

WITH
ANNUAL REPORT

americaletter



SPRING 2021 | A BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA

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Fond Memories

The original name of the brothers was Christiansen. In Copenhagen, however, there were so many names alike that a certain professor prevailed upon himself to "manufacture" some new ones that would not bear similarity. He compiled a large list of them, and, in conjunction with the Danish government, which offered anyone opportunity to change names for a small fee, he sold names to those whose names were common and numerous.

Enthusied with the plan, George explains, and bored by the number of mistakes that came with the over-popular name of Christiansen, George changed his name to Drostgaard as did several other members of his family. Adolph, how-



1998.115.001

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ON THE COVER

Artwork of Victor Borge from a clipping of the section, "TV and Radio Magazine; Programs - People - Week of June 10-16," from *The New York Herald Tribune*, 2007.050.065, Gift of the Royal Danish Embassy

America Letter

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WHY “AMERICA LETTER?”

Letters that were written by immigrants to family and friends back in Denmark are called “America letters” by historians. These letters are often given credit for influencing people to come to America because they were full of details of how good life was here. We call our magazine *America Letter* because we also want to tell the good news about the museum and encourage people to join us!

director's corner

Among all of the challenges of the past year and all of the bad news filling our televisions and social media, there were still many moments of joy, achievement, and celebration. There were still weddings and births, completed projects, and fresh starts. But good news rarely makes headlines, so these celebrations and personal achievements usually remain private.

For the museum, our most public moments have been navigating restrictions, determining how and when to safely welcome visitors, and rescheduling events and programs for online formats. None of these are very celebratory, but at least we've been able to stay active at fulfilling our mission.

And so, there was not a lot of fanfare in October when the board of directors approved a new Strategic Plan. But let me say that again: We have a **NEW STRATEGIC PLAN!** In spite of the past year's road bumps, the board maintained its commitment to crafting and approving the document which

will guide our priorities for the next three years, 2021 to 2023.

Our process was a long time coming. A committee of board and staff members began to meet regularly in 2018 to shape a vision for the coming years. We realized quickly that the museum faced many significant questions: Who will be the museum's audience in the future? How will the museum best meet their needs and interests? And what do we need to start doing now in order to be ready to engage and inspire those future audiences?

These are big questions, not easily answered. But if we are to ensure that the Museum of Danish America remains relevant and resilient into the future, the answers to these questions help point the way.

The new Strategic Plan, therefore, is built around a period of inquiry. We will be exploring new ideas, testing out new programs, and collecting data as we go. We will be asking questions of members, non-members,

neighbors, visitors, and other stakeholders. We will be talking with and learning from our peer museums and sharing our ideas and successes with them, in turn.

There will be opportunities for you to help the museum in this effort. We will be sending out surveys in the coming year, and your responses will be important for us to paint a full picture of our members' preferences, passions, and suggestions. If you follow the museum on social media, your likes and comments affirm when we are going in the right direction or when we might need to alter course. If ever you want to pick up the phone or write us a note, we are always glad to hear from our members directly.

We are grateful for the support of our members, which allows the museum to meet the challenges of today while still looking toward the future. We aim to continue earning your support while we attract new individuals and new generations to our museum family.



By Tova Brandt

executive summary

The 2021-2023 Strategic Plan recognizes that the Museum is at a turning point in its history. The Committee, therefore, decided to develop a three-year plan instead of the usual five-year plan because this plan is designed less to implement a new vision than to seek answers to questions about our audience and mission going forward. We believe that at the end of the three-year period we will have a clearer

idea of what actions the Museum needs to take to create a sustainable future, one that is responsive to a changing mission and audience.

In summary, the Plan seeks to test various hypotheses about future audiences and programming, and to identify metrics to analyze the outcomes of these tests.

KEY INQUIRIES IN THE PLAN

Audience: Identify current and future audiences and communities for the Museum's offerings, and the mission-driven programs that would appeal to them. Among the Museum's audiences (local, regional, national), which offer the best opportunities for engagement, visitation, and membership? What programs, within the mission, values, and vision of the Museum, would appeal to identified audiences?

Membership: Update membership benefit structure. How does the Museum of Danish America attract and retain members?

Collections: Evaluate strengths of the Museum Collections for preservation, exhibit, and events usage. Does our current collection and collection strategy support exhibits and events that appeal to a changing audience?

Genealogy: Identify the specific role the Genealogy Center should play in the mission of the Museum. How does the Genealogy Center advance the mission and sustainability of the Museum as a whole?

Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park (JJPLP): Make the JJPLP a more active focus of Museum programming and events. How can the JJPLP support the audience goals of the Museum of Danish America?

Finances: Along with enhancing current activities to grow the endowment and planned giving, develop new ways of generating and diversifying income. How can the Museum of Danish America achieve long-term financial stability?

Human Resources: As decisions are made about audience focus, exhibits, events, and revenue potential of various programs, identify the human resources necessary to implement these new initiatives. Does the Museum of Danish America have the people in place to develop and manage new initiatives?

board of directors meeting

**FEBRUARY 11-13, 2021
VIDEO CONFERENCE**

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EX-OFFICIO

Dennis Larson, Decorah, IA

John Mark Nielsen, Blair, NE

Nils Jensen, Portland, OR

We're adapting to the Zoom platform, but we would much rather meet in person! Committee meetings, social hours, and the regular board meeting were all held virtually. We accomplished museum business and had a little fun, too.

Our June meeting will also be virtual, but we aim to hold our October regular board meeting and annual meeting in person, in Elk Horn.

WHAT ARE THE COMMITTEES, AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

As an example, the Nominating Committee determines the composition of the board by identifying, recruiting, and proposing board members; it is always looking for candidates. This committee leads the board in identifying the type of board member the organization needs. The committee develops written descriptions of the board members' responsibilities, screens and interviews candidates, and recommends candidates to the full board for approval at each June meeting.

New board member selection focuses on candidates who will be committed to attend meetings, actively participate in committees, contribute financially as able, and actively promote the Museum of Danish America. The committee looks at diversity of geographic location, gender, age, variety of work and life experience, organizational and institutional affiliations, special interests and skills - all which lead to the success of our museum.

Members of the Nominating Committee are: Anders Sand, (Chair), Dennis Grey, Connie Hanson, Marcia Jante, Marnie Jensen, Elly Jorgensen, Lars Matthisen, and Mike Nielsen.

If you have questions about becoming a board member, please feel free to contact Development Manager Deb Christensen Larsen, the staff liaison to the committee.
It's not all work!



By Terri Johnson

exhibition calendar

current

SNAPSHOTS: TRAVELING WITH THE POET HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

Artwork by Danish artist
Susanne Thea
Main Floor Gallery
Through June 6, 2021

MIGRANT

Kramme Gallery
Through May 2, 2021

THE VICTOR BORGE LEGACY AWARD: CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF MUSIC

Multimedia Room



coming

WEDDINGS

Kramme Gallery
May 28, 2021 – 2022

BRUSHES & LENSES: TWO GENERATIONS OF ART

Main Floor Gallery
June 26, 2021 – Nov. 2021

traveling

ART NOUVEAU INNOVATION: DANISH PORCELAIN FROM AN AMERICAN COLLECTOR

*Sponsored by The Danish Home of
Croton-on-Hudson and the Albert Victor
Ravenholt Fund*

Brunnier Art Museum, Iowa State University

Ames, IA
Through May 9

Flint Institute of Arts

Flint, MI
June 12 – Nov. 28, 2021

NEW NORDIC CUISINE

Major support for New Nordic Cuisine comes from the American-Scandinavian Foundation, Erik and Eva Andersen, and the Estate of Erik Sorensen. National tour sponsored by Cynthia Larsen Adams & Gary M. Adams, Embassy of Denmark in Washington, DC, O&H Danish Bakery, The Danish Pioneer Newspaper, Humanities Iowa, Nordic Council of Ministers, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, Anna Thomsen Holliday & Hal Holliday, and the Honorable Lynette Skow Rasmussen & Kurt Rasmussen.

Vesterheim Norwegian- American Museum

Decorah, IA
Through Sept. 6, 2021

Hjemkomst Heritage Center

Moorhead, MN
Nov. 15, 2021 -
March 7, 2022



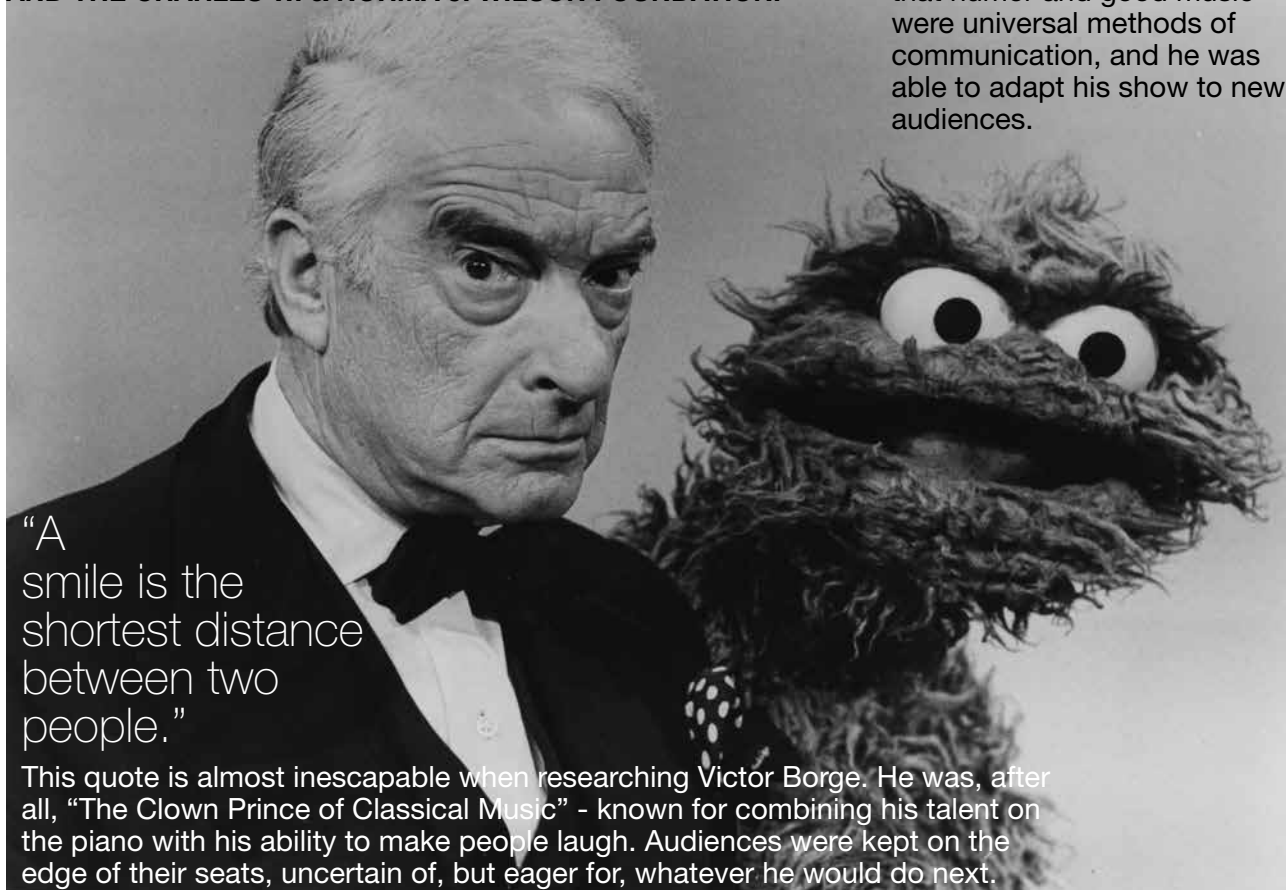
Subscribe to
[www.YouTube.com/
NordicCuisine](https://www.YouTube.com/NordicCuisine)
for demonstrations,
stories, and visits to
Nordic food destinations.

the victor borge legacy award: celebrating 10 years of music

**EXHIBITION ON VIEW IN THE MULTIMEDIA ROOM
FROM FEBRUARY 5, 2021
THE AWARD IS SPONSORED BY
R. JAMES & JANET BORGE CROWLE,
THE ERIC & JOAN NORGAARD CHARITABLE TRUST,
AND THE CHARLES W. & NORMA J. WILSON FOUNDATION.**

WHO WAS VICTOR BORGE?

Born in Denmark in 1909, Borge was quickly identified as a piano prodigy, and by age nine, received a full scholarship to the Royal Danish Academy of Music. Eventually developing his signature “stand-up” style of performance which merged comedy and music, he toured throughout Europe. However, after the German occupation of Denmark during World War II, he escaped to Finland and then America. Although he did not speak English, he found that humor and good music were universal methods of communication, and he was able to adapt his show to new audiences.



“A smile is the shortest distance between two people.”

This quote is almost inescapable when researching Victor Borge. He was, after all, “The Clown Prince of Classical Music” - known for combining his talent on the piano with his ability to make people laugh. Audiences were kept on the edge of their seats, uncertain of, but eager for, whatever he would do next.

War nor age slowed down Borge. At 90, he was still performing up to 60 shows a year. At the time of his death in 2000, he had been honored at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and received four knighthoods from Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. His impact was powerful and far-reaching, and he brought joy to millions of individuals around the world.

THE HISTORY OF THE AWARD

In 2011 an award program was created at the Museum of Danish America “in order to preserve and promote Victor Borge’s legacy as a musician, entertainer, and cultural ambassador.”

