

# museum of danish america

**E-NEWS** | DECEMBER 2015

## holiday hours



**DEC 24-27** The museum and Genealogy Center will close at 12 noon on December 24, and remain closed through December 27. Regular hours resume Monday, December 28.

**DEC 31-JAN 3** The museum and Genealogy Center will close at 12 noon on December 31, and remain closed through January 3. Regular hours resume Monday, January 4.

**CURRENT EXHIBITS** *Happy Danes on the Plains* | *Home: Sculpture by Dennis Andersen*  
*Sense of Place* | *Documentary: The Simple Gift of Walnut Grove* | *Across Oceans, Across Time*

## 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!

### DEC 17 | Christmas Hygge

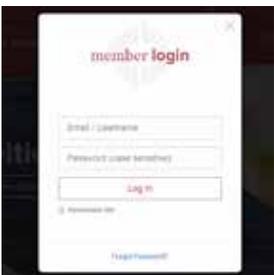
Join museum staff for a celebration of the songs and traditions of the Danish holiday season.

### JAN 14 | SPECIAL: Soup & a Movie

*The Danish-Russian American Nadjeschda: One person, 3 continents, one century*

Enjoy chili or broccoli cheese soup and the story of long-time Kimballton resident, Nadjeschda Overgaard. Free will donation. Snow date is January 21. **Please RSVP to 712.764.7001 or info@danishmuseum.org.**

## danishmuseum.org accounts



The contact information for our museum members has been preloaded into our [danishmuseum.org](http://danishmuseum.org) account system. To log in, use the email address that is associated with your museum membership. Your username will always be your email address. If you have never logged in before, use the "Forgot Password?" option to receive an email with a link to create a password.

## end-of-year giving

PLEASE, [DONATE TODAY](#)



We invite your support for the Museum of Danish America during this holiday season. As some of you may know, we faced 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 DVDs AVAILABLE

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 receive a 10% discount! Login to your account to see your discount code.



## ethnic christmas at the durham museum

Visit our booth at [The Durham Museum's Ethnic Holiday Festival](#) in Omaha from 5-9 pm on **Friday, December 4**. More than 20 local cultural organizations proudly display their crafts and traditional dress, while musicians and dancers perform throughout the evening.



## petersen house museum in arizona

Once again, the Tempe History Museum's [Petersen House Museum](#) will be filled with Danish Christmas decorations for the holiday season. Guests are invited to tour the museum on select Saturdays and Sundays in December. Admission is free!

### ENJOY KRINGLE

The Museum of Danish America would like to treat our desert-dwelling friends and members to some kringle from [Mona's Danish Bakery](#) at the Petersen House Museum on **Saturday, December 12 from 10am-3pm and Sunday, December 13 from 1-4pm**. We hope you will attend!



## december nights in san diego

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. Gert Jensen with the House of Denmark is graciously hosting the interns.

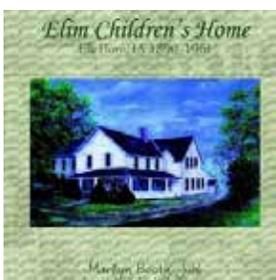
Balboa Park museums open their doors free of charge from 5-9 pm on **December 4 & 5**, and more than 350,000 visitors are expected to experience the joy of San Diego's largest free community festival. The event has been nominated as one of the best holiday festivals in the United States by *USA Today*!



## skål! events in portland and seattle

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.



## elim childrens home history book

Recently the Museum of Danish America purchased the property that is the site of the former Elim Children's Home in Elk Horn. The home was established by the United Danish Evangelical Church in America in 1890 and closed in 1961. Learn the history of the home through this volume featuring first-hand accounts and photographs. 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](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! 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](mailto:anders.have@museummors.dk).



## danish artist featured at elmhurst art museum

Lise Haller Baggesen has been selected as one of the featured artists in [Elmhurst Art Museum's](#) inaugural "Elmhurst Art Museum Biennial: Chicago Statements," Dec. 12, 2015 – Feb. 21, 2016. Baggesen was born in Aarhus, Denmark and currently lives and works in Chicago. On Saturday, **December 19** at 2 p.m. as part of EAM's Holiday Party, Baggesen will read stories about motherhood inside the exhibition tent (complete with pillows and a disco ball!) that is the central feature of her "Motherism" installation in Mies van der Rohe's McCormick House.



## 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.](#)



## annual online advent calendar

Count down the days to Christmas with the [Danish Advent Calendar 2015](#), created by Peter Wendelboe of Aalborg. This year's calendar (the 55th edition!) is about the Danish Queen and Danish Christmas Seals.



## museum staff video chats with danish school

On Thursday, December 3, Michele McNabb and Dr. John Mark Nielsen participated in an hour-long Skype discussion with a class at Rødning Folk High School in Rødning, Denmark. The class, taught by Dr. Jeff Hancks, a guest faculty member from Western Illinois University, focused on global migration. Michele and John Mark described the history and mission of the Museum of Danish America and their involvement in its work. Later their instructor wrote, "Our conversation continued for a good half hour beyond our call and the end of the scheduled class time because the students had so many comments and questions. Your presentation definitely sparked dialogue, and that's the best thing that can happen in a folk school classroom!"

Rødning Folk High School is of historical interest as it was the first folk high school. It was founded in the community of Rødning, which at that time was a part of the Duchy of Slesvig or Schleswig. Because its focus was on maintaining Danish cultural identity, it was closed by the Germans following the Dano-Prussian War of 1864. In 1920, following the plebiscite when the northern part of Slesvig voted to return to Denmark, it was reopened.



## wanting more?

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glædelig jul og godt nytår!  
FROM [ALL OF US HERE](#) AT THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA