omaha and in the Iowa Danish Villages of Kimballton and Elk Horn. Activities concluded with a 'spirited' candlelight dinner that included Aalborg Akvavit (*tusind tak* to Aalborg and Linie Aquavits, the primary sponsor of *Skål! Scandinavian Spirits*) and dance, featuring museum board member Glenn Henriksen of Ringsted, Iowa and his soft rock band Galaxy.

On **May 2 and 3**, John Mark attended 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 was held at the hotel which will host the October 2017 DAHS Conference.

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

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



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.

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!



framed collection finds primary home

Following the completion of the new Curatorial Center last fall, large objects like furniture and immigrant trunks were moved out of one of our existing artifact spaces, Permanent Storage, into one of the new vaults. This spring, Permanent Storage was enlarged and fitted with new hanging racks. Now, this is the primary home for all framed collections including paintings, documents, and photographs, as well as our works on paper like passports, letters, programs, and books.

summer hours at genealogy center

From May through October the Genealogy Center will be open on Saturdays from 10am to 5pm 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 GC staff to get the most out of your visit.



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.

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.

rebuild scholarship for study in denmark

The Upper Midwest Rebuild Scholarship Corporation (501c3) is now accepting applications for the 2015 scholarship award. The award will help support a semester of study (Fall 2015 or Spring 2016 only) at a Danish university or college by a student of Danish background or who has demonstrated a strong interest and commitment to Denmark and Danish related matters. In the past, awards have ranged from \$1,500 to \$3,000. The deadline for [scholarship applications](#) is **June 5, 2015**.



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.](#)



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](#)

calling all family campers to luck, wisconsin

Registration Is Open for 2015 West Denmark Family Camp! **June 30 - July 3**. “Working Together, Playing Together,” marks the 38th year for this camp in the fashion of Danish folk schools. [Register early!](#)