The goals were, and remain:

- To preserve and promote Victor Borge’s legacy, especially among younger audiences
- To encourage young piano students to continue their musical studies
- To promote the Museum of Danish America as a cultural center

Initially, only students from the Omaha and Southwest Iowa regions were eligible to compete; in 2016, students from the Des Moines area began to participate in the program as well. Each year, the first and second place winners from each of the regional competitions must write an essay on a pre-selected topic relating to Victor Borge’s life

and career. The essays are judged by a panel of three readers, including Janet Borge Crowle, Victor Borge’s daughter who, along with her husband Jim, sponsored the award from its start.

The six students then come to the museum for a recital, where they are asked to play a portion of their repertoire from memory. Prizes are awarded, and the first and second place winners of the essay portion of the contest are named. The piano used in the recital is a part of the museum’s permanent collection, donated by Victor Borge himself. Purchased in Copenhagen while Borge was still a young musician, this 1929 Hindsberg grand piano was the first piano that he owned. When the students sit down on the bench to perform, they are truly touching history.

Since its inception, 44 awards have been given to 39 different winners. (Some students chose to compete in multiple years.) While the students who win first prize are not permitted to compete again, any other student is welcome to come back a following year, should they wish to have another shot at winning first place.

REFLECTING: WHAT BORGE AND THE LEGACY AWARD TEACH US

Unfortunately, Victor Borge’s name is not as well known today as it used to be even a few decades ago, especially among newer generations of piano students. One winner even admitted that without this award, she “may still [be]

oblivious about his lasting legacy.” However, through this program, students from this region can connect to Borge and engage with his work through the lens of their personal experiences.

The essays written by the students are each saved for the Museum of Danish America’s records. Reading the essays provides a sense of the varied ways in which the students have connected with and learned from Borge. In addition, as part of this year’s exhibit, we asked past winners if they would be willing to share a written or recorded piece that reflected on what the award and Victor Borge have meant to them. Several students submitted materials, which are included in the exhibit. Looking through this wealth of material, both old and new, has shown not only how Borge impacted students at the time of the recital, but also how, years later, Borge and the Victor Borge Legacy Award have continued to influence the participants in their personal and professional lives.

For some of the students, connecting with Borge’s legacy has been a deeply personal experience. For Tylar Meister, a winner in the 2016-2017 competition, reflecting on Borge brought back memories of his grandfather, a sentiment echoed in his original essay and a recorded piece for the exhibit. He has kept up with his piano studies in college and sees Borge as foundational to his performances and experience.

By Diya Nagaraj



Different aspects of Victor Borge's life and performances connected with different winners – for some, it was his story of immigrating to the United States and being able to succeed at the highest levels of the music industry. For others, it was his ability to interpret music in new and unique ways. And for still other students, his ability to turn a piano concert into a performance through the seamless addition of humor had the most impact. These essays are a testament to Victor Borge's broad appeal, which has allowed his performances to continue to entertain and inspire to this day.

Michelle Sargent, a winner in 2011-2012, now teaches piano and works as an accompanist. For her, she says, "winning the competition gave me confidence that it was possible for me to have a future as a musician." She was not the only student to mention the confidence boost that came with winning such an award. Borge's lively, bold performance style has inspired confidence in many performers' abilities.

In the words of Harry Simmons, one of the first recipients of the Victor Borge Legacy Award, Borge's greatest contribution was "reinventing performance

practices to capture the hearts of a new generation of listeners." Although Borge is no longer with us, this award is another way he is capturing the hearts of future generations.

The exhibit *The Victor Borge Legacy Award: Celebrating 10 Years of Music* is on display from February 5 through the end of 2021, and the annual Victor Borge Legacy Award recital will be held this July.



Janet and Jim Crowle, Dawn and Dr. John Mark Nielsen, Marilyn and Lowell Kramme at the inaugural Victor Borge Legacy Award, held Sunday, April 22, 2012.



Janet Borge Crowle and Dr. John Mark Nielsen with three of the 2012 Victor Borge Legacy Award winners, Harry Simmons, Justine Petersen, and Michelle Sargent



Lowell and Marilyn Kramme (left) and Dr. John Mark Nielsen (right) with two of the winners of the 2012 Victor Borge Legacy Award, Justine Petersen and Mallory Huggins



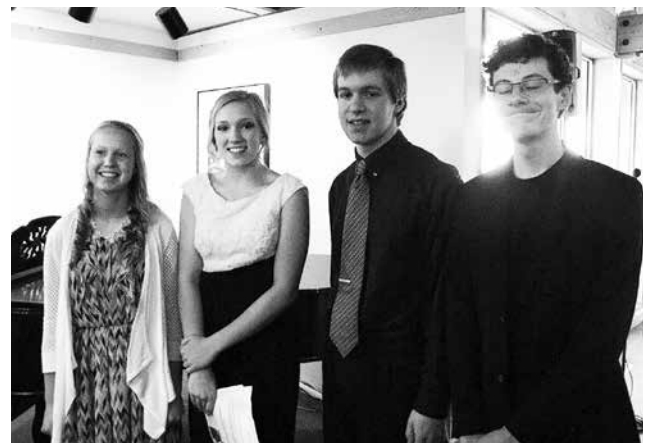
Winners of the 2013 Victor Borge Legacy Award: Cassie Huang, Mallory Huggins, Katie Payne, and Gelilah Yohannes, with Dr. John Mark Nielsen and Tova Brandt



Two of the winners of the 2014 award (from left to right), Emily Umphreys and Emily Zhang, with Dr. John Mark Nielsen (middle)



At the 2014 awards, Janet Borge Crowle embraces winner Moriah Hellstrom, while Dr. John Mark Nielsen and fellow winner Katie Payne look on



The winners of the 2015 award, Anna Reelfs, Katie Payne, Jonathan Vusich, and Jonathan Herman



The 2016 recipients, Jonathan Boissy, Marissa Mathia, Anna Reelfs, and Larissa Tibbles (left to right) of the Victor Borge Legacy Award with Janet Borge Crowle (center)



Three of the 2017 award recipients, Tylar Meister, Tony Song II, and Shannon Hire with Janet Borge Crowle and Rasmus Thøgersen



Three of the 2017 award recipients, Moriah Heilesen, Kate Doolittle, and Ben Franco with Janet Borge Crowle and Rasmus Thøgersen



Two of the 2018 award recipients, Taylor Bowers and Madeline Koch, with Rasmus Thøgersen



Three of the 2018 award recipients, Tylar Meister, Laura Liu, and Alina Hatfield, with Rasmus Thøgersen



The 2018-2019 award winners, Madeline Koch, Miranda Mae Becker, Brigit Geiver, Isaac Gart, Jonathan Hoa Nguyen, and Lucy Gannon

event calendar

The following includes both events happening at the Museum of Danish America and events which will be attended by one or more representatives from the museum - subject to changes. Keep up with the goings-on (and other interesting content) by following us on Facebook and Twitter!

BROWN BAG LUNCH

Square Stories
By Lise Kildegaard
May 20, Noon on Facebook
Sponsored by Danish Sisterhood Lodge
#15, Milwaukee

TIVOLI FEST

Danish Villages
May 28-29

DANISH AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

June 5

BROWN BAG LUNCH

As Certain as Danes & Taxes
with Ulrik Boesen
June 10, Noon on Facebook

VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING

June 10-12

SANKT HANS AFTEN

Virtual and In-Person
June 26
Sponsored by the American
Scandinavian Foundation

REBILD FESTIVAL

Rebild, Denmark
July 4

10th ANNUAL VICTOR BORGE LEGACY AWARD PIANO RECITAL

Bro Dining Room
July 17

HOOVER'S HOMETOWN DAYS

West Branch, IA
August 7

DANISH FESTIVAL

Greenville, MI
August 20-21

BOARD & ANNUAL MEETINGS

Elk Horn, IA
October 14-16

JULEFEST

November 26-27

} Our annual midsummer bonfire, this year also featuring:

- Excellent musical acts
- International and virtual participation

} Be like Greenville, and host a MoDA pop-up exhibit at a venue near you. Contact Diya Nagaraj for info.

watch & learn

**MANY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON
THE MUSEUM'S FACEBOOK PAGE AND YOUTUBE CHANNEL.**

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DANISHMUSEUM | WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/DANISHMUSEUM

collection connection



As we look back at the decade of recitals performed on the Victor Borge piano, it is fitting to share a little about the instrument itself. According to the serial number, it was manufactured in 1926. Borge himself said, “The piano maker Hindsberg created the instrument on which I was able to produce the tone and touch for which I was praised throughout my career.” As the first piano he ever owned, it held special value to him.



When Borge had to leave Denmark during World War II, his piano remained behind, under the care of his brother. After it was safe to return, Borge reunited with his piano and practiced on it daily in his home, Frydenlynd. Later, the piano was moved to St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where it continued to see regular use.

In 1989 Hurricane Hugo hit the Virgin Islands. Borge’s estate sustained significant damage, including this piano. Following the storm, Gilsonite Music Industries of New Jersey was hired to restore the case, though the instrument itself remained unplayable. The piano was donated to the museum in 1994, and though silent, acted as a significant visual reminder of the career of this great Danish immigrant performer.



Between December 2008 and March 2009, as the centennial of Borge’s birth approached, and thanks to funding from members Lowell & Marilyn Kramme, the museum contracted with Norman Petersen, a Registered Piano Technician from Mankato, MN, to return the piano to playable condition. Many conversations were held about whether to restore it to completely like-new condition or to simply make the necessary repairs. Ultimately, the museum decided on a blending of the two: retain the history shown in the stains, cracks, and paint loss, while replacing the key components for quality sound and performance. For example, instead of replacing the yellowed and cracked ivory key tops, Petersen repaired and reglued the tops that Borge’s fingers had touched.



When he donated the piano to the museum in 1994, Borge said, “The piano has been reconditioned and comes to you a slightly battle-scarred but vigorous senior citizen. I have long considered this the dearest of my personal possessions, and it is of great comfort to have this part of me in your care.” He would undoubtedly be pleased that this dear possession continues to be used and enjoyed in a way that not only honors Borge’s legacy, but also inspires continuing generations of performers.



By Angela Stanford

01. During restoration, most components were removed from the case and returned piece-by-piece. **02-03.** Some of the soundboard was damaged by water from the hurricane. Those areas were re-glued, and cracks were filled with shims. The entire soundboard was then cleaned and re-varnished. The wood layers of the bridges were splitting toward the back, and they, too, were glued. **04.** The plate was also cleaned, and the rusted areas were touched-up with gold-colored paint.



05. St. Croix, 1970s: Borge's canine audience watches as he plays his Hindsberg piano in his home. *2007.047.002, gift of Janet Borge Crowle.* **06.** All keys were cleaned, as well as the workings inside. Some key tops were repaired and re-glued, but those remained original. **07-08.** The pin plank, red felts, tuning pins, and strings were all replaced. The original dampers were put back in place.

genealogy in newspaper archives

One of my favorite resources in genealogical research is newspaper archives. They can be overlooked by those doing family research, because people tend to be more focused on finding the vital records. Sometimes, though, if a vital record cannot be found, it may be possible to find information in a local newspaper.

I regularly use newspaper archives to find obituaries, birth notices, marriage announcements, and other events which can connect individuals and verify family facts. Newspaper archives allow one to obtain bits of information, discover amazing stories, and, occasionally, find a photo that cannot be obtained from official record searches.

BROTHERS?

In the example here, taken from a 1925 *Grand Island Daily Independent* newspaper article called "Brothers but Names Differ," you get the story of why two brothers' surnames are different, even though they have the same parentage. This clip also shares that other family members changed their surnames as well.

Any descendants of the article's subjects, Adolph Christiansen or George Drostgaard, who are doing

genealogical research would likely be at a disadvantage if they did not know of this name change in the family's past. If the story had not been passed down, the odds are high that the only way an individual would know about the name change is if they had looked in the newspaper archives and found this article. Without this knowledge, a researcher could miss the relationship between the Christiansens and the Drostgaards, resulting in missed family information and possibly leading to false facts on the family as a whole.

The original name of the brothers was Christiansen. In Copenhagen, however, there were so many names alike that a certain professor prevailed upon himself to "manufacture" some new ones that would not bear similarity. He compiled a large list of them, and, in conjunction with the Danish government which offered anyone opportunity to change names for a small fee, he sold names to those whose names were common and numerous.

Enthusied with the plan, George explains, and bored by the number of mistakes that came with the over-popular name of Christiansen, George changed his name to Drostgaard as did several other members of his family. Adolph, however, stuck to the old family name of Christiansen. Hence it is George Drostgaard and Adolph Christiansen.

Clipped from Newspapers.com
The Grand Island Daily Independent
Grand Island, NE
July 1, 1925 • Page 12



By Amanda Skellenger

"The underground then became very active and it is surprising what they could accomplish. Arms and explosives came at night from Great Britain and were dropped by 'chute from planes and people young and old received the goods and almost all of it was hidden before the Nazis got wise. It became a popular sport among the young people to outwit the Gestapo and the Nazi army and although it meant death or torture if captured, almost every able-bodied man and many women were in the game."

