

Danish Sisterhood News

JUNE 2026



In This Issue: * Scholarship Fundraising! * A New troll by Dambo!
* Why join the Danish Sisterhood? * Fabulous news from various lodges! * Save the Date!



President's Corner



Greetings!

Usually in my monthly greetings I try to talk about something from the National Board. However, Don and I have just returned from the Heartland District Convention and I am so excited about the people we saw, what we did and what we saw, that I must write about it.

The convention this year was put on by the Des Moines Brotherhood and held in Elk Horn at the Museum of Danish America. What a treat to have a convention there. To be with Sisters/Brothers in the museum was such an incredible experience. Of course, we got tours of the genealogy center, Bedstemor's house, and an in-depth tour of the storage areas at the museum. If you haven't ever been able to do this, it is very worth the trip.

AND "Fjord Ferryman" was being built and I got to help! It was so exciting for me to get up on the scaffolding and help screw the wood pieces onto the Thomas Dambo troll. Don and I both love to build and work with wood, so this was especially exciting for both of us. I will be able to point to that troll and say "I helped make him!"

Staff at the Museum, as well as museum board member, Marcia Jante (from Milwaukee), were incredibly gracious and served us dinner both Friday and Saturday night. They also did all the clean-up which was no small task with just a kitchen dishwasher. It was such a special event to have dinner and initiation in the museum!

Trustee Carol Rudisill and I are both members of Heartland District, so we represented the National Board. Carol also did a wonderful demonstration on making akvavit and anyone who wanted could make a bottle and take home. There were many skåls throughout the weekend.

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Danish Sisterhood News

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**Honorary Member Her Majesty
Queen Margrethe II of Denmark**

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Dear Sisters and Mister Sisters:

Velkommen

As we approach June, many people will be planning for vacation. There are many places to go in the USA for vacation that include a connection in some way to Denmark. If you ever want to take a USA road trip for your vacation and learn about Denmark, remember that the Danish artist, Thomas Dambo, has left quite a few Danish trolls across America!



**Charlene M. Jensen,
Editor**

I met Thomas Dambo approximately 2 years ago when he came to Portland, Oregon to build a troll. His story is a unique one. One of the things I love most about his story is that he envisioned creating things from debris/garbage when he was quite a young child. Even more heart-warming to me about this is that his father encouraged and supported him in this matter. Not all parents would have been motivated to aid in guiding their child to create artistic pieces made of various types of garbage.

Below are a couple resources to help you learn more about Thomas Dambo and his troll creations that he built in America:

<https://www.thomasdambo.com/50states>

<https://rootedwanderings.com/thomas-dambo-trolls-in-us/>

Wishing you each a wonderful time of vacationing during the upcoming summer months!

~~Charlene Jensen, Editor

Send articles/stories/photos to: editor@danishsisterhood.com

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WHY JOIN THE DANISH SISTERHOOD?

Article by Marcia Jante of Lodge #15, Dronning Margrethe, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Marcia Jante is a former National Danish of America Board President (1999-2002) member and former president of the Milwaukee Lodge #15. She is a Museum of Danish America board member. The article below is by Marcia Jante, and is a portion of an article that she wrote and submitted to her lodge's newsletter.

Why Join the Danish Sisterhood? Membership in the Danish Sisterhood will provide an opportunity to connect with your Danish Heritage, learn about Danish customs and traditions, strengthen your connections to Denmark, and preserve our heritage for generations to come. It provides the venue for creating lifelong friendships with Danes and Danish Americans here and abroad.

The national benefits for the National Danish Sisterhood of America include:

- *Monthly National newsletter showcasing Sisterhood Lodges across the US and Canada. It communicates lodge events, news, Danish recipes, articles on Danish customs, traditions and much more.
- *Trips to Denmark hosted by a Danish Tour Guide.
- *Academic Grants for members and their families, to Institutions of Higher Education including colleges, universities, technical and vocational schools.
- *Camp Scholarships for youth attending Danish Language Camp or other youth camp program.
- *Continuing Education Grants for members who enroll in any education workshop, class or course.
- *National Conventions held every 4 years at a location in the US or Canada provides an opportunity for business, workshops, entertainment and connecting with old and new friends.
- *National Danish Sisterhood website danishsisterhood.org

A lodge member describes what the Sisterhood has meant to her: "What the Danish Sisterhood has done for me and my family is priceless. I wanted to keep my Danish culture alive with my son and grandsons. I would not have learned what I learned or traveled to Denmark if not for the Sisterhood."—Karen Vig-Keathley, Lodge #4 Dagmar lodge, Chicago Illinois

Annual Membership Dues for the Danish Sisterhood: \$45.00---Amber National Membership for members under 65 years.

