

ANNUAL REPORT

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museum of
danish america

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.

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

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.

board of directors

The 2023-2024 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 40 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. The board held its February meeting in Portland, Oregon, and the June meeting virtually, with election of new board members. In October, the board meeting was held in Elk Horn. The museum's annual meeting was also held in Elk Horn 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 2023

Erik Andersen, Croton-on-Hudson, NY, *Vice President*

Carol Bassoni, Gilroy, CA

Toni Battaglia, Prior Lake, MN, *President*

Margie Bornhoft, Tyler, MN

Melinda Brown, Littleton, CO

Joy Clemsen Gajda, Lindenhurst, IL

Dennis Gray, Winston-Salem, NC, *Secretary*

Peder Hansen, Omaha, NE

Marcia Jante, New Berlin, WI

Bridget Lois Jensen, Houston, TX

Craig Jensen, Audubon, IA

Mary Ellyn Johnson, Minneapolis, MN

Merlyn Knudsen, Elk Horn, IA

Michael Koehler, Rolling Meadows, IL

Chris Kofoed, West Branch, IA, *Treasurer*

Lisa Kramme, Fremont, NE

Erik Lillehoj, West Friendship, MD

Philip Lund, Happy Valley, OR

Lars Matthiesen, Edmonds, WA

Anders Melberg, Lindenhurst, IL

Mette Nielsen, Elkhorn, NE

Erik Nørkjær, Aulum, Denmark

Eric Olesen, Racine, WI

John Rasmussen, Hicksville, NY

Kurt Rasmussen, Johnston, IA

Elizabeth Steffensen, Hoffman Estates, IL

Pete West, Denver, CO

Ex-Officio

Nils Jensen, Portland, OR

Dennis Larson, Decorah, IA

Dr. John Mark Nielsen, Blair, NE,

Executive Director Emeritus

Randy Ruggaard, Hudson, OH

Tova Brandt, Decorah, IA, Executive Director

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**; members that are deceased 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 Bodtker, Salem, OR 2000-2006, *President*
Arvid Bollesen*, Tustin, CA 1990-1996
Jon Borgman, Harlan, IA 2010-2013
Beth Bro Roof, Cedar Rapids, IA 2014-2020, *Vice President, President*
Bruce Bro, Phoenix, AZ 2018-2019
Mervin Bro*, Scottsdale, AZ 1996-1999, *Vice President*
Ronald Bro*, Cedar Falls, IA 2001-2007 & 2011-2017
Timothy Burchill, Jamestown, ND 2012-2018, *Vice President, President*
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
David Esbeck, San Diego, CA 2015-2021
Gordon R. Esbeck*, Tipton, IA 2001-2007
Cora Fagre*, Loveland, CO 1985-1991
Dorothy Stadvold 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
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
Connie Hanson, Glendora, CA 2018-2021
Ernst Harboe*, Northfield, IL 1991-1994
David Hendee, Omaha, NE 2014-2020
Gerry Henningsen, Monument, CO 2018-2021
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
Daniel Jensen, Columbus, OH 2019-2022
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
 Marnie Jensen, Nebraska City, NE 2016-2022, *Secretary*
 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
 Elly Jorgensen, Prairie Village, KS 2019-2022
 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
 Lowell Kramme, Des Moines, IA 1993-1999
 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*
 Norma Lange Nelson*, Elk Horn, IA 1996-2002
 Clayton Nielsen*, Racine, WI 1991-?
Hans T. Nielsen*, Denver, CO 1983-1986
John Mark Nielsen, Blair, NE 1983-1991 & 2000-2003
 Karen Nielsen, Overland Park, KS 2016-2022
 Mike Nielsen, Altoona, IA 2019-2022
 Peter Nielsen, Naples, FL 2015-2016
 Ruth Herman Nielsen*, Omaha, NE 1992-1998, *Secretary*
 Virginia Nielsen*, Elk Horn, IA 1989-1995
 J. Brent Norlem*, Monticello, MN 2013-2016
 Kay Esbeck North*, Ames, IA 2007-2012, *Vice President*
 Mark Nussle, Palos Park, IL 2005-2011, *Vice President*
 Kai Nyby*, LaPorte, IN 2001-2007, *President*
 Benedikte Ehlers Olesen, Eugene, OR 2004-2012
 Erik Olsen*, Mesa, AZ 1995-1999
 Marian "Mittie" Ostergaard, Mission Viejo, CA 2010-2016
 Tom Paulsen*, Bellevue, WA 1994-2000
 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
 Randy Ruggaard, Hudson, OH 2015-2021
 Anders Sand, Kansas City, MO 2016-2022
 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 1986-1992
 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*
 Karen Suchomel, West Branch, IA 2014-2020, *Treasurer*
 Carol Svendsen, Denver, CO 2016-2022
 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

staff & interns

Executive Director

Tova Brandt, M.A.

Executive Director Emeritus

John Mark Nielsen, Ph.D.

Administrative Manager

Terri Johnson

**Albert Ravenholt Curator of
Danish-American Culture**

Diya Nagaraj, M.Litt.

Registrar

Julia Jessen, M.A.

Delaney Schurer, M.A.

Curatorial Assistant

Delaney Schurer, M.A.

Archives Manager & Outreach Associate

Cheyenne Jansdatter, M.L.I.S.

Genealogy Center Manager & Librarian

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

Youth and Community Educator

Alissa LaCanne, B.A.

Development Manager

Deb Christensen Larsen

Development Associate

Shelli Larson, B.S.

Communications Specialist

Amelia Juhl, B.A.

Design Store Manager

Nan Dreher

Accounting Manager

Philip Wernsmann, B.S.

Facilities Manager

Tim Palmer

Building & Grounds Manager

Tim Fredericksen

Visitor Services

Terri Amaral, B.A.

Al Ashcraft

Sandy Ashcraft

Bedstemor's House Staff

Al Ashcraft

Danish Interns*

*Emmelie Krag Adolfsen, B.A., University of Southern
Denmark, Slagelse, Denmark (Communications)*

*Marius Bo Poulsen, B.A., University of Southern
Denmark, Slagelse, Denmark (Genealogy &
Education Center)*

*Svend Aage Buus, M.A., Necochea, Argentina
(Exhibits)*

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

American Intern - Prairie**

*Jaz Bruns, University of Missouri-Columbia,
Columbia, Missouri (Jens Jensen Prairie
Landscape Park)*

** Prairie internship is funded through a generous gift from the Robert W. and Susan T. Brown Family Foundation

THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA
Condensed Financial Statements
Years Ended August 31, 2023 and 2022

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

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Assets		
Cash and Investments	6,681,256	6,428,782
Inventory	56,790	60,624
Employee Retention Credit Receivables(Allowance \$0)	40,255	39,705
Property and Equipment (Net)	4,074,347	4,258,807
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>10,852,648</u>	<u>10,787,918</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accrued Payroll Taxes	18,170	15,725
Notes Payable	0	0
<u>Total Liabilities</u>	<u>18,170</u>	<u>15,725</u>
Net Assets	<u>10,834,478</u>	<u>10,772,193</u>
<u>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</u>	<u>10,852,648</u>	<u>10,787,918</u>

Condensed Statement of Revenue and Support, Expenses,
and changes in Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis for Years end August 31.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Support and Revenue		
Contributions and Support	1,080,220	1,307,807
Admissions and Program Fees	13,639	13,253
Gift Shop Revenue (Net)	48,195	57,249
Investment and Other Income	689,362	(676,840)
<u>Total Support and Revenue</u>	<u>1,831,416</u>	<u>701,469</u>
Expenses		
Program Services	950,501	974,989
Supporting Activities	818,630	628,812
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>1,769,131</u>	<u>1,603,801</u>
Change in Net Assets Related to Collection Items not Capitalized:		
Proceeds from sale of Collection Items	0	400
Collection Items Purchased	0	0
<u>Change in Net Assets Related to Collection Items not Capitalized</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>400</u>
<u>Change in Net Assets</u>	<u>62,285</u>	<u>(901,932)</u>
Net Assets at Beginning of the Year	10,772,193	11,674,125
<u>Net Assets - End of Year</u>	<u>10,834,478</u>	<u>10,772,193</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, 2023, was \$6,323,798.62.

bequests

In 2023, the museum received \$93,779.91 in bequests that has been or is being used for operations, endowment, special projects or programming. The Museum of Danish America gratefully acknowledges the following estates, trusts, and individuals:

Anonymous (2)
Borge M. Christensen Trust, Rochester, MN
Rita Neergaard Hansen Charitable Trust, Kenosha, WI

Ellen U. Juhl Estate, Seattle, WA
H. Rand Petersen Trust, Fort Dodge, IA

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 estates 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 **168** plaques at the entrance of the museum.

During the calendar year of 2023, the Board of Directors were pleased to add the names of:

Anonymous (*Bronze*)
Beth Bro Roof, John Roof (*Bronze*)
Reed and Jamie Bro, Colorado Springs, Colorado (*Bronze*)
Robert W. and Susan T. Brown Family Foundation,
Neenah, WI (*Bronze*)

Borge M. Christensen Trust, Rochester, MN (*Bronze*)
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, IA (*Bronze*)
Steven J. Jensen and Mark R. Grace, Vashon, WA (*Bronze*)
Chris J and Lisa W Kofoed, West Branch IA (*Bronze*)
John & Elizabeth Lauritzen Foundation, Omaha, NE (*Silver*)

In addition, we acknowledge these donors having achieved a new level of lifetime giving:

Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, Seattle, WA (*Diamond*)

Sally og Gordon Faber, Urbandale, IA (*Silver*)

DIAMOND | over \$1,000,000

Wayne Alwill Estate, Manning, IA
Anonymous
William & Berniece Grewcock, Omaha, NE
Bruce R. Lauritzen Family, Omaha, NE

Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, Seattle, WA
Charles W. & Norma J. Wilson Foundation, Inc.,
Red Oak, IA

PLATINUM | over \$500,000

Dennis J. Andersen, Atlanta, GA
Gunnar Horn, Omaha, NE

Ingrid Kirkegaard Trust, Lake Geneva, WI
State of Iowa

GOLD | over \$250,000

Anonymous
Mervin Bro, Scottsdale, AZ
Marianne K. Festersen Trust, Omaha, NE
Roy & Patricia Hougen, Ames, IA
Clyde & Emma Johnson, Omaha, NE
Peter Kiewit Foundation, Omaha, NE

John & Audrey Kofoed Foundation, West Branch, IA
Lowell & Marilyn Kramme, Des Moines, IA
Roy J. & Rita Neergaard Hansen, Kenosha, WI
Richard Hellman, Oceanside, CA
scan|design foundation By Inger & Jens Bruun, Seattle, WA
Erik Sorensen Trust, Knoxville, IA

SILVER | over \$100,000

Erik & Anna Andersen Trust, Parkville, MO
Erik & Eva Andersen, Croton-on-Hudson, NY
Anonymous
Anton & Gunver M. Berg, DeKalb, IL
Melinda Brown & Rich Inman, Littleton, CO
Esther "E.J." Carlson Estate, Columbus, OH
Carl Aage Christensen, Denver, CO
Edna M. Christensen, Atlantic, IA
Tom & Jan Christensen, Bettendorf, IA
R. James & Janet Borge Crowle, Saint Michaels, MD
Elk Horn Lutheran Church, Elk Horn, IA
David W. & Helen A. Esbeck, San Diego, CA
Howard & Ruth Esbeck Trust, Elk Horn, IA
Ramona L. Esbeck, Ames, IA
Sally og Gordon Faber, Urbandale, IA
Asta Forrest, Fountain Hills, AZ
Gertrude Gronbech, Washington, D.C.
Stewart & LeNore Hansen, West Des Moines, IA
Humanities Iowa, Iowa City, IA
Iowa West Foundation, Council Bluffs, IA
James D. & Margery Iversen, Ames, IA
John & Elizabeth Lauritzen Foundation, Omaha, NE