Clipped from Newspapers.com
The Santa Fe New Mexican
Santa Fe, NM
Aug 12, 1945 • Page 2

A REVEALING LETTER

Sometimes, you can be searching for one thing in the archives but stumble upon something different – and find an amazing person and story. While searching newspaper archives for a Jens Jensen, I came across a Jens K. Jensen. Jens K. was a Danish immigrant who arrived in 1902 and lived in Boston and North Dakota before settling in New Mexico. Through a little bit of searching, I discovered a number of articles that told of his interesting life here in America.

Once in New Mexico, Jens K. became a teacher, went to college, earned a degree at the age of 63, and became a renowned naturalist and ornithologist. I also found a 1945 article in *The Santa Fe New Mexican* called "Jens

K. Jensen Has First Word From Brother In Denmark."

The article tells about how, in 1945, after five years of no contact, Jens K. finally received a letter from his brother, who was in the newly liberated, German-occupied Denmark. The letter described life during the war, including the Danish underground and Nazi cruelty. If this letter had not been documented in the local newspaper at the time, its contents may have been lost to history.

GETTING ACCESS

There are a number of ways to access newspaper archives. The most popular websites are Newspapers.com and NewspapersArchive. These databases require paid memberships to access millions of newspapers from around the world.

State and local libraries and genealogical societies are good places to find access to

physical or digitized archives for free. They also tend to have library accounts for the online databases which require paid memberships, but you likely have to be physically inside the library or genealogy center to gain access with their account.

For unpaid access at home, check with your local library. Many have worked with local and state organizations to digitize newspaper archives. One company called Advantage Archives, based out of Iowa, specializes in this work. There is a directory on their website which allows you to find locations that have had their archives digitized through them. If a newspaper cannot be found in one of the bigger databases, such as Newspapers.com or NewspapersArchive, check to see if they've been digitized through Advantage Archives.

THE WALL THAT TALKS

the kindness couple

STORIES FROM THE DANISH IMMIGRANT WALL OF HONOR

An act of kindness can change a life. It can be small. It can be big. No matter the size, it requires someone willing to give, and there is no shortage of “someones” in the MoDA family. Meet Erick Carl and Dagmar Eriksen, two of those “someones.” Their names are inscribed on The Danish Immigrant Wall of Honor at the Museum of Danish America. Many were inspired by the Eriksens, everyday “someones” that made a difference in peoples’ lives with their acts of kindness.

Danish immigrants Erick Carl Eriksen (1883-1966) and Dagmar Mathilde Hansen (1893-1968) were married in 1919. In 1924 the young couple immigrated to Askov, MN, from where they later moved to Des Moines, IA. He was the custodian and groundskeeper at Grand View College, and she the cook. They both contributed much to the life of the College from 1943 until their deaths.

ACTS OF KINDNESS DO NOT GO UNNOTICED

It was a cultivation of kindness for others that unfolded over many years - sublime acts of kindness and generosity

toward others. That’s the Eriksen story told by a generation of Grand View College students, alumni, and friends. Handwritten notes tucked inside the Eriksen’s Wall of Honor file share plenty of kind and good gestures and fond memories:

“I worked with Mrs. Eriksen in the kitchen while at G.V.C. My second year, 46-47, I roomed at their home.”

“I have very fond memories of both of them. ‘Karl’ put up with me overhauling my motorcycle in his tiny shop in the basement of Old Main.”

“My fondest memory is when 3-4 of us students happened to meet them coming out of a downtown movie theatre. They generously invited us to have ice cream with them. Knowing how little they were paid at the college, their kindness made a lasting impression on me.”

Uplifted by the acts of kindness shown to them, friends and alumni set up a memorial fund in the Eriksens’ names 30 years after their deaths. The fund supported the Eriksens’ inscription on the museum’s Wall of Honor. “As immigrants they should

surely be listed on the Wall of Honor at the Danish Immigrant Museum,” (Museum of Danish America) wrote the organizers in 1994. “They had no children or others to ensure their listing, therefore it is up to their many friends to attend to this matter.”

The response was indicative of the esteem in which Carl and Dagmar were held by all who came into contact with them. Many paid tribute to this couple by joining in the Wall of Honor effort, where according to organizers, “they surely belong.”

A minor problem arose, however. Unknown to sponsors of the appeal, the names of the Eriksens had already been placed on the museum’s Wall of Honor by someone whose life had also been touched by theirs. While the appeal wasn’t used for its originally stated purpose, the funds were donated to the museum in memory of the Eriksens. “The result is that we are, in effect, doubly honoring ‘Karl’ and Dagmar whom we were all proud to call friends,” organizers said.

This is a couple who went above and beyond, and along the way, inspired others to



By Shelli Larson

do the same. The Eriksen's Wall of Honor file includes a newspaper clipping which tells of the planting of some 60 trees and bushes by students and friends at Grand View College in honor of the Eriksens. Grand View Vice President Harry C. Jensen recalled in 1971 how Eriksen "used his Danish training as "forester in residence," and "singlehandedly kept the campus manicured."

KINDNESS IS LASTING

I hope this article gladdens the heart of anyone who has ever wondered whether tiny acts of kindness have lasting consequences, whether goodness spurs goodness, or whether a single act can influence dozens more.

Wall of Honor Plaque, Column 42 Row 6, names "Erick Carl and Dagmar Mathilde Eriksen," will serve as a reminder that kindness is no small thing. Kindness can, and does, make a difference.



**DANISH IMMIGRANT
WALL OF HONOR
Column 42 Row 6**
Erick Carl and
Dagmar Mathilde Eriksen
1924 Askov, MN 1924

Erick Carl and Dagmar Mathilde Eriksen

Taken in front of their
home in Des Moines,
IA in 1946.



Our initial interest in the Museum of Danish America was piqued by a desire to gain knowledge about how our ancestors came to America. At that time, the museum was called The Danish Immigrant Museum. We love to travel, but travel which involves moving your entire family, or in some cases, coming alone and likely never returning to your “home,” puts a whole new spin on it. We find it both interesting and fun to learn more about who our relatives were and why they came to this country.

At one time, at least three-quarters of both Kurt’s and my ancestors traveled here from Denmark. An interesting bit of our heritage trivia is that both our fathers grew up in rural South Dakota, were two years apart in age, lived in Danish communities 25 miles from each other, and often shared the same Danish Lutheran Pastor. My family moved around quite a bit before arriving in Iowa (Washington DC, Alaska, Texas, and California). When we finally moved here, we joined a Danish Lutheran Church where Kurt was also a member. Our fathers soon discovered that they had grown up in neighboring, South Dakota towns all those years ago. Kurt and I sometimes joke that we are in an arranged marriage, one that has worked well for almost 32 years.

Along with increased knowledge about our heritage came opportunities to serve, which also provided us with front row seats to the ways in which an organization is run. Ultimately, we ended up following a bit of philanthropy advice offered by my father-in-law, “Know where your money is going or know (the) people who serve on the boards you support.”

I served on the Museum of Danish America’s board first, when John Mark Nielsen was the executive director. Kurt is serving now, and the current executive director is Tova Brandt. Kurt and I agree that these two unique leaders, with different styles and gifts, have both lead with skill, professionalism, and grace. That is one of the primary reasons we continue to support the museum. The staff and leadership display professionalism in their assigned roles, work well together, and keep the mission of the museum in the forefront.

When we give financially to the museum, we generally earmark it for the General Fund. This practice stems from advice I received from my mother years ago: “If you really believe in an organization, give to their General Fund. They know where and how to spend or invest it best.”

**Honorable Consul Lynette Rasmussen
& Current Board Member Kurt Rasmussen**

new addition to the wall of honor

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 – FEBRUARY 18, 2021

The Danish Immigrant Wall of Honor provides families and friends with a means of preserving the memories of those who emigrated from Denmark to America. More than 4,600 immigrants are currently recognized on the Wall. Their stories and the stories of their families contribute to the growing repository of personal histories at the museum's Genealogy Center. You may find a list of the immigrants on the Wall of Honor at www.danishmuseum.org.

The information below includes the immigrant's name, year of immigration, location where they settled, and the donor's name and location.

ESPER ANDERSEN PETERSEN

(1921) Chicago, Illinois –
Esper A. Petersen, Somis, CA

jens jensen heritage path

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 – FEBRUARY 18, 2021

The Jens Jensen Heritage Path is a place to celebrate an occasion or achievement, recognize an individual or organization, or honor the memory of a loved one. Twice a year the pavers will be engraved and placed within the Flag Plaza: May and October.

These individuals have contributed a paver in the sizes of small or medium.

Paul Anderson
Kirsten Bellur, Bakersfield, CA
Tricia Byrne, Williamsburg, VA
Dania Ladies Society, Elk
Grove Village, IL
Suzanna Dumke
Steve & Sherry Fletcher,
Atlantic, IA
Kenneth Gregersen, Ankeny, IA
Lynn & Inga Grove,
Wilmington, OH
Louis Nielsen & Marcia Jante,
New Berlin, WI
Birgitte Molvig, Harrah, OK
Douglas & Ingrid Neale,
Decatur, GA

Roxane Nowling
Ronald & Rosemary Raschke,
Athens, GA
Caroline Rebodos,
Cincinnati, OH
Frances Simmons, Chico, CA
Theresa Sorenson,
Thornton, CO

By Deb Christensen Larsen



memorials

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 – FEBRUARY 18, 2021

**Through various funds,
donors have provided gifts in
memory of:**

Shirley Acker
Dorothea Pederson Adams-
Haring, my grandmother
Charles Andersen
Mona Sachau Andersen
Richard L. Andersen
Lois Andersen, my sister
Ardys Askelson, in recognition
of our shared Danish heritage
Gay Banister
The life of Gay J. Bannister
Ruth (Larsen) Randall Benson
Robert (Bob) Brown, my father
Cecily Castenskiold
John (Jack) Christensen, our
uncle
Joyce Christensen
T.K. Christensen
Virgil & Joyce Christensen, my
loving parents
Lillian Irene Eggers
Paul Emanuelsen
Albert, Millie, Melvin & Wilfred
Eskov
Hans & Mathilde Farstrup
Howard Peter Fauerby
Harriet Foster
Harriet Foster, member
of Sisterhood Lodge 15,
Milwaukee
Nels Peter Frandsen,
Emigrated to U.S. 1892
Charles Frederiksen
Charles Faaborg Frederiksen
Chuck Frederiksen
Herman & Marie Friis
Marcella Gaines
The Georgeson Family Hans &
Inger Olsen
Erling Grumstrup
Erling J. Grumstrup

Bent & Lydia Hansen
Paul Hansen
Paul K. Hansen
Thorvald & Johanne Hansen
Hans Christian Have
Frank Heilesen Jr.
Doris Henriksen
Harry C. & Jeannine A.
Henriksen
Emery & Izy Hoegh
The George Hoegh Family
Marj Holland
Marjory Holland
Inge R. Jacobson
Anna Matilda Jensen
Gladys Rasmussen Jensen &
Andrew Jensen
Jens C. & Christine Jensen
Oskar & Ellen Jensen
Roland & Anitra Jensen
Grace Johnson
Floyd W. Jorgensen
Nels Jorgensen, Hendricks,
MN
Nels Jorgensen, my brother
Tage Ketelsen
Aase Vibeke Kiehn
Esther Elizabeth Knudsen,
Dean Larsen's cousin
Richard Kramme, my husband
John Kristensen
Hans & William Larsen
Helen & Paul Larsen
Kurt Klaskov Larsen
Kurt Klarskov Larsen, my
husband
Robert Laursen
Arlene & Alvin Madsen
Margaret Magnan, a member
of the Red River Danes for
many years
Valborg Henriksen McKinzie
Marilyn Meyer's four Danish
grandparents
Laina Molbak

John & Karen Molgaard
Karen Molgaard
Gertrude Mork
Tage & Else Mortensen
Frederick W. Nelsen
Harry Charles Nielsen
LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen
Eric & Joan Norgaard
Brent Norlem
James Brent Norlem
J. Brent Norlem, legendary
professor at SCSU
J. Brent Norlem, my friend and
to honor his wish
James Brent Norlem, my
undergraduate university
advisor and mentor
G. Wayne Olsen & Phyllis
(Henriksen) Olsen
Ole & Marie Olsen
Christian August Olsen, my
Great-Grandfather
Edith Riita Paulsen
Virginia Paulsen
Lone Hindsgaul Paxton
Anna M. Pedersen
Flemming V. Pedersen
Martin Pedersen
Martin A. Pedersen
Niels M. Pedersen
Paul & Lily Pedersen
A. Stenvald & Ida Pedersen,
my parents
Walter Nielsen & Else
Pedersen, my parents
Hans & Ivy Peitersen
Everett Petersen
Helen Petersen
Jens Holm Petersen -
Grandfather
Helen Petersen, my aunt
Harry & Frances Petersen, my
parents
Jean K. Prinds
John & Marjorie Quist

in honor

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 – FEBRUARY 18, 2021

Christian Jessen Refshauge
& Anna Marie Andreasen
Refshauge
Ragna Yeilegaard Reid
Andrew & Rosa Rosenkild
Albert Martin Jensen Schjodt,
Annette's grandfather, who
came to the U.S. from
Denmark in 1915
Brent Schou
Darrell Schroeter
Darrell D. Schroeter
Darrell Schroeter, my husband
Orin Simon
Axel & Rose Skelbeck
Marie Louise Sorensen
Marie Louise Sørensen
Elmer & Eleanor Sornson
Mrs. Karen Struckman
Charles Anton Sweningsen
Emery & Val Thomsen, my
parents
Ruth Anderson Turney

**Through various funds,
donors have provided gifts
in honor of people or special
events.**

Major General John B.
Anderson, USMA '14,
Parkersburg, IA
Tova Brandt
Bruce Bro
Bruce Bro, my cousin, who
successfully completed his
"Hike for Danish America"
Rosa Clemens
The Danish Sisterhood Archive
Project
Dania Society of Chicago's
long history
All health care workers
Phyllis Hoegh
Jim and Marge Iversen
Marius Andreas Jorensen
Joyce Larson Madison
Ann Madsen
Museum of Danish America's
continuation
Museum of Danish America's
volunteers, past & present
Museum of Danish America's
volunteers and staff
Niels M. Pedersen
Anders Leroy Carlson Sand
David Seymour
Wanda Sornson

new members

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 – FEBRUARY 18, 2021

The Museum of Danish America is pleased to identify the following 138 individuals as its newest members:

Barbara Andersen, Crystal, MN
Dennis Andersen,
Richmond, VA
William & Angela Baker,
Omak, WA
Monica Bayles, Omaha, NE
Christine Bess, Tacoma, WA
Greg & Dawn Biba,
Waupaca, WI
Thoralyn Jensen Bogli,
Manchester, CT
Nancy Bourne, Sonoma, CA
Søren & Birgit Jepsen Brandt,
Store Merløse, Denmark
Howard Pinhasik & Judith Bro,
Weehawken, NJ
Curtis & Cherie Brown,
Belle Plaine, IA
Earl & Thurid Campbell,
Perrysburg, OH
Clark & Fernanda Christensen,
Goose Creek, SC
R. Christensen,
Stevensville, MI
William Christensen,
Philadelphia, PA
P V & Meena Damodaran,
Alpharetta, GA
Jon K. & Penny Davis,
Ames, IA
Helen L. Dickson, Bath, NY
Marilyn Edgington,
Saint Ansgar, IA
Steve & Sherry Fletcher,
Atlantic, IA
Annie Gammel,
Saratoga Springs, NY
Cheryl Gaughan, Omaha, NE

Nika George & Sam Roof,
Omaha, NE
Milbern & Kathryn Goetz,
Greeley, CO
Maria Christiansen Goodman,
Tallahassee, FL
Judith Green,
West Des Moines, IA
Matthew Gunlund, Clovis, CA
Ben Hansen, Nuremberg,
Germany
Melodee Helfrich,
Orchard Park, NY
Kirsten Hensley, Ann Arbor, MI
Gail Hickenbottom,
West Des Moines, IA
Paul & Karin Holm, Esbjerg V,
Denmark
Audrey & Tony Horacek,
Holmen, WI
Eric & Lois Hyde,
Eden Prairie, MN
Karen Jacobson,
Monticello, MN
Alan & Pat Jensen,
Cedar Rapids, IA
Christina Jensen, Golden, CO
Cynthia Jensen,
Washington, DC
Susan Jensen Hales,
Corners, WI
Gail Jensen & Judy Gail,
Omaha, NE
Mike & Dona Johnson,
Sedona, AZ
Yvonne Johnson,
Webster City, IA
Cynthia Jones,
Forrest Lake, MN
Keith Jorgensen, Greenfield, IA
Bernard Kaltoft, Kimballton, IA
Steve & Linda Kladstrup,
Rochester, NY
Karen Kollar, Southington, CT
Amy Kraenzlein, Midland, MI

Jack & Nancy Krogstad,
Elk Horn, IA
Elizabeth Larson, Ames, IA
Eric Laursen, Charlemont, MA
Sandra Lee, Morgan Hill, CA
Patricia Ligibel,
Lambertville, MI
Kevin & Tove Lockie,
Riceville, IA
Phillip Magnus & Anita
Delafield, Des Moines, IA
David Magnus & Susan
Delafield, Fishers, IN
Michael & Margaret Meede,
Norton, MA
Paul West & Irvina Mitchell,
Mossyrock, WA
Janie Moody, Corvallis, OR
Dennis & Marcia Morton,
Bondurant, IA
Nagaraj Sivasubramaniam &
Sujata Nagaraj, Pittsburgh, PA
Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran
Church, Cedar Falls, IA
Heather Nelsen,
New Hope, MN
Margaret Ness, Le Roy, MN
Thomas E. Nielsen,
Audubon, IA
Erik Nielsen Family,
Seattle, WA
Daniel & Lorrie Pearson,
Seward, NE
Esper Petersen, Somis, CA
Gauge Petersen, Harlan, IA
Lisa Christensen Petersen,
West Hartford, CT
Rick & Judi Petersen,
Atlantic, IA
Esper A. Petersen Foundation,
Grayslake, IL
Gordon & Eunice Peterson,
Sheridan, WY
Bill & Dianna Plantan,
Rochester, MN

Jan Reicks,
West Des Moines, IA
Nicole Rice, Naperville, IL
Inger Russell, Taylorsville, UT
Annabel Saunders,
Westcliffe, CO
Amanda Sewell, Casper, WY
Rachel Shargal,
Kew Gardens, NY
Frances Simmons, Chico, CA
Aksel Soee, Læsøe, Denmark
Flemming & Lexie Sorensen,
Seattle, WA
Halvor Sornson, Omaha, NE
Ethel Spry, Sonoma, CA
Chris Stratton, Lakewood, CO
Carol Olsen Swenson,
Burnsville, MN
Mike & Katherine E. Toms,
Madrid, IA
Flavia Vang, Metairie, LA
Douglas & Kathryn Veltre,
Anchorage, AK
Susan Wall, Christiansted,
Virgin Islands
Sasha Walley, Minnetonka, MN
Michael & Janet Walsted,
Fort Worth, TX
Ethelene Whitmire,
Madison, WI
Hannah Browning & Blake
Willadsen, Des Moines, IA
Eli Winkler, Pawtucket, RI
Edward Wissing, Kirkland, WA
Connie Benton Wolfe,
Fort Wayne, IN
Patrick & Lindsay Wombles,
Salem, IL
Larry & Debbie Wright,
New Port Richey, FL

**MUSEUM
MEMBERSHIP
MAKES A
GREAT GIFT**

For lives that are already stuffed full of “stuff,” a museum membership gives back while also giving access. A membership is easy to arrange, thoughtful, and rewarding. Contact us any time for gift-giving throughout the year.

organization associates

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 – FEBRUARY 18, 2021

These 82 organizations have contributed memberships or gifts-in-kind of \$100 or greater or have received complimentary or reciprocal memberships in recognition of exemplary service to the museum. We acknowledge their generosity in each edition of the *America Letter* during their membership.

Aalborg and Linie Aquavits,
Arcus AS, Hagan, Norway
American Swedish Historical
Museum, Philadelphia, PA
Atlantic Friends of The Danish
Immigrant Museum,
Atlantic, IA
Audubon Family Chiropractic
(Douglas & Nichole Olsen),
Audubon, IA
Carroll Control Systems, Inc.
(Todd & Jalynn Wanninger),
Carroll, IA
Christopher Ranch, LLC
(Donald & Karen Christopher),
Gilroy, CA
Country Landscapes, Inc.
(Rhett Faaborg), Ames, IA
Danebod Lutheran Church,
Tyler, MN
Danes Hall of Waupaca, LLC,
Waupaca, WI
Danish American Athletic Club
of 1922, Chicago, IL
The Danish American Archive
and Library, Blair, NE
Danish American Club in
Orange County, Huntington
Beach, CA area
Danish Archive North East
(DANE), Edison, NJ
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1,
Omaha, NE

Danish Brotherhood Lodge
#14, Kenosha, WI
Danish Brotherhood Lodge
#15, Des Moines, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge
#16, Minden, NE
Danish Brotherhood Lodge
#35, Homewood, IL
Danish Brotherhood Gimle
Lodge #95, Eureka, CA
Danish Brotherhood
Polarstjernen Lodge #283,
Dagmar, MT
Danish Brotherhood Lodges,
Heartland District, Iowa-
Minnesota
Danish Brotherhood Centennial
Lodge #348, Eugene, OR
The Danish Canadian National
Museum, Spruce View,
Alberta, Canada
Danish Club of Tucson,
Tucson, AZ
Danish Cultural Center of
Greenville, Greenville, MI
The Danish Home, Croton-On-
Hudson, NY
The Danish Home Foundation,
Chicago, IL
Danish Mutual Insurance
Association, Elk Horn, IA
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #3,
Davenport, IA
Danish Sisterhood Dagmar
Lodge #4, Chicago, IL
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #6,
Omaha, NE
Danish Sisterhood Dronning
Margrethe Lodge #15,
Wauwatosa, WI
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #19,
Tacoma/Olympia, WA
Danish Sisterhood Ellen Lodge
#21, Denver, CO

Danish Sisterhood Princess
Marie Lodge #68,
Burbank, CA
Danish Sisterhood Lodge
#102, Des Moines, IA
Danish Sisterhood Frihed
Lodge #153, Hartford, CT
Danish Sisterhood Lodge
#168, Bakersfield, CA
Danish Sisterhood Flora
Danica Lodge #177,
Solvang, CA
Danish Sisterhood Danske
Damer Lodge #185,
Cleveland, OH
Danish Sisterhood Amber
Lodge #186, Brainerd, MN
Danish Sisterhood Hygge
Lodge #188, Enumclaw, WA
Danish Sisterhood NE/CO
District Lodges, Lincoln, NE &
Denver CO
Den Danske Pioneer
(Elsa Steffensen & Linda
Steffensen),
Hoffman Estates, IL
Elk Horn Lutheran Church,
Elk Horn, IA
Elk Horn-Kimballton Optimist
Club, Elk Horn &
Kimballton, IA
Elverhoj Museum of History
and Art, Solvang, CA
Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton
Community School District,
Elk Horn, IA
Faith, Family, Freedom
Foundation (Kenneth &
Marlene Larsen), Harlan, IA
Federation of Danish
Associations in Canada,
Gloucester, Canada
Greater Omaha Genealogical
Society, Omaha, NE

Hacways (Helene & Nanna Christensen), Hals, Denmark
Wayne Hansen Real Estate, LLC, Elk Horn, IA
Harlan Tribune Newspapers, Inc. (Joshua Byers, Publisher), Harlan, IA
Henningsen Construction, Inc. (Brad Henningsen, Vice President), Atlantic, IA
House of Denmark, San Diego, CA
Independent Order of Svithiod, Verdandi Lodge #3, Chicago, IL
Kirsten's Danish Bakery (Kirsten & Paul Jepsen), Hinsdale, IL
Knudsen Old Timers, Glendale, CA
Landmands Bank (Jeff Petersen, President), Audubon, IA
Main Street Market (Tracey Kenkel), Panama, IA
Marne Elk Horn, Elk Horn, IA
Midwest Groundcovers LLC (Craig Keller & Christa Orum-Keller, Vice President), Illinois
Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, IA
Nelsen and Nelsen, Attorneys at Law, Cozad, NE
Northwest Danish Association, Seattle, WA
Olsen, Muhlbauer & Co., L.L.P., Carroll, IA
Oxen Technology, Harlan, IA
Petersen Family Foundation, Inc. (H. Rand & Mary Louise Petersen), Fort Dodge, IA
Esper A. Petersen Foundation, Grayslake, IL
Prongily (Cyndi McKeen), St. Paul, MN

The Rasmussen Group, Inc. (Sandra Rasmussen and Kurt & Lynette Rasmussen), Des Moines, IA
Rebild National Park Society, Southern California Chapter, Los Angeles, CA area
Red River Danes, Fargo, ND
Ringsted Danish American Fellowship, Ringsted, IA
Royal Danish Guard Society, Chicago, IL
Scan Design Foundation, Seattle, WA
Shelby County Historical Society & Museum, Harlan, IA
Shelby County State Bank, Harlan, IA & Elk Horn, IA
Supreme Lodge of the Danish Sisterhood of America
Symra Literary Society, Decorah, IA
Upward Mobility (Susan Vitek), Hinesburg, VT

MUTUAL BENEFITS

Sponsorships of exhibits and programs support the museum's mission while simultaneously increasing visibility for the sponsoring organization. Contact us for ideas on how your business or organization can reach out and make an impact!

a letter from the president

I'm honored and humbled to be writing to you as the President of the Board of Directors. I have thoroughly enjoyed my two years on the board, even with the unprecedented issues that the pandemic created for the museum in 2020. I'm delighted to say that the museum came through the year very well. I think this is the case for several reasons: its staff, its board, and its members and volunteers.

The staff has been taking care of business for years. I've come to know them as a talented and motivated group. This past year they have, led by Executive Director Tova Brandt, rolled up their sleeves and figured out new ways of doing things in a very unusual environment. That has been a key factor in the year's successes.

Over the years the board has provided sound guidance to the museum's executive directors. The board consists of ordinary people like you and me. They are from all around the country and bring a wide variety of expertise and experience. Pride in their common Danish-American heritage binds them together in a special way. They share the desire to tell the story of Danes in America, past, present and future.

And you, our members, have consistently provided outstanding financial support, even in the challenging year of 2020. For example, the response to the Museum's letter this fall, appealing for donations, was the largest on record.

Like many non-essential entities, the museum closed to the public in March. With the appropriate adjustments, it reopened three days per week in July. Then it made the hard decision to close again, just before the Elk Horn and Kimballton celebration of Julefest in late November in order to protect staff, visitors, and the community at a time when infection rates were very high, locally and throughout Iowa.

