

museum of danish america

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E-NEWS | SEPTEMBER 2015

Your presence is warmly welcomed to the following events in Omaha and Des Moines this month, held in honor of our current exhibition *Skål! Scandinavian Spirits*. Please help us spread the word about these events among the Iowa and Nebraska Scandinavian communities -- the more the merrier!



des moines: happy scandinavians hour

Thursday, September 10 | 5-7 p.m.
RoCA | 208 Court Avenue in Des Moines

RoCA specializes in craft cocktails and shared plates. Meet up with friends (both old and new) of Scandinavian heritage at this happy hour event and treat yourself to the Nordic flavors of their “First Impression” aquavit cocktail -- on special for the evening. It features House Aquavit, Strawberry Syrup, Lemon Juice, Arugula, Onion, and Vinegar. Intrigued? See you there. *Scandinavian DNA not required to attend.* Share that you’ll be attending on the [Facebook event page](#).



omaha: an evening of nordic flavors

Thursday, September 17 | 5-7 p.m.
Pageturners Lounge | 5004 Dodge Street in Dundee Omaha

Indulge yourself, a date, and some friends and family with Scandinavian-inspired appetizers, dessert bites from Caniglia Pastries, cocktails, music and mingling. \$50 individual ticket includes the food and a signature cocktail of the evening. A most enjoyable way to support the museum! Experience the unique sunken bar and “library-esque” atmosphere of this lounge in historic Dundee with us. Advance ticket purchase required. [Tickets available online.](#)



des moines: spirits of the north

Wednesday, September 23 | 5-7 p.m.
Des Moines Social Club | 900 Mulberry Street

Discover, through all senses, the rich history and traditions of Scandinavian libations and experience the heritage spirit *aquavit* [THE WATER OF LIFE] along with paired and balanced cuisine at this curator-led workshop. DIY infusion recipes and more. Learn, have a great time, and support the museum all at once! \$50 advance ticket purchase required. [Tickets available online.](#)



omaha: happy scandinavians hour

Thursday, October 1 | 5-7 p.m.

The Berry & Rye | 1105 Howard Street, Old Market Omaha

Meet up with friends (both old and new) of Scandinavian heritage at this “happy hour” event at The Berry & Rye, a craft cocktail room that finds inspiration in Pre-Prohibition era-drinks. The Berry & Rye approaches its cocktails from an experimental, contemporary & culinary perspective. Their “Snowfall in Denmark” aquavit cocktail will be on special for the evening. It is one of their most popular drinks and features House Aquavit, Fresh Lime, Sugar, Absinthe and Snow Peas. *Scandinavian DNA not required to attend.*

“It’s our hope that you’ll come with an open mind to enjoy our laid back atmosphere and slowly sip and savor our drinks over good conversation.” –The Berry & Rye



tour and a tasting

SEPT 25 & OCT 9 | 3 p.m.

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



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!

SEPT 17 | John Mark Nielsen, **Party in Valhalla**

How do Norse gods, goddesses and heroes have a good time? John Mark will take us on an imaginative visit to their home in Valhalla.

OCT 22 | Lyle Feisel, **Ørstad: 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

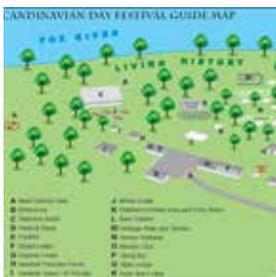
NEW GROUP OF INTERNS

We are excited to introduce three new interns to our team this fall. Well, actually, we’ll let them do the introducing themselves on the [Intern Blog](#), where you can also follow along on their adventures while they’re here at the museum and around the country. Our Danish interns are generously supported by the [scan|design foundation BY INGER & JENS BRUUN](#).



STAFF MEMBERS IN AND OUT OF DENMARK

Just as Genealogy Center Manager Michele McNabb is returning from a month-long stay in Norway and Denmark, Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American Culture Tova Brandt is setting off for Norway and Denmark! Tova Brandt will be soaking in Danish-ness as she travels to Denmark in early September, spending time in Copenhagen and in Århus. She will be visiting many museums and meeting with curators at the State Museum of Art, the contemporary art museum Arken, and the Immigrantsmuseet. It will also be a great opportunity to check in with many former interns as they continue their education and career paths – and be personal tour guides for Tova and her husband on their first trip to Denmark. You can expect that tours of the “Skål! Scandinavian Spirits” exhibition will be even more enthusiastic after Tova gets a tour of the new home of Aalborg Aquavit outside of Oslo, Norway.



DANISH AND SCANDINAVIAN EVENT PRESENCE

This month, Development Manager Deb Christensen Larsen is in California for the Orange International Street Fair, where she will be serving æbleskiver and Carlsberg, among other Danish American activities in the area. She is graciously being hosted by museum board members Bente Ellis (San Jose) and Mittie Ostergaard (Mission Viejo).

Danish interns Niels-Peter Gade and Ida Jensen will travel with Development/Social Media Associate Nicky Christensen to Chicago on the weekend of September 13 to attend the Scandinavian Day at Vasa Park in Elgin, Illinois. The museum will have a booth setup. Please stop by and say hello!

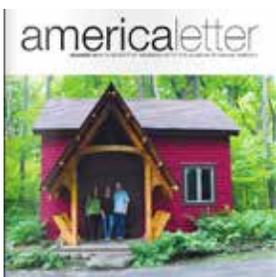
From September 18-20 Deb will be attending the Heartland District Danish Brotherhood Convention in Ames, Iowa. In early October Curator of Collections and Registrar Angela Stanford will be attending the Iowa Museum Association Conference in Pella, Iowa. Angela is a Past President of the Association. On October 8 and 9 Executive Director John Mark Nielsen and Deb Christensen Larsen will attend the Rebuild Society Leadership Meeting in Minneapolis. Then, in Mid-October, staff members will attend the Danish Sisterhood National Convention in Denver, Colorado. More details to come!