NEWS FROM THE LODGES

IN MEMORIAM—June 2026

NAME	Cert #	Lodge #	Location	Birth Date	Birth Place	Initiated	Died	Benefit
Donna Meddaugh	1065	100	Marlette, MI	9.13.26	Sanilac County	1.5.00	1.22.26	-0-
Sandra Garbers	23045	12	New Haven, CT	11.29.38	New Haven, CT	3.1.72	3.1.26	1000.00
Ulla Reid	23077	36	Perth Amboy	3.12.41	Odense, DK	6.16.72	4.22.26	250.00

Youth Birthdays—June 2026

Name	Lodge	Age
Zoe Volious	102	9
Grace Hudson	102	8
Clara Dupont	188	9



MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION—June 2026

LODGE

15
15

NEW MEMBER

Dianne Weber
Tim Nelson

SPONSOR

Marcia Jante
N/A

PRESIDENT'S CORNER (continued)

Continued from page - 2 -

There was entertainment both nights as well as tours of the Danish Windmill and an update on what is happening at MoDA. The "Kringle Man" was open extra hours with æbleskiver and medisterpølse as well as lots of his wonderful kringle. And, not to be forgotten, on Saturday morning, there was a Sisterhood meeting where all business was quickly conducted.

I hope you all can find places within the Sisterhood that provide you with such reinvigorating experiences.

As always, we are here for you. Let us know if we can help you.

Sisterly,

Nealna

Nealna Gylling
National President / president@danishsisterhood.com



MILDRED SORENSEN SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING

Each year, a \$1,000 scholarship to a community college or vocational/career college is available to Sisterhood members and their children. This scholarship was started in 1974 in memory of National President, Mildred Sorensen. For the last 50 years, this scholarship has been dependent upon yearly donations. At the present time, there is only funding for one more scholarship. At the spring board meeting, your National Board decided we should start a fundraising campaign to raise \$25,000 to make this scholarship an endowed scholarship. This means we would have enough interest yearly to use that money for the scholarship and thus it would continue without future donations.

The board decided to start this fund-raising campaign with \$3,000. This was the money made from the Solvang trip because of all the donations of time and supplies for this trip that the people in Solvang generously provided.

IN MEMORIAM
NATIONAL PRESIDENT



MILDRED K. SORENSEN
December 15, 1922 January 20, 1974

We hope you, too, will help us reach our goal of \$25,000 before the 2027 National Convention. If we all work together, we can do it!

A little about Mildred Sorensen, from the February 1974, Danish Sisterhood News:

Mildred "Millie" Sorensen was initiated into Enighed Lodge #84, Newark, New Jersey in June 1944. She was elected to her first lodge office in 1950, attended her first district convention in 1954 and first national convention in 1958. She was elected to the position of National Trustee at this convention. Her next National office was National Vice President and then she moved on to National President. She was unable to complete this term as she passed away while in office. Secretary of Lodge #84 in 1974, Elinor Dayke, wrote the following, "The jobs she held in the lodge can't begin to tell the whole story of Sister Millie. Her presence and spirit were what made her our leader."



WORDS TO PONDER DIRECTLY FROM MILDRED K. SORENSEN

The information below is from *Danish Sisterhood News*, published by the Supreme Lodge of the Danish Sisterhood of America, Volume XXIII, November 1970, Number 11. The article below was written by Mildred K. Sorensen from lodge 84 in Newark, New Jersey.

My favorite hobbies are swimming, canoeing, naturally dancing, cooking, meeting new people and I do enjoy singing. I don't always know the words but I'll sing regardless. We have been in Denmark in 1952, 1959, 1965 and 1967. We both are looking forward to when we can manage to go again. We love the country, the people and especially the food.

I would like to thank the delegates for electing me to the highest office in the Supreme Lodge of the Danish Sisterhood. It is an honor and privilege I did not anticipate when I was elected Trustee in Omaha in 1958. I will do my best to see that the Sisterhood in general will progress and be bigger and better by the end of my six-year term. This is not a job that any one particular person can do but something that each and every Sister must strive for. I feel that the delegates have elected a very good group of officers and I know we will all be doing our best for the Sisterhood.

Whenever rulings are made, they are made for the Sisterhood as a whole, not to please me or perhaps you, but as many Sisters as possible and I will endeavor to continue in this trend. In order to continue growing, we must have new members and I ask now that each Sister work hard to build up our membership.

—MILDRED K. SORENSEN

MEMBERSHIP CORNER, JUNE 2026

By Marilyn Dore

During the months of March and April, two of the Trustees on the Danish Sisterhood National Board reached out to each of the individual lodges within the organization through e-mails, and/or phone calls. Carol Rudisill and I are the trustees on the Board appointed membership duties. The individual lodges were divided so that each of us would reach out to lodges within each of the districts. Phone calls (contact) to officers/members of individual lodges are conducted annually to discuss lodge meeting schedules, lodge activities, lodge joys and concerns, and to share a pleasant chat with members of the Danish Sisterhood of America throughout the organization.

Having successfully contacted sixteen of the Danish Sisterhood lodges, the mission of the Danish Sisterhood of America "to strengthen, maintain and preserve the Danish heritage and traditions for future generations" was a common theme, and goal each lodge aspires to achieve. Whether ancestry, marriage, friendship, or general interest in Denmark/Danish heritage and traditions have brought about membership in the Danish Sisterhood of America, we as members (potential members) share our mission.

For issues, concerns, interest in membership, or general thoughts, please feel free to contact either me or Carol Rudisill with membership matters.

Marilyn Dore