But the business of the museum did not stop. It continued to open exhibits and found new ways for

its constituents to enjoy them. It continued its online messaging and publication of the *America Letter*. It began producing a major monthly online program for its members and internet visitors, which is no small effort. And behind-the-scenes work, such as the ongoing cataloging and care of our collections of objects, books, printed material, and photographs, continued. It also made adjustments, such as increasing the pace of Design Store e-blasts to partially offset the loss of foot traffic due to the closing and the cancellation of on-site events. As a result, online sales have been strong.

None of the staff was furloughed or laid off. The museum even filled several open positions. Quick action by Board Member Randy Ruggaard, Tova, and Shelby County State Bank resulted in the receipt of a Payroll Protection Plan loan before that program's initial funding was exhausted. The loan has become a grant, since the museum met the terms of the program. The museum has also sought and received a generous Iowa Arts & Culture Recovery Program grant.

Looking to the future, the board in October approved a new Strategic Plan for the years 2021 through 2023. We realize that the descendants of the immigrant generation are aging and that new generations may have different interests. We will seek to discover which of our local, regional, and national audiences offer the best opportunities for engagement, visitation, and membership, and what programs would appeal to identified audiences. The plan seeks to answer those questions by trying new approaches and measuring their impact. By the end of 2023, we believe we will have a clearer idea of the actions that the museum needs to take to create a sustainable future.

An example of a new approach to attracting a different demographic is the MoDA-produced YouTube channel established to provide a continuing series of videos that add content to our *New Nordic Cuisine* exhibit, which is now on tour at other museums. Seventy-six percent of the viewers of our channel are between the ages of 25 and 34. Now that's different!

While 2021 will present ongoing challenges as the country and the world move toward a more normal state of affairs, the museum is in a good position. It will continue to explore the Danish-American experience of the past, present, and future while creating ways to remain relevant in a changing world.



By Pete West

board of directors

The 2020-2021 Board of Directors is a special group of men and women who have unselfishly dedicated themselves to the preservation of their Danish American heritage and the mission of the museum. They join an elite group of individuals who, over the past 37 years, have worked to build and maintain a museum of which all Danes, Danish Americans, and the American public can be proud.

Participating at their own expense, board members come together three times a year to share their skills and experience in providing oversight to the administration of the museum and to develop ideas and plans that will contribute to its continuing vitality. It is the practice of the board to meet each February and June in different locations around the United States, so that they may share and celebrate heritage

and culture with those Danish Americans who may not otherwise be able to link directly with the museum. In pandemic 2020, the board was fortunate to hold its February meeting in Solvang, California. Then in response to the Covid-19 crisis, the board held its June meeting virtually, with election of new board members. In October the board meeting was once again held virtually via Zoom. The museum's annual meeting was also held virtually with new board members assuming their office; outgoing members present and participating.

Without the dedication, energy, and support of a strong, team-oriented board of directors, the museum staff would not be able to work effectively in managing the day-to-day operations of the Museum of Danish America.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SERVING IN 2020

Erik Andersen, *Croton-on-Hudson, NY*
 Carol Bassoni, *Gilroy, CA*
 Beth Bro-Roof, *Cedar Rapids, IA*
 Joy Clemsen Gajda, *Lindenhurst, IL*
 David Esbeck, *San Diego, CA*
 Dennis Gray, *Winston-Salem, NC*
 Peder Hansen, *Omaha, NE*
 Connie Hanson, *Glendora, CA*
 David Hendee, *Northfield, MN*
 Gerry Henningsen, *Monument, CO*
 Glenn Henriksen, *Armstrong, IA*
 Marcia Jante, *New Berlin, WI*
 Daniel Jensen, *Columbus, OH*
 Marnie Jensen, *Nebraska City, NE*
 Elly Jorgensen, *Prairie Village, KS*
 Merlyn Knudsen, *Elk Horn, IA*
 Chris Kofoed, *West Branch, IA*
 Lars Matthiesen, *Edmonds, WA*
 Toni McLeod, *Mesa, AZ*
 Honorable Consul Karen Nielsen, *Overland, KS*
 Mike Nielsen, *Altoona, IA*

Eric Olesen, *Racine, WI*
 Kurt Rasmussen, *Johnston, IA*
 Randy Ruggaard, *Hudson, OH*
 Anders Sand, *Kansas City, MO*
 Carl Steffensen, *Houston, TX*
 Karen Suchomel, *West Branch, IA*
 Carol Svendsen, *Denver, CO*
 Pete West, *Denver, CO*

Ex-Officio

Nils Jensen, *Portland, OR*
 Dennis Larson, *Decorah, IA*
 Dr. John Mark Nielsen, *Blair, NE, Executive Director Emeritus*

Tova Brandt, *Decorah, IA, Executive Director*

who we are

MISSION STATEMENT

The Museum of Danish America explores the Danish-American experience, the historic and modern influences of Denmark on the United States, and the continuing story of how a nation of immigrants shape American identity.

VISION

- To be the foremost Danish-American museum and cultural center in the nation.
- To be a model for ethnic heritage museums in how to remain relevant in a changing world.
- To be a showplace for Danish innovation and its importance to American progress.
- To be engaging and relevant to people both with and without Danish ancestry.
- To help visitors connect past Danish immigrants' experience with the experience of today's Danish and non-Danish immigrants to the United States.

VALUES

We are:

Inspirational: We honor the contributions of Danish-Americans to the complex fabric of American history and culture.

Innovative: We present visitors with experiences that challenge and enlighten. We experiment with new ways of engaging audiences locally, regionally, and nationally.

Authentic: Using primary sources, we tell the story of Danish immigration in all its complexity, including success and failure, accomplishment and discouragement, longing for what was left behind and hope for a new life.

Visitor-centered: We educate and entertain visitors of all backgrounds and engage them in a dialogue about American identity through the lens of the Danish immigrant experience and the influences of modern Danish society and culture.

Promoting tolerance and respect: We build appreciation for the United States as a nation of immigrants, past and present.

Focused on preservation: We collect and preserve artifacts, documents, and stories for current and future education and scholarship.

Stewards: We focus on responsible management of human, financial, and facility resources, sustaining the museum and its mission for future generations.

staff & interns

Executive Director

Tova Brandt, M.A.

Executive Director Emeritus

John Mark Nielsen, Ph.D.

Administrative Manager

Terri Johnson

Administrative Assistant

Terri Amaral, B.A.

Cindy Pash

Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American Culture

Tova Brandt, M.A.

Associate Curator of Exhibitions

Diya Nagaraj, M.Litt.

Curator of Collections & Registrar

Angela Stanford, M.A.

Archival Collections Manager

Cheyenne Jansdatter, M.A.

Genealogy Center Manager & Librarian

Amanda Skellenger, M.A., M.L.I.S.

Genealogy Researcher

Wanda Sornson, M.S.

Development Manager, Annual Report Editor

Deb Christensen Larsen

Development Associate

Shelli Larson, B.S., B.A.

Communications Specialist

Nicky Christensen, B.S.

Design Store Manager

Nan Dreher

Accounting Manager

Jennifer Winters

Building & Grounds Manager

Tim Fredericksen

Prairie Maintenance Assistant

Kiara Rodriguez, B.S.

Weekend Visitor Services

Jennifer Agnew

Justice Doherty

Beth Rasmussen

Rodger Rasmussen

Bedstemor's House Staff

Season Closed due to pandemic

Covid-19 precautions

Danish Intern

Christina Damgaard Andersen, M.A., University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark (Exhibitions)

Internships for Danes are funded through a generous grant from Scan | Design Foundation, Seattle, WA

American Interns

Hannah Bernhard, B.S., Loras College, Dubuque, IA (Collections)

Internship funded by the Danish Club of Tucson, AZ

Julia Jessen, M.S. Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY (Collections)

Internship funded by the Danish Club of Tucson, AZ

Heather Olsen, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah (Genealogy)

Virtual Internship funded by the Danish Club of Tucson, AZ

Kelsey Wilcoxon, B.S. & M.L.I.S., Dominican University, River Forest, IL (Archival & Special Collections)

Internship funded by Diane Skov, Lacey, WA

former board members

City and state indicate where board members resided *at the time of their service*; the 13 original board members are in **bold print**; deceased members are indicated with asterisks*. Every effort has been made to ensure that all the following information is accurate. Please contact Administrative Manager Terri Johnson with any questions or corrections.

Cindy Larsen Adams, Littleton, CO 2012-2018
Birgit Andersen, Ithaca, NY 2002-2005
Dennis J. Andersen, Atlanta, GA 1999-2002 & 2007-2013, *Secretary*
Ed Andersen*, Rochester, MN 1990-1996, *Vice President & President*
Erik Andersen, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 2011-2014
Herb Andersen*, Council Bluffs, IA 1991-1992
Judy Andersen*, Los Angeles, CA 1986-1989
Ragna Bak, Alexandria, VA 1997
Norman Bansen*, Blair, NE 1983-1989
Harold Berg, Ogden, IA 1996-2002
Signe Nielsen Betsinger, Falcon Heights, MN 1983-1990 & 1991-1996, *President*
Egon Bodtke, Salem, OR 2000-2006, *President*
Arvid Bollesen*, Tustin, CA 1990-1996
Jon Borgman, Harlan, IA 2010-2013
Bruce Bro, Phoenix, AZ 2018-2019
Mervin Bro*, Scottsdale, AZ 1996-1999, *Vice President*
Ronald Bro, Cedar Falls, IA 2001-2007 & 2011-2017
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Jens Busch*, Austin, TX 1990-1996
Borge M. Christensen, Tucson, AZ 2003-2006
Carlo Christensen, Glendale, CA 2004-2010
Dan Christensen, West Des Moines, IA 2013-2015
Jack Christensen*, Yankton, SD 1991-1997, *Treasurer*
Lois Christensen, Elk Horn, IA 2001-2007
Lone Christensen, Brown Deer, WI 2007-2013
Ross Christensen*, Waterloo, IA 1992-1993
Thomas Christensen*, Bettendorf, IA 1999-2005
Victor Christensen*, Washington, DC 1983-?
Marie Meilandt Dahlman*, Loma Rica, CA 1998-?
Ane-Grethe Delaney, Wayzata, MN 2006-2012
Pam Doreau* 1985-1989
Anne-Marie Douglas, Chicago, IL 1999-2005
Diane Doyle, Papillion, NE 1983-1985
Jan Eakins, Des Moines, IA 2003-2004
Bente Ellis, San Jose, CA 2013- 2019
Nick Ericksen, Omaha, NE 1991-1997
Gordon R. Esbeck, Tipton, IA 2001-2007
Cora Fagre*, Loveland, CO 1985-1991
Dorothy Stadsvold Feisel, St. Michaels, MD 2012-2018
Charles Frederiksen, Ames, IA 1989-1995 & 1997-1999, *President*
Lis Frederiksen, Washington, DC 2001-2003
Mark Frederiksen, Falcon, CO 2006-2012, *President*
Marilyn Andersen Gift, Des Moines, IA 1995-2001, *Secretary*
Karen Gray, Spring Grove, MN 1992-1995
Kenneth Gregersen, Ankeny, IA 2006-2008
Neel Halpern*, Manhasset, NY 1991-1994
Howard Hansen* 1988-1988
Ingrid Hansen*, Lincoln, NE 1994-1998
Janell Hansen, Elk Horn, IA 2007-2009
Kurt Hansen, Rosemount, MN 2008-2014
Mia Hansen, Tucson, AZ 2008-2010
Stewart Hansen, West Des Moines, IA 2011-2013
Thomas Hansen, Blair, NE 2003-2005
Thorvald Hansen*, Des Moines, IA 1983-1988
Ernst Harboe*, Northfield, IL 1991-1994
Otto Hoiberg*, Lincoln, NE 1983-1987
Anna Thomsen Holliday, Houston, TX 2008-2010 & 2012-2018
Gail G. Holmes, Omaha, NE 1983-1987, *Secretary*
William Holmquist, Long Lake, MN 2000-2003
Henrik Holmskov*, Brookfield, WI 1993-1995
Vern E. Hunter, Fargo, ND, 1999-2005, *President*
Joy M. Ibsen, Trout Creek, MI, 1999-2005, *President*
Robert E. Ibsen, Kenosha, WI 1990-1991
James Iversen, Ames, IA 1985-1991, *President*
Ellen Westergaard Jackson*, Whiting, IA 1999-2002
Kenneth Jacobsen, Seattle, WA 2011- 2013
Bill Jensen*, Urbandale, IA 2013-2014
Bridget Jensen, Houston, TX 2005-2008
Erna Jensen, Des Moines, IA 2003-2009
Harold R. Jensen*, St. Paul, MN 1983-1990, *Vice President*
Harold M. Jensen, Ames, IA 2002-2008
Lee Jensen, Pleasant Grove, UT 2000-2003
Nils Jensen, Portland, OR 2001-2004
Roland Jensen*, Des Moines, IA 1985-1993
Tor Jensen, Willmette, IL 1992-1995