Carl & Marilyn Mehr, San Diego, CA
Martha Jorgensen, Audubon, IA
Reola Lerager, Wichita, KS
Lutheran Brotherhood, Minneapolis, MN
Herbert C. Madison, Washington, DC
Adelaide M. Madsen Estate, Cedar Rapids, IA
A.P. Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller
Foundation, Copenhagen, Denmark
Eric & Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust, Northbrook, IL
Mark & Lori Nussle, Palos Park, IL
Folmer & Vera Nyby, Michigan City, IN
Poul Olesen & Benedikte Ehlers Olesen, Eugene, OR
Olga S. Olsen Estate, Watertown, SD
The Ørum-Keller Family, IL
H. Rand & Mary Louise Petersen, Harlan, IA
John I. Petersen, Waterloo, IA
Kurt & Lynette Skov Rasmussen, Johnston, IA
Harriet Albertsen Spanel, Bellingham, WA
E. Irene Starrett, Audubon, IA
Chrystal Hemmingsen Willis Wagner Estate, Seattle, WA
Wilber Williamson, Des Moines, IA

BRONZE | over \$25,000

Aalborg and Linie Aquavits, Arcus As, Hagan, Norway
Cynthia Larsen Adams and Gary M. Adams, Littleton, CO
The American-Scandinavian Foundation, New York, NY
Richard Lee and Rosalie Larsen Andersen, Harlan, IA
Anonymous (4)
Norman C. Bansen Estate, Blair, NE
Mogens & Cindy Bay, Omaha, NE
Elna N. Bellows, Edina, MN
Harold W. & Lois M. Berg, Ogden, IA
Egon & Diana Bodtker, Salem, OR
Sanna and Victor Borge Memorial Fund, New York, NY
Beth Bro Roof, John Roof
Reed and Jamie Bro, Colorado Springs, CO
Robert W. and Susan T. Brown Family Foundation,
Neenah, WI
Marie A. Budolfson Estate, Ames, IA
Cedar Valley Danes, Cedar Falls, IA Area
Borge M. Christensen Trust, Rochester, MN
Jack & Barbara Christensen, Yankton, SD
Lamont & Lois Christensen, Elk Horn, IA
Glen & Rosa Clemsen, Exira, IA
Dolores G. Connelly Estate, Atlantic, IA
Country Landscapes, Inc., Ames, IA
Danish Brotherhood In America, Highlands Ranch, CO
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #227, Detroit, MI
Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, AZ
Danish Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, IA
Danish Sisterhood of America
Ane-Grethe Olesen & Rory A.M. Delaney, Wayzata, MN
Gordon, Mary Lou & Janice Esbeck, Tipton, IA
First Baptist Church of Elk Horn, IA
Charles & Joanne Frederiksen, Ames, IA
J. Emory & Edna Fredrickson Estate, Elk Horn, IA
Margaret Louise Gee Estate, West Des Moines, IA
Marilyn Andersen Gift & William Gift, Des Moines, IA
Alf & Lili Gregerson, Ridgefield, WA
Caroline L. Hansen, Harlan, IA
Walter & Vesta Hansen, West Branch, IA
Alma O. Hartvigsen Estate, Harlan, IA
David & Polly Hendee, Omaha, NE
Henningsen Construction, Inc., Atlantic, IA
Anna Thomsen Holliday and Hal Holliday, Houston, TX
Stanley & Helen Howe, Muscatine, IA
Vern E. Hunter, Fargo, ND
Al & Bridget Jensen, Houston, TX
Cornelius C.J. Jensen Estate, Edmonds, WA