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



new design store online

Have you browsed [our new webstore](#)? We have a lot of freshly-arrived things for you to explore! We will be rolling out new features and a new museum website soon, so keep checking back. Our popular print Design Store catalog is getting ready to hit the printers and should arrive in member mailboxes in plenty of time for the holidays. Remember, Christmas isn't THAT far away. *wink* Your purchases in the Design Store help support our many activities and programs. Bonus: museum members get a 10% discount!



america letter archive

You can view past *America Letter* newsletters [through our website](#). The *America Letter* is our print newsletter that is published for members three times per year. The online archive includes issues from one year prior to the current published issue. Become a member today to receive the most current news and features from across the U.S. and Denmark!



genealogy center keeping busy

People often ask if our Genealogy Center only works with people from around the Elk Horn area. The answer is always “no” - we are willing and able to dig into family histories from far and wide! Nearing the end of August we had through the doors 21 from Iowa, 7 from Minnesota, 4 from Illinois, 4 from Nebraska, 3 from Denmark, 3 from Wisconsin, 3 from Colorado, 2 from Michigan, 2 from Canada, and one each from South Dakota, Washington, Arizona, Idaho, Virginia, and California. See you soon? [Find out more about the Genealogy Center 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?

Don't forget to make sure you shop by using the link [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/42-1204613) 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>



fun blog by danish home of chicago

The Hope Chest is an entertaining and whimsical tale created to honor the legacy that The 12 Founding Women of The Danish Home have made culturally and historically, as well as within senior care communities. Blending facts with a fictional storyline, this is a celebration of Danish and Scandinavian contributions to American culture (and vice versa) and a way to cultivate and preserve The Danish Home Foundation, its residents, staff, volunteers, donors, and communicate their mission. [Read a bit](#) and even subscribe to receive it in your inbox!



nordic cuisine and aquavit tasting in chicago

[Akvavit Theatre's](#) Board of Directors wants you to save the date (October 3, 2015) for their second annual Nordic Cuisine & Aquavit Tasting. It will be on the lovely patio of Tre Kronor Restaurant again. All proceeds from the event are in support of their fall production of The Orchestra by Okko Leo (Finland). Questions in the meantime? Email info@akvavittheatre.org.



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/>



north food festival 2015

DANISH CHEFS TAKE OVER NEW YORK

For the third year running, Nordic cuisine comes to New York City for five days in September (23-28). Dubbed “the most influential gastronomy movement since the 1960s”, New Nordic Cuisine has had huge impact on the world’s dining scene since it first arrived 10 years ago.

From exclusive and intimate pop up dinners, through educational cooking classes, to fun and free events celebrating Nordic food and cooking - at [NORTH Food Festival 2015](#), there is something for everyone.

Families, kids, die hard foodies and anyone else who wants to experience a taste of the Nordics are all welcome at the festival, and NORTH Food Festival is your chance to experience the cooking of some of the world’s most exciting Nordic chefs.



dual citizenship information

The following information regarding dual citizenships for Danes has been provided by immigration Attorney, Caroline E. Taylor, a long-time member and Gold Sponsor of the Danish American Chamber of Commerce, Georgia:

On December 18, 2014, the Danish parliament passed a law to allow Danes to apply for citizenship of another country without losing their Danish citizenship. This law goes into effect on September 1, 2015. The law also allows any persons who have lost their Danish citizenship by becoming citizens of another country to have their Danish citizenship re-instated during a 5-year period from September 1, 2015 – August 31, 2020. See the [Ministry of Justice’s website](#) for details about the new law.

In most cases, an application for U.S. citizenship is made on a Form N-400, filed with the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS). See: <http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/B3en.pdf> and <http://www.uscis.gov/n-400>

To qualify for U.S. citizenship, you must meet certain eligibility requirements (there are exceptions to these requirements in certain circumstances):

- You must be 18 years of age or older
- You have been a legal permanent resident (green card holder) for at least 5 years (or 3 years if married to a U.S. Citizen)
- You must meet physical presence and continuous residence requirements over the requisite 5/3 year period prior to filing.
- You must be a person of good moral character (it is advisable to consult with an attorney if you have ever had any criminal convictions).
- You must demonstrate a basic knowledge of U.S. government and history, and be able to read, write and speak basic English.

Currently, Naturalization Applications are taking about 6 months to complete. After the application is mailed in to the USCIS, about 2-3 weeks later, you will be mailed a Biometrics Appointment Notice scheduling you to have your fingerprints taken for the required background check. Next, you will be mailed an Interview Appointment Notice, scheduling your interview, where you will be questioned regarding your background to determine your good moral character, and you will be given a U.S. civics and English test. Currently, interviews for Naturalization Applications are being scheduled about 6 months from the date the application is filed. If your application is approved at the Interview, you will next receive a Notice scheduling you to appear for an Oath Ceremony, where you will be sworn in as a U.S. Citizen. Currently, Oath Ceremonies

are scheduled about 2-3 weeks after the Interview. At the Oath Ceremony, you will receive your Certificate of Naturalization, which is proof of your U.S. Citizenship. You will immediately be able to apply for a U.S. passport with the Certificate of Naturalization, and should also report your new citizenship status to the Social Security Administration.

There are many rights, privileges and responsibilities that go along with U.S. Citizenship. For additional guidance regarding the Naturalization application process, we would refer you to an immigration attorney near you.