- Torben Jeppesen, Odense, Denmark 1998-2003
 Kristi Planck Johnson, Bethesda, MD 2009-2015
 Margaret Johnson, Santa Clara, CA 2000-2003
 Carol Jorgensen*, Dike, IA 1996-2002
 Julie Jorgensen, Wayzata, MN 2002-2007, *Secretary*
 Lis Jorgensen, Gilroy, CA 1990-1998
Howard Juell*, Kimballton, IA 1983-1987
 Orville Juhler*, Harlan, IA 2002-2005
 Katrine Vange Keller, Wilmette, IL 1995-2001,
Secretary
 Peter G. Kelly, Glastonbury, CT 1998-2001
 Peder Kirkegaard*, Lake Geneva, WI 2006-2007
 Karen Klop* 1990-1993
 Svend Koch*, Cedar Falls, IA 1993-1999
 Christopher Kramme, San Francisco, CA 2006
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 Joseph Krentzel*, Fair Lawn, NJ 1991-1997
 Garey Knudsen, Hutchinson, MN 2012-2018,
Vice President, President
 Hugh Larsen*, Ontario, Canada 1985-1986
 Kenneth Larsen, Calistoga, CA 2009-2015, *Treasurer*
 Kurt Klarskov Larsen*, Oneonta, AL 2006-2009
 Carolyn Larson, St. Paul, MN 2013-2019, *Secretary*
 Dennis Larson, Decorah, IA 1985-*Ex-officio*
 Bent Lerno*, Simi Valley, CA 1995-2001
 Eivind Lillehoj*, Kimballton, IA 1995-2000
 Steven Lund, Yuma, AZ 2008-2011
 Marion Marzolf, Ann Arbor, MI 1985-1987
 Clark Mathisen*, Omaha, NE 1999-2005 &
 2009-2011, *Treasurer*
 Cynthia McKeen, St. Paul, MN 2008-2014
 Carol Mills, Dubuque, IA 2009-2012
 Craig Molgaard, Little Rock, AR 2013-2019
 John Molgaard*, Atlantic, IA 1996-2002 & 2005-
 2009, *Treasurer, Vice President*
 Dagmar Muthamia, Long Beach, CA 2002-2008 &
 2012-2018, *Secretary & President*
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 Clayton Nielsen*, Racine, WI 1991-?
Hans T. Nielsen*, Denver, CO 1983-1986
John Mark Nielsen, Blair, NE 1983-1991 &
 2000-2003
 Peter Nielsen, Naples, FL 2015-2016
 Ruth Herman Nielsen*, Omaha, NE 1992-1998,
Secretary
 Virginia Nielsen*, Elk Horn, IA 1989-1995
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 Kay Esbeck North*, Ames, IA 2007-2012,
Vice President
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 2004-2012
 Erik Olsen, Mesa, AZ 1995-1999
 Marian "Mittie" Ostergaard, Mission Viejo, CA
 2010-2016
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 Curt Pedersen, Tucson, AZ 2001-2005
 Edwin Pedersen*, Luck, WI 1993-1996
 Jesper Packert Pedersen, Washington, DC 2011
 Leroy Pedersen*, Elk Horn, IA 1993-1999
 H. Rand Petersen, Harlan, IA 1985-1991
 Marc Petersen, Omaha, NE 2003-2009, *President*
 Peter Petersen*, Canyon, TX 1985-1993, *Secretary*
 Melvin Pihl*, Canby, OR 1987-1993
 Henrik Fogh Rasmussen, Springfield, IL 2010-2015
 Lynette Skow Rasmussen, Johnston, IA 2006-2012
Lisa Riggs, Elk Horn, IA 1983-1990, *Treasurer*
 Norman Riis, Ames, IA 1986-1991
 Eva Robinson, Butler, PA 2008-2010
 Tom Rosen, Fairmont, MN 1998-2001
 Anelise Sawkins, Minneapolis, MN 2002-2008
 Jerry Schrader, Elk Horn, IA 2011-2017
 Rose Grindheim Sims*, Ridge Manor, FL 1997-1999
 Linda Sloth-Gibbs, Yuma, AZ 2003-2009
 Flemming "Eric" Smitsdorff, Racine, WI 2010-2015,
Secretary
 Ole Sønnichsen, Bjert, Denmark 2015-2018
 Bob Sorensen* 1987-?
 Howard Sorensen, Elk Horn, IA 1990-1996, *Treasurer*
 Harriet Albertsen Spanel*, Bellingham, WA
 2005-2011, *President*
 Chris Steffensen*, Hoffman Estates, IL 1985-?
 Linda Steffensen, Hoffman Estates, IL 2012-2018
 Poul Steffensen*, Omaha, NE 1986-?
 Halvor H. Strandskov*, Alexandria, VA 1995-2001,
President
 Mark Strandskov, Mt. Pleasant, MI 2009-2015
 Helen Stub, Minneapolis, MN, 1991-2000, *Secretary*
 Janet Thuesen, Sausalito, CA 1996-2002 &
 2006-2012, *Vice President*
 Svend Toftemark, Eugene, OR 1994-2000
 Robert J. Wallace*, Kansas City, MO 1988-1992
 Daniel Warren, Fairmont, MN 2015-2016
Donald Watkins*, Lawrence, KS 1983-1987
 Wilber Williamson*, Des Moines, IA 1988-1995
 Lorraine Mattson Zembinski*, Elm Grove, WI
 1993-1994

Condensed Financial Statements
Years Ended August 31, 2020 and 2019

Condensed Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Assets		
Cash and Investments	6,184,033	5,878,221
Inventory	57,413	85,544
Property and Equipment (Net)	<u>4,521,051</u>	<u>4,599,445</u>
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>10,762,497</u>	<u>10,563,210</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accrued Payroll Taxes	0	2,552
Notes Payable	<u>124,100</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Total Liabilities</u>	124,100	2,552
Net Assets	<u>10,638,397</u>	<u>10,560,658</u>
<u>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</u>	<u>10,762,497</u>	<u>10,563,210</u>

Condensed Statement of Revenue and Support, Expenses,
and Changes in Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis for Years ended August 31,

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Support and Revenue		
Contributions and Support	841,698	1,530,447
Admissions and Program Fees	6,230	15,780
Gift Shop Revenue (Net)	47,248	59,149
Investment and Other Income	<u>606,784</u>	<u>190,250</u>
<u>Total Support and Revenue</u>	<u>1,501,960</u>	<u>1,795,626</u>
Expenses		
Program Services	911,048	903,298
Supporting Activities	<u>513,173</u>	<u>477,361</u>
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>1,424,221</u>	<u>1,380,659</u>
<u>Change in Net Assets</u>	77,739	414,967
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	<u>10,560,658</u>	<u>10,145,691</u>
<u>Net Assets - End of Year</u>	<u>10,638,397</u>	<u>10,560,658</u>

endowment

The Museum of Danish America's endowments provide the opportunity for members to perpetuate their contributions and, at the same time, help guarantee the museum's long-term financial stability. Current market value as of December 31, 2020, was \$5,563,676.87.

bequests

In 2020 the museum received \$256,080.82 in bequests, \$31,460.05 (less than 12%) has been invested in the museum's endowment funds and the balance \$224,619.97 (88%) has been or is being used for operations, special projects and programming. The Museum of Danish America gratefully acknowledges the following estates, trusts and individuals:

Erik & Anna Andersen Trust, Parkville, MO

Rita Neergaard Hansen Charitable Trust, Kenosha, WI

W. Clayton Nielsen Estate, Solvang, CA

Glenn Olsen Revocable Trust, Atlantic, IA

Irma Orum Estate, Saint Charles, IL

ARE YOU GETTING OUR EMAILS?

Let us know if you are not receiving our monthly e-newsletter. We want to be sure that we have your correct and preferred address on file.

a year of challenges and achievements

The year 2020 challenged all of us – individuals, institutions, and societies – in ways we could not have anticipated as the new year dawned. We want to acknowledge the impact that 2020 has had on the Museum of Danish America and the lessons that we will carry into the future.

CHALLENGES

- In March the museum closed its doors to the public. Staff remained working either onsite or from home, whichever fit their needs best.
- With staff working from several different locations, we had to adopt new communication tools and become Zoom experts.
- Board meetings also moved online, ensuring that the business of the museum could still be conducted.
- Before reopening in July, the museum needed to put new resources and procedures in place for social distancing, sanitizing surfaces, and adjusting visitor areas to minimize hands-on actions.
- Due to increased public health risks, the museum closed again to the public in November. As before, staff members remained fully active in keeping the museum operations and programs going.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Board of Directors approved a new Strategic Plan to guide the museum's priorities from 2021 through 2023.
- Most scheduled programs successfully shifted to online formats. Brown Bag Lunch programs have been seen by hundreds of viewers and remain available on the museum's YouTube channel.
- Museum members have continued to provide generous support, keeping the museum active and resilient as we navigated these uncertain times.
- A new exhibition, Art Nouveau Innovation: Danish Porcelain from an American Collector, opened in October to showcase a stunning array of artistic and technical masterpieces. The exhibition begins a multi-year tour in 2021.
- New staff joined the museum team, even in the midst of this atypical year. The museum has a robust and dedicated staff team in all departments.
- Improvements to the facilities and grounds include a resurfaced entry driveway, new concrete slabs for benches in the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park, and a major upgrade to the museum's HVAC system.
- The museum earned support from several publicly-funded grant programs, many funded through the federal CARES Act, which help maintain a full staff and active programs through the year.



By Tova Brandt

volunteers

One of the many challenges for museum staff this past year was closing our buildings to the public, which also meant not allowing volunteers on-site, at least for a time. The few volunteers that were able to work remotely continued to do so. When the museum re-opened in early July, Genealogy Center volunteers were allowed to return to the center, as long as the health and safety protocols we had in place were followed. It was a different story for front desk volunteers at the museum as they greet visitors from across the country and the world. In consideration of their health and welfare, we asked our volunteers to stay home beginning in March. That being said, volunteers still logged a total of **1,334 hours in 2020**.

In this annual report, I usually list all current volunteers – Genealogy Center, Museum and Atlantic Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum. But it occurred to me that all volunteers through the years have had a part in bringing this museum to where it is today and we should recognize them as well. ALL volunteers are, and have been, important to the history AND future of the Museum of Danish America, whether they've given one hour or thousands of hours (some have!). Their gifts of time, energy, labor, and more have been an important contribution to the success of our accredited, national Museum of Danish America.

Following are the names of volunteers for whom we have documented hours of time, beginning in 1992. **Volunteers active in 2020 are in bold.**

Andy Andersen	Marty Boose	Lamont Christensen	Sam Dreher	June Haas
Annette Andersen	Mel Boose	Lois Jean	Clayton Ellingson	Andrea Hansen
Bertha Andersen	Janet Bornholdt	Christensen	Dean Esbeck	Barb Hansen
Delbert Andersen	Velma Boysen	Margaret	Jeanene Esbeck	Betty Hansen
Dennis Andersen	Mary Bro	Christensen	Ray Esbeck	Connie Hansen
Diane Allen	Ronald Bro	Mary Ann	Shirley Esbeck	Dallas Hansen
Elenor Andersen	Ruthe Bocker	Christensen	Verna Esbeck	Doris Hansen
Harvey Andersen	Claire Bruce	Oda Christensen	Martha Eskov	Eleanor Hansen
Marilyn Andersen	David Buellers	Orvie Christensen	Millie Eskov	Fred "Fritz" Hansen
Mary Ann Andersen	Roger Buhr	Shirley Christensen	Kathleen Eyeberg	Harvey Hansen
Mildred Andersen	David Burkett	Virgil Christensen	William (Gene)	Howard Hansen
Milo Andersen	Norma Burkett	Alice Christiansen	Eyeberg	Jacqueline Hansen
Norma Andersen	Frank Burnett	Bud Clausen	Jan Fajen	Laverne Hansen
Ramona Andersen	Osa Nyby Burnett	Glen Clemesen	Cloid Farley	Libby Hansen
Richard Andersen	Ben Burns	Rosa Clemesen	Faye Farley	Linda Hansen
Rosalie Andersen	Brent Camery	Virginia Conklin	Cindy Fredricksen	Lyle Hansen
Ruth Anderson	Colleen Campbell	Dolores Connelly	Lenore Fredriksen	Margery Hansen
Harriet Becker	Harriet Campbell	Jim Cummings	Ileen Furne	Marie Hansen
Jack Bell	Jim Chambers	Judy Cummings	Marcella Gaines	Marlene Hansen
Delia A. Benton	Hilda Chester	Marie Dalham	Esther Gearhardt	Paul Hansen
Shirley Bierbaum	Bent Christensen	Peter Dam-Hein	Bill Gift	Peggy Hansen
Emily Biles	Cliff Christensen	Eileen Denne	Marilyn Andersen	Priscilla Hansen
Maxine Bladt	Herb Christensen	Jack Denne	Gift	Roland (Rollie)
Connie Boose	Howard Christensen	Anne-Marie Douglas	Doris Greve	Hansen
Irene Boose	Joyce Christensen	Ellen Dreher	Evelyn Gross	Rosie Hansen