Erna C. Jensen, Des Moines, IA
Irving & Elizabeth Jensen Foundation, Sioux City, IA
Marnie Jensen & Kenny Bogus, Nebraska City, NE
Nils & Kathleen Jensen, Portland, Oregon
Roland & Joan Jensen, Ankeny, IA
Steven J. Jensen and Mark R. Grace, Vashon, WA
Iver (Whitey) & Lis Jorgensen, Burnsville, MN
Garey and Sherry Knudsen, Hutchinson, MN
Chris J and Lisa W Kofoed, West Branch IA
Robert S. Kroman Estate, Elk Horn, IA
Kulturministeriet, Copenhagen, Denmark
Kurt K. & Joy Larsen, Oneonta, AL
Richard Ledet, Des Moines, IA
Leonard K. & Lenora J. Madsen Estate, Kansas City, MO
Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn, IA
Marilyn J. (Nelson) Meyer, Everly, IA
Inez M. Mortensen Estate, Omaha, NE
Dagmar Muthamia, Long Beach, CA
Einar Schultz Nielsen, Tustin, CA
Hans Thyge & Valborg Nielsen, Denver, CO
John Mark & Dawn Nielsen, Blair, NE
Peter & Faith Nielsen, Naples, FL
Ruth Herman Nielsen Estate, Omaha, NE
Irene A. Nissen Estate, Cedar Falls, IA
Kay Esbeck North, Ames, IA
Kai E. & Melody Starr Nyby, Laporte, IN
Erik & Jackie Olsen, Glenbrook, NV
Glenn & Mary Ellen Olsen, Atlantic, IA
Ruth Lund Ostrom Estate, Seven Hills, OH
Eivind & Dorothy (Peterson) Pedersen Estate, Omaha, NE
Hugo Petersen Estate, Aarhus, Denmark
Marc & Carlene Petersen, Omaha, NE
Merna & Greg Rierson, Casper, WY
Eugene Robinson, Pensacola, FL
Randy and Margie Ruggaard, Hudson, OH
Anelise Sawkins, Minneapolis, MN
Agnita M. Christensen Stine Schreiber Foundation,
Inc., Shepherdstown, WV
Shelby County Community Foundation, Shelby County, IA
Shelby County State Bank, Harlan, IA
Ava Simonsen Estate, Audubon, IA
Bodil Sorensen Family Trust, Kirkland, WA
Harold L. Sorenson Estate, Exira, IA
Wilbur C. Sorenson Estate, Exira, IA
Lemuel & Edith Sprow Estate, Mound, MN
Carl & Frances Steffensen, Houston, TX
Kirsten Nielsen Strnad, Faribault, MN

Karen K. Suchomel, West Branch, IA
Carol Svendsen and Jay Mead Denver, CO
Janet M. Thuesen, Falls Church, VA
Svend & Lois Toftemark, Eugene, OR
Erik & Lissi Vange, Palatine, Illinois

Marion J. Walker Estate, Solvang, CA
Todd & Jalynn Wanninger/Carroll Control Systems,
Carroll, IA
Pete and Bonnie West, Denver, CO

the heritage builders

Over the past 40 years, the Museum of Danish America has accomplished much because of special friends and members who have provided for the museum in their planned giving and provided a Statement of Intent to the museum. With their permission while living or with the permission of their estate's executor, **116** names of **Heritage Builders** are permanently inscribed on the 92 plaques in the museum.

Anonymous (1)
Anonymous (4)*
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 Sandra Wunder, Omaha, NE

**Deceased*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information on how you can become a member of Lifetime Legacy Giving or a Heritage Builder, the Development Department or any member of the Board of Directors would be pleased to work with you.

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



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Ann Nickerson, Lincoln, NE
Edwin Smidt Petersen family, Wheeler, WI
June Sampson, Newcastle, NE
Rebecca Wodder, Fairfax Stations, VA

exhibitions

In 2023, the Museum of Danish America continued to pursue a robust exhibitions program, reaching audiences in Elk Horn and around the country through exhibits, educational programs, and more. These exhibits showcased different aspects of Danish and Danish-American history, culture, and art and would not have been possible without the generosity and support of our sponsors and members.

ON-SITE EXHIBITIONS

In Search of Zion: The Danish American Mormon Movement | February 1, 2022 – June 2, 2023
Joyce Tenneson's Great Danes | September 24, 2022 – June 2, 2023
40 Years of Collecting: Highlights from the Permanent Collection | November 25, 2022 – October 31, 2023
Nature-Culture / Natur-Kultur | June 22, 2023 – November 3, 2024
Fabric of a Nation: Art Quilts and Immigrant Stories | November 24, 2023 – May 12, 2024

TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

Bicycling | Luck Historical Museum, Luck WI
The Danish Pioneer | Hjemkomst, Moorhead, MN
Hygge | Iowa Masons, Atlantic, IA
New Nordic Cuisine | Danish Lutheran Church & Cultural Center, Yorba Linda, CA
Skål! Scandinavian Spirits | Genealogy & Education Center, Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, IA | Hjemkomst, Moorhead, MN
Weddings | National Sisterhood Convention, Minneapolis, MN