By Terri Johnson



Tom Hansen	Verlee Johnson	Leslie Marks	Kai Nyby	Evelyn Rechtenbach
Virgil Hansen	Virginia Johnson	Grace Martens	Starr Nyby	Anna Redsand
Eileen Harris	H. John Jones	Dana McClain	Vera Nyby	Mike Riggs
Cecelia Haynes	Ron Jones	Martha McCord	Glenn Olsen	Lisa Riggs
Joy Heckman	Doris Jones	Gladys McCrory	Mary Ellen Olsen	Bill Rollins
Esther Sand	Dorothy Kelgor	Wayne McFadden	Phyllis Olsen	Merle Rounds
Henderson	Jimmie Kelgor	Julie McKeever	Duane Ortgies	Esther Rutherford
Beverly Henningsen	Anne Keller	Michele McNabb	Karolyn Ortgies	Carolyn Sand
Dorothy Henriksen	Rhoda Kelloway	Judy Meehan	Erik Høgsbro	Leroy Sand
Sue Hjelle	Mary Lowene	Elaine Michaelson	Østergaard	Kenneth Sand
Calvin Hoegh	Kempf	Lavon Mikkelsen	Bev Paulsen	Nancy Sand
Izy Hoegh	Andy Kissel	Merlin Mikkelsen	Elsie Paulsen	Judy Schroder
Janet Hoegh	Fern Kissel	Sonya Mikkelsen	Jane Paulsen	Bertha Schroeter
Ken Hoegh	Clarence Klein	Mardell Miller	Mark Paulsen	Darrell Schroeter
Mary Lou Hoegh	Frances Klein	Marlene Miller	Wayne Paulsen	Lori Schultz
Monte Hoegh	Carole Knaub	John Molgaard	Clara Pedersen	Roger Schwery
Phyllis Hoegh	Jeanette Knudsen	Merlyn Molgaard	Leroy Pedersen	Adeline Scott
Inga Hoifeldt	Merlyn Knudsen	Arlene Morgan	Marion Pedersen	Preben Sepstrup
Ralf Hoifeldt	Svend Koch	Beverly Nelson	Alice Petersen	Betty Sievers
Chet Holland	Karen Korsgaard	Bob Nelson	Annabelle Petersen	Clara Simonds
Marj Holland	Ivar Kristoffersen	Dale Nelson	Ardis Petersen	Harlan Simonds
Gert Hunt	Arlene Kroman	Delores Nelson	Ethel Petersen	Alice Simonsen
Allan Jacobsen	Evelyn Kuiken	Dick Nelson	Helen J. Petersen	Egon Simonsen
Barbara Jacobsen	Beverly Larsen	Don Nelson	Helen M. Petersen	Joyce Smith
Dean Jacobsen	Ed Larsen	Fern Nelson	Joy Petersen	LaVerne Smith
Deb Jacobsen	Edith Larsen	Fran Nelson	Joyce Petersen	Verdella Smith
Gudran Jacobsen	Irene Larsen	Frances Nelson	Larry Petersen	Kandy Snider
Janice Jacobsen	Joan Larsen	Linda Nelson	Lyle Petersen	Dick Soll
Nadine Jacobsen	Lyle Larsen	Martin Nelson	Lynn G. Petersen	Charlotte Sorensen
Warren Jacobsen	Reta Larsen	Norma Lange	Mae Petersen	Dorothy Sorensen
Audrey Jensen	Wendell Larsen	Nelson	Rosemary Petersen	Eileen Sorensen
Barbara Jensen	Diane Lawson	Shirley Nelson	Wava Petersen	Elmer Sorensen
Beulah Jensen	Steve Lawson	Beulah Nielsen	Sheiree Planck	Erik Sorensen
Don Jensen	Arlene Leistad	Clayton Nielsen	Evelyn Plumb	Howard Sorensen
Doris Jensen	Betty Lillard	Colleen Nichols	Ann Podraza	Jens Sorensen
Evelyn Jensen	Eivind Lillehoj	Dawn Nielsen	Joanne Potts	Karma Sorensen
H.M. Jensen	Jeanette Lillehoj	Helen Nielsen	Ken Potts	Norma Jean
Helga Jensen	Fern Lindvall	John Mark Nielsen	Tom Potts	Sothman
Jackie Jensen	Beverly Maas	Larry Nielsen	Bill Rafferty	Adrienne Spyridakos
Leland Jensen	Annabelle Madsen	LeVern Nielsen	Karen Rafferty	Gary Stamp
Leonard Jensen	Bob Madsen	Lisa Nielsen	Doris Rasmussen	Neoma Steen
Marcella Jensen	Earl Madsen	Ruth Nielsen	Elva Rasmussen	Clark Steen
Elna Johansen	Mabel Madsen	Virginia Nielsen	Ida Rasmussen	Elie Steffensen
Bernice Johnson	Signe Madsen	Evelyn Nissen	Norma Rasmussen	Halvor Strandskov
Connie Johnson	Darrell Mardensen	Fred Nissen	Suzanne Rasmussen	Gayle Stuart
Lillie Johnson	Lavonne Marcussen	Jill Nissen	Virginia Rasmussen	Helen Stub
Lynn Johnson	Avaline Marks	Folmer Nyby	Everett Rechtenbach	Barbara Sullivan

Don Taylor
Janice Taylor
Neva Theede
JoAnn Thielen
Donna Christensen
Thomas
Irene Thomas
Rick Tighe
David Todd
Dorothy (Dusty)
Turner
Steve Turner
Jessie Vithem
Henry Walter
Mardell Walter
Paul Walther
Alene Weaver
Linda Weaver
Rachel Weber
Mildred Weddum
Caryl West
Pam Whitmore
Lucille Wiges
Nadine Williamson
Sharon Winchell
Leah Wolf



elk horn, iowa

**MUSEUM, DESIGN STORE,
JENS JENSEN PRAIRIE
LANDSCAPE PARK**
2212 Washington Street

GENEALOGY CENTER
4210 Main Street

BEDSTEMOR'S HOUSE
2105 College Street

In these uncertain times,
please call ahead when
planning a visit:
712.764.7001

exhibitions

This year, exhibitions at the Museum of Danish America have looked a little different from previous years, but nonetheless, with the generosity and support of our partners, we opened three new exhibits this year. In addition, by expanding our digital programs, we have found new and creative ways of bringing the museum to people in their homes across the globe.

Migrant was the result of a partnership with the Immigration Museum in Farum, Denmark and includes photographs by contemporary photographer Diana Velasco. It traces the history of immigrants to and from Denmark, looking at stories both past and present.

The series of works by Susanne Thea, *Snapshots: Traveling with the Poet Hans Christian Andersen*, showcased a lesser-known publication by Andersen, his travelogue from his journey across Europe and into Asia. Especially in this time when travel is severely limited, Susanne Thea's work resonated, as she herself used Google to "travel" with the poet while depicting various places, people, and events from his narrative. Support for a pending 2021 visit by the artist to Elk Horn has been provided by the Kofoed Foundation.

Perhaps the biggest opening this year was *Art Nouveau Innovation: Danish Porcelain from an American Collector*. Support for the exhibit came from The Danish Home in Croton-on-Hudson, NY, and The Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund in Seattle, WA. In addition, Renze Display in Omaha, NE was responsible for fabricating the large panels that told the story of Danish porcelain in the Art Nouveau period. The collector in question, Dr. Todd Reiser, was exceptionally generous with his time and expertise. He traveled to Elk Horn for a socially-distanced

open house, where members of the community were invited to see the exhibit, take tours of the museum and the prairie, and purchase freshly made barbeque from A-Town Smokeshack of Atlantic, IA. Although the museum had to close to the public prior to the completion of the show, a virtual tour, sponsored by The Danish Home in Croton-on-Hudson, NY, was made available for free to the public on the museum website and offered a way for our audiences across the country to enjoy the artistry and technical innovation showcased in the exhibit.

Once COVID forced the museum to close to the public, staff had to find new ways to engage with our audience by adapting our existing programs to virtual formats. One of the primary ways in which we saw our programs shift was the Brown Bag Lunch program, supported by a generous gift from the Kofoed Foundation. In years past, this has been held in person; however, with the museum closed due to the pandemic, these were instead shared on YouTube and Facebook, thus reaching the wider global community. In addition, the new formats offered the possibility of bringing in speakers who might not have otherwise been able to travel to Elk Horn through videoconferencing tools.

A major virtual offering this year was a "Collecting 101" video and live Q&A session with Dr. Todd Reiser, the collector behind *Art Nouveau Innovation*. After filming an introduction to collecting video during his visit to Elk Horn, he generously shared not only his time for a live video chat with museum members and supporters, he also offered two pieces from his personal collection as part of a raffle for those who had signed up. The first one was held in December, with 30 attendees, with a second one to be held in the new year.



By Diya Nagaraj

ON-SITE EXHIBITIONS IN 2020*Dannebrog 800*

January 2019 – May 2020

New Nordic Cuisine

June 22, 2019 – January 5, 2020

*Kings, Queens, and Commoners:**Portraits from the Museum's Permanent Collection*
September 21, 2019 – September 13, 2020*Migrant*

February 21, 2020 – May 2, 2021

Snapshots: Traveling with the Poet Hans Christian Andersen: Works by Danish Artist Susanne Thea

June 2020 – June 12, 2021

*Art Nouveau Innovation:**Danish Porcelain from an American Collector*
October 2, 2020 – January 3, 2021**TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS***New Nordic Cuisine*American Swedish Historical Museum,
Philadelphia, PA
Vesterheim: The National Norwegian-American
Museum & Folk Art School, Decorah, IA*Dannebrog 800*

Luck Public Library and Historical Museum

SPECIAL DIGITAL EVENTS*Brown Bag Lunch Series*April: Edible Plants of Iowa with Rich & Marion
PattersonMay: Islam and Immigration in Denmark with
Dr. Todd Green

July: Prairie Walk with Kiara Rodriguez

September: Technical Art History with Diya Nagaraj

October: Gallery Talk | Art Nouveau Innovation:
Danish Porcelain from an American Collector with
Dr. Todd Reiser

November: Paper Cuttings with Annette Andersen

December: Caring for the Textile Collection and the
Inventory Process with Julia Jessen*“Collecting 101”:**An Introduction to Collecting Danish Porcelain*
December 10, 2020: Live Q&A with Dr. Todd Reiser
January 13, 2021: Live Q&A with Dr. Todd Reiser

collections



Even though reduced travelling in 2020 resulted in lower numbers of artifact donations, the museum still made some important additions to the collections. From wedding clothing for both bride and groom to military uniforms from World War II, a conducting baton used by Victor Borge and cruets used at the 1964-65 New York World's Fair **01**, smoking pipes commemorating military service **02**, and a large model of an area barn built by a Danish immigrant **03**, the collection continues to be an important component in meeting the museum's mission.

As always, we thank our donors for their generosity and support in growing our collection, and for helping to fund its ongoing care and preservation.

ARTIFACT DONORS

Mary Lisa Berg, Minneapolis, MN
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Family of Victor Borge, South Egremont, MA
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By Angela Stanford

danish immigrant wall of honor

The purpose of our museum, among other things, is to tell the continuing story of the Danish immigrant experience and influence. As a way of paying tribute, the Wall of Honor was established, listing the name of the immigrant, year of entering the United States, and primary place of settlement. Their stories and family histories, if available, are part of a growing repository connected with the Museum of Danish America's Genealogy Center. Listed below are the names of the immigrants placed on the museum's Wall of Honor in the year 2020:

PEDER CHRISTIAN & JACOBINA

CHRISTIANSEN (1882) (1892) Viborg, SD –
Gloria Richelieu Fiedler, Davenport, IA

CHRISTIAN C. CLAUSEN (1907) Exira, Iowa –
Nina Clausen, Exira, IA

DAGMAR KATRINA RUNGE CLAUSEN (1920)
Exira, Iowa – Nina Clausen, Exira, IA

**HANS CHRISTIAN HANSEN & BODIL MARIE
ANDERSEN HANSEN** (1922, 1922)
Montezuma, IA – Steve Ferguson, Grimes, IA

MARINUS JENSEN & OLENA SORENSEN

JENSEN (1889, 1889) Verdon, SD –
Douglas Jensen, Aberdeen, SD

PETER KNUDSEN (1913) Jacksonville, IA – Garey
& Sherry Knudsen, Hutchinson, MN, Tom &
Phyllis Tucker, Corydon, IN, and Dennis & Sharon
Littlejohn, Des Moines, IA

TAGE ANDREAS LAURSEN (1915) Omaha, NE –
Eric Laursen and Thomas Laursen Charlemont, MA

AXEL THEODOR SKELBECK (1923) Omaha, NE
– Bradley R. Sauter, Sheridan IN

PEDER NIELSEN PEDERSEN VIXO & ANNA

KATRINE FRANDBEN VIXO (1907, 1907)
Powers Lake, North Dakota – Sharon Vixo,
Jamestown, ND

By Deb Christensen Larsen



genealogy center

Due to the restrictions COVID-19 caused, year 2020 was a rather slow one for the Genealogy Center. We were closed for the majority of the year, so we only welcomed 72 visitors, mainly from Iowa and the Midwest, though we did have a few from Florida and a couple from New York.

The small backlog of research projects that were carried over from 2019 were worked on and we were caught up early in the year. What was carried over into 2021 was what was being currently worked on. Genealogy staff completed 24 research projects, which were received from all over the country. These research projects were complex and in-depth, so they did take quite a bit of effort and time and resulted in some very interesting family histories. There were also 25 translation projects completed for the year. The number of overall projects was low and we believe it's another side effect of the strains COVID-19 has put on people and finances.

Because the number of projects to be completed was low, everyone has been working on updating the existing immigrant files. The genealogy staff and volunteers added 48 new files to our immigrant database, and updated or augmented 249 files. For the already established files, this includes finding birth and death documents as well as ensuring there are documents in the file verifying the identity of the immigrant and his/her family members.

Genealogy Center volunteers have donated over 1,027 hours to improve the Genealogy Center's resources, update files, and assist with projects. The number of hours they contributed are pretty impressive

considering they couldn't come for half of the year, so we are very thankful for what they accomplished.