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active volunteers

Thank you to our volunteers who continue to give their time, whether they volunteer at the Genealogy & Education Center, the Museum, remotely, or have “retired” from volunteering. Perhaps you once volunteered on a regular basis, or as needed, or are still coming in weekly. All those hours you give and have given are important to us. To ALL our volunteers, you are valued and appreciated for all you have done to grow OUR museum together. *Tusind tak!*

GENEALOGY & EDUCATION CENTER

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MUSEUM

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memorials

James & Elsie Andersen
Martin & Else Andersen
Brigit Beaudette
Signe Betsinger
Signe Nielsen Betsinger, who
furthered the work of the museum
Signe Nielsen Betsinger
Paul & Gyriha Blinkilde
Andy Boettger
Agneto & Alford Borg
Janice Bradley of Danish Sisterhood
Lodge #100
Harold E. Bro
Ron Bro
Ron Bro, classmate (1951)
Ron Bro, for all he has done for the
museum over the years
Ron & Mary Bro
Ronald Bro
Ronald Dean Bro
Robert W. Brown
Meta Kristensen Brylle
Erma Jensen Carpenter, my aunt
who was always proud of her
Danish heritage
Jens Thuroc Carstensen
Paul M. Cash
Arthur Lloyd Christensen, my father
Carlo Christensen, Glendale, CA
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Ejnar Dissing
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& family - Scott, Shanna & Sara
Janice Evans
Hans & Mathilde Farstrup-1903
Evelyn & Carl Frost
Birte Geijsbeck
Birte Geijsbeck, with love from
Sonja, Kirsten, Allan & family

Sally Gordon, my wife
Einar Graff
Bent & Lydia Hansen
Cleo & Esther Hansen
Clifford K. & A. Veola Hansen
Stew Hansen
Kent Hanson
Hans Christian Have
Preben Hjortlund, my Danish cousin
Alvina Hjortsvang
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Edna Jacobsen, my wife
Edna Faaborg Jacobsen
Edna Faaborg Jacobsen, my aunt
John L. Jacobsen
Marjory & Inge Jacobson
Elsie Jante
Elsie Jante, my mother
Arne & Irene Jensen, my parents
Hartvig & Lillie Jensen
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Tage Ketelsen
Aase Vibeke Kiehn
Otto & Valborg Kiertzner
Pedar Kjolhede
Chris & Gladys Knudsen and
Clinton & Lyria Jensen, our parents
Phyllis Kosky
Dick Kramme, my husband, and all
of my Grand View friends
Harold, Elise & Marius Larsen
Marius & Elise Larsen
Paul & Johanne Larsen
Ruth Jensen Larsen, Past President of
Danish Sisterhood PNW District
Barbara Laursen
Robert Laursen
Kathryn Knudsen Littlejohn
Dorothy E. Lund
Marvin & Lydia Madsen
Svend Godske Alexander Marckmann

Clark Mathisen, my father and
former MoDA board member
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Laina Molbak, my wife
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Herbert & Mabel Petersen, my
parents who were 100% Danish
Lyle Petersen
Elsie Marie Peterson
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Ane Kristina Nielsen Rosenquist
Earl Schell
Geraldine Nash Schubeck
Lene & Preben Sepstrup
Betty Sievers
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Axel Skelbeck, Secretary-Treasurer
Emeritus, Danish Brotherhood in
America 1904-1986
Axel & Rose Skelbeck
Roger Sorensen
Emmert & Neoma Steen
Laura S. Steffensen
Shirley Stelter
Dick Switzer
Paul Terkelsen
Neva Marie (Jensen) Theeds
Betty Thielen, who was very proud
of her Danish heritage
Chris Thogersen
Lillie Sorensen Thompson (1923-2003)
Capt. Lars E. Toftemark
Tage Topp
Fred Townsend
Robert Wallner
Donald M. Olson & Evelyn (Olson) Ward
Walter Westergaard

in honor

Melvin Boose
Susan T. Brown
Dana Topp Claussen
Rosa Clemsen's 'Rosa Wednesday' at MoDA
Danish Sisterhood Ellen Lodge #21
Denver Danes
Benedikte Ehlers
Charles Frederiksen
Elisabeth Danzer Gormsen
Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt
Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt, Urbandale, IA
Inga Hoifeldt's 90th birthday
Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt's birthdays and thanks for all you
have done!
Jim & Marge Iversen, my Grandpa and Grandma
Karry Jensen