We are starting to explore more outreach and services through digital means, which is also a focus of our new strategic plan. In 2020, a remote summer internship program was developed, opening up the possibilities of having more interns in the future. In fall, a genealogy Facebook group was created to interact with those interested in Danish genealogy and what we do. Finally, we took part in the National Nordic Museum's inaugural Virtual Nordic Genealogy Conference by creating an informational session that focused on our Genealogy Center and how we research. Last check, on January 14, there were 43 views on the video.

In these first few weeks of January, we've already had an inquiry to do a collaborative research session via Zoom, which will be the first remote session we've done. I think it's a great first step into exploring our options for offering digital services like this and working towards the new strategic plan goal.

Finally, a very special thank you to Wanda Sornson, for training me in the duties of Genealogy Center Manager and Cheyenne Jansdatter for helping teach how to complete the accessioning and cataloging of materials for the collection.

We look forward to what this 2021 will bring to our Genealogy Center. We know we couldn't do it without the generous support of patrons, donors, and volunteers.



By Amanda Skellenger

**In 2020 we received and/or processed donations
from the following individuals and institutions:**

Andy Andersen, St. Johns, FL
Elaine K. Bakke, Savage, MN
Rikke Borge, South Egremont, MA
Robin Borglum Carter, Corpus Christi, TX
Borge M. Christensen, Rochester, MN
Danish American Archive & Library, Blair, NE
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #6, Omaha, NE
Hannah Dietz, Lindale, TX
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Gloria Fiedler, Davenport, IA
J. Brian & Margaret L. Garrett, Centennial, CO
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merit of
recognition

THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA
PERMANENTLY RECOGNIZES TWO GROUPS
OF FRIENDS AND MEMBERS WHO HAVE
DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES THROUGH
OUTSTANDING SUPPORT, BOTH WHILE LIVING
AND IN THEIR ESTATE PLANS. THESE GROUPS
ARE KNOWN AS LIFETIME LEGACY GIVING
AND HERITAGE BUILDERS.

lifetime legacy giving

Recognition includes five categories of giving. In alphabetical order, this reflects cumulative giving of \$25,000 and more from individuals or their estates, foundations, trusts, and organizations. These names are inscribed on a large plaque at the entrance of the museum.

During the calendar year of 2020, the Board of Directors was pleased to add the names of
Erik & Anna Andersen Trust, Parkville, MO (*Silver*)
Richard Lee and Rosalie Larsen Andersen, Harlan, Iowa (*Bronze*)
David & Polly Hendee, Omaha, NE (*Bronze*)
Garey and Sherry Knudsen, Hutchinson, Minnesota (*Bronze*)
Marilyn J. (Nelson) Meyer, Everly, IA (*Bronze*)
The Ørum-Keller Family, Illinois (*Bronze*)

And in addition, we acknowledge this donor having achieved a new level of lifetime giving:
Erik & Eva Andersen, Croton-on-Hudson, NY (*Silver*)
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Carroll, IA

the heritage builders

Over the past 37 years, the Museum of Danish America has accomplished much because of special friends and members who have provided for the museum in their estate plans. During 2020 **one** new Heritage Builder plaque was added to the recognition board, and the couple's names are indicated in bold. With their permission while living or with the permission of their estate's executor, the 119 names of **Heritage Builders** are permanently inscribed on a plaque at the entrance to the museum. An asterisk* marks Heritage Builders who are deceased.

Anonymous (3)
Anonymous (3)*
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If you would like more information on how you can become a member of *Lifetime Legacy Giving* or a *Heritage Builder*, Deb Christensen Larsen, Development Manager, or any member of the Board of Directors will be pleased to work with you.

Please contact them by calling (712) 764-7001 or emailing deb.larsen@danishmuseum.org. Your inquiry will be treated confidentially.

special appeals

During the course of each year, the Museum of Danish America invites its supporters to make contributions to special projects and restricted funds. The individuals, organizations, or foundations listed below contributed to these appeals in 2020 (and reflected in the Honor Roll of Contributors). *Donors to the Summer Appeal and End-of-Year Appeal are included in the Honor Roll of Contributors.*

ARCHIVES

Danish Sisterhood Archive Project

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Carol Christiansen, West Des Moines, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, West Des Moines, IA
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #3, Davenport, IA
Danish Sisterhood Dagmar Lodge #4, Chicago, IL
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Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102, Des Moines, IA
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #168, Bakersfield, CA
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Danish Sisterhood Danske Damer Lodge #185,
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Castle Rock, CO
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Karen Vig-Keathley, Itasca, IL

Hiking for Danish America-Bruce Bro

Danish Sisterhood Lodge #4, Chicago, IL
Lars & Bente Rasmussen, Libertyville, IL
Elsa Steffensen, Elizabeth Steffensen & Linda
Steffensen, Hoffman Estates, IL

CURATORIAL

The Main Floor Gallery

Lowell & Marilyn Kramme, Des Moines, IA

Traveling Exhibits:

Art Nouveau Innovation

The Danish Home, Croton-On-Hudson, NY
Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, Hanlonton, IA

New Nordic Cuisine

Kenny Bogus & Marnie Jensen, Nebraska City, NE
Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, Hanlonton, IA

ENDOWMENT

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Technology

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Design Store

Slat wall acrylic display shelves

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Exhibitions and Programs

2 Large and 2 small locking exhibit cases

Audrey Kofoed Foundation, West Branch, IA

Genealogy Center

3 Computer station upgrades

Audrey Kofoed Foundation, West Branch, IA



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Internship

American Interns

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The following companies and individuals supported the Museum of Danish America in the calendar year of 2020 through in-kind donations:

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Patricia Ligibel, Lambertville, MI

memorials

The Museum of Danish America is the grateful recipient of gifts made in memory of deceased friends and relatives.

Shirley Acker
Dorothea Pederson Adams-Haring,
my grandmother
Anton & Kristine Andersen
Charles Andersen
John Andersen
Richard L. Andersen
Lois Andersen, my sister
John B. Anderson
Rev. Virgil Anderson, my father,
and Tim V. Anderson, my brother
Ardys Askelson, in recognition of
our shared Danish heritage
Niels Baade, whose parents
emigrated to USA
Gay Bannister
The life of Gay J. Bannister
Ruth (Larsen) Randall Benson
Peter Jacob Beyer
Patricia Bonnesen Blake
Patty Bonnesen Blake
Folmer & Martha Bonnesen
Judy Bornholdt
Charles E. R. Boye
Charlie Brehm, my husband
Astrid Andersen Brewer
Robert W. Brown
Robert (Bob) Brown, my father
Cecily Castenskiold
Jimmy Christensen
Joyce Christensen
Joyce Christensen, a very sweet lady
with a wicked sense of humor
Joyce Christensen, my loving
mother always with a smile
Joyce LaVonne Christensen
Nels Madsen Christensen
T. K. Christensen
Virgil & Joyce Christensen, a
daughter's loving parents
Lotte Christensen, my wife

John (Jack) Christensen, our uncle
Raymond Christensen, Rosemount,
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Howard Peter Fauerby
Nels Peter Frandsen, emigrated to
U.S. 1892
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Hannah Friis, Sherry's grandmother
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Rosa Jorgensen, for care of her
pieces of clothing
Nels Jorgensen, Hendricks, MN
Nels Jorgensen, my brother
Tage Ketelsen
Aase Vibeke Kiehn
Otto & Valborg Kiertzner
Esther Knudsen's family and parents
Svend Koch
Richard Kramme, my husband
John Kristensen
Shirley J. Kuhlman, longtime
member & former officer for
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J. Brent Norlem, my friend to honor his wish	Helen Roenfeld	
James Brent Norlem, my undergraduate university advisor and mentor	Andrew & Rosa Rosenkild	
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Ole & Marie Olsen	Robert Rubel (Bonnesen Family)	
Ole & Marie Olsen, my parents		

in honor

The Museum of Danish America receives many contributions as gifts to honor beloved family members and friends on special occasions. In 2020 the following people, places or organizations were honored:

All health care workers
Major General John B. Anderson,
USMA '14, Parkersburg, IA
Tova Brandt
Tova Brandt's Hygge presentation
Bruce Bro's Hiking for Danish
America
Bruce Bro, my cousin who
successfully completed his "Hike
for Danish America"
Kim Christensen
Diana & Martin Christiansen
Jensine Caspersen Clausen
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Dania Society of Chicago's long
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The Danish Sisterhood Archive
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Dannebrog, Nebraska
Phyllis Hoegh
Ralf Hoifeldt's 90th birthday
Chet Holland
Jim & Marge Iversen
Cheyenne Jansdatter
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Laurence Jensen (son)
Dorothy Kerkhoff
Dorothy Kerkhoff's family
Deb Christensen Larsen
Theodore Larsen
Joyce Larson Madison
Ann Madsen
Marilyn Meyer's four Danish
grandparents who came to
Brayton 10 miles east of Elk
Horn
Museum of Danish America's
successful continuation
Museum Staff and the Board of the
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Museum volunteers and staff

Museum volunteers, past & present
Poul & Benedikte Ehlers Olesen
Niels M. Pedersen
Chris & Mary Poldberg
Paul Roge
Anders Leroy Carlson Sand
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Jens Sorensen
Wanda Sornson
Angela Stanford
Donna Christensen Thomas

special memberships

Throughout 2020 the Museum of Danish America attained **197** new memberships, complimentary memberships, reciprocal memberships or received contributions toward gift memberships for the following organizations or individuals/households:

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honor roll of contributors

The Honor Roll of Contributors recognizes all who have supported the Museum of Danish America during the 2020 calendar year. It especially recognizes those who attained membership at the various levels with cumulative contributions amounting to \$25 or more, including gifts for annual support, designated purposes, memorials, Wall of Honor, Jens Jensen Heritage Path, special appeals, matching gifts, endowment gifts, and gifts-in-kind.

Additionally, we are pleased to include on the Honor Roll, our Organization Associate members who contribute \$100 or more to the museum. The Organization Associates are listed according to their giving level.

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 Danish Sisterhood Lodge #6,
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 Danish Sisterhood Dronning
 Margrethe Lodge #15,
 Wauwatosa, WI
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 Des Moines, IA & surrounding area
 Red River Danes, Fargo, ND
 Southern California Chapter, Rebuild
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corrections

Every effort has been made to ensure that all information contained in the 2020 Annual Report of Contributions is accurate. We respectfully regret and apologize for any omissions, misspellings, or misplacements. Please contact the Development Department with any questions or corrections.

victor borge's favorite recipe

Salt and pepper *to taste*
6 whole Cornish hens
about 1 ½ lbs each
¼ lb butter
1 ¼ cups water

Gravy:
3 tsp flour + enough water to
make a paste
½ cup light cream
Browning sauce *as desired*
½ tsp sugar



“As the recipe appears on 1950s ViBo Rock Cornish Hen packaging: Rub insides of 6 ViBo Rock Cornish hens with salt and pepper. Sear in ¼ pound butter in Dutch Oven until golden brown — 10 to 12 min. — (If a clock is not available, play the “Minute Waltz” ten to twelve times.) Add 1 ¼ cups water and let simmer, covered, until tender — approx. 35 min. — (Here the “Dance of the Hour,” played half through, will come in handy, if dragged slightly.) Remove birds. Stir like crazy into drippings a paste made of cold water and 3 teaspoons flour. Add ½ cup light cream, salt, tasteless sauce coloring, and ½ teaspoon sugar. *Serves six.*”

01



You can thank Victor Borge for Cornish hens, too.

In the early 1950s, Borge purchased and ran a 400-acre farm in Connecticut, ViBo Farm, raising pheasants and guinea hens. In the middle of that decade, fellow Connecticut poultry farmers Jacques and Therese Makowsky crossbred chickens to produce single-serving birds. Borge was an early investor and the most prominent promoter, selling “Rock Cornish Game Hens” and other food items as ViBo Products – even appearing on a 1959 episode of the popular panel game show *What’s My Line?* with the occupation of “Poultry Farmer,” not pianist. In 1964 he donated the property to the University of Connecticut.

01. Did Borge catch flack for his flock?

Our collection includes this piece, by Canadian artist Ole Jonassen (1897-1978), which suggests so. 2020.011.003, gift of the Family of Victor Borge

By Nicky Christensen





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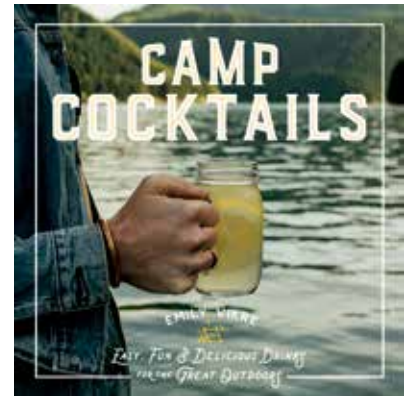
01



02



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01. *The New Camp Cookbook* #6080, \$27. 02. *Koustrup & Co. Tea Towel, Viking Runes* #5692, \$20.
03. *Camp Cocktails* #6079, \$27. 04. *Rosendahl Grand Cru Shot Glass, Set of 6* #99, \$30. 05. *Koustrup
& Co. Tea Towel, Columbine* #5475, \$20. 06. *Rosendahl Grand Cru Hot Drink Glass, Set of 2* #5345,
\$30. Members receive a 10% discount! More to see online: www.danishmuseum.org/shop. Orders by phone to
712.764.7001. Curbside pickup is available.