Paul F. Jensen
Soren Jensen Family
Clifford & Orpha Jensen, my grandparents
Leonard Carstenson Johnson
Lowell Kramme
Lowell Kramme, for his service to the museum
Earl Madsen, my uncle, and his 100th birthday
MoDA Staff
John Mark Nielsen & Tova Brandt, who have led the
museum with distinction
John Mark Nielsen, with thanks for all you have done
for MoDA
Shirley Norlem
Niels M. Pedersen
Sonja Switzer

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 & Education Center. Listed below are the names of the immigrants placed on the museum's Wall of Honor in the year 2023:

AAGE H. ENGELBRETH (1893) Racine, WI
ELLA GERDA KIEFFER JAKOBSEN (1955) Fargo, ND
JORGEN DAHM JAKOBSEN (1955) Fargo, ND
CHRISTEN BLACH JENSEN (1890) Rawlins, WY
MAREN ANDERSEN JENSEN (1890) Rawlins, WY
KARLO JØRGENSEN (1910) Jacksonville, IA
BARTEL LARSON (1869) Shelby County, IA
HANNAH NELSON & ANDREW MADSEN (1888) (1878) Oregon, WI
CHRISTIAN O. NIELSEN (1888) Sheffield, IL
JENS NIELSEN (1889) Battle Creek, Iowa
CHRISTIAN PETER OLSON (1885) Oregon, WI
ELSE MARIE JAKOBSEN PETERSON (1950) Muskegon, MI

memberships:

Gift, Complimentary, New, or 40th Anniversary 'Gift Memberships for All'

A special thank you to our MoDA members who joined or renewed in the year 2023 and participated in our 40th Anniversary 'Gift Memberships for All' program to help grow our membership. A total of 186 complimentary Explorer level memberships were shared with individuals who had never been a MoDA member.

Ann Charlotte Gavel Adams, Seattle, WA
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Jim & Lorna Albright, Atlantic, IA
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special appeals and projects

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 2023 (and are 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. Donors in the calendar year of 2023 to the 40th Anniversary Campaign's various projects are listed on pages 4-6 of the 40th Anniversary Campaign Report.*

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1929 Model A Car Showroom

Steven J. Jensen & Mark R. Grace

American Interns

Margrethe & Bill Feldman, Los Alamos, NM

Green Roof Repair

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Gordon L. Faber, Urbandale, IA

Staff Nametags

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CRM Software Data Migration

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 National Sisterhood of America

Victor Borge Film Recordings:
 Joy S. Larsen, Birmingham, AL

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Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, Seattle, WA

Temporary Exhibits:

Danish Ceramics: Beyond Blue and White

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Fabric of a Nation

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Marnie Jensen & Kenny Bogus, Nebraska City, NE

Natur-Kultur

Marnie Jensen & Kenny Bogus, Nebraska City, NE

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Jens and Inger Bruun Legacy Grant – general operating

Scan Design Foundation, Seattle, WA

Education

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Shelby County Community Chest, Harlan, IA

Summer Youth Camps

Iowa West Foundation

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Natur-Kultur

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Outdoor 12' x 12' Canopy

Danish Sisterhood Dronning Margrethe Lodge #15,

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matching gifts

The Museum of Danish America wishes to thank these members for initiating matching gifts during the calendar year of 2023 from the following corporations and foundations:

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The following companies and individuals supported the Museum of Danish America in the calendar year of 2023 through in-kind donations:

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annual honor roll of contributors

The Honor Roll of Contributors recognizes all who have supported the Museum of Danish America during the 2023 calendar year. It especially recognizes those who attained membership at the various levels with cumulative contributions including gifts for annual support, designated purposes, memorials, Wall of Honor, Jens Jensen Heritage Path, special appeals, endowment gifts, matching gifts, and gifts-in-kind.

Additionally, we are pleased to include on the Honor Roll, our Organization/Non-Profit members who contribute \$150 or more to the museum. The Organization/Non-Profit members are listed according to their giving level.

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“It’s an honor to be entrusted with preserving Danish heritage and furthering the museum’s mission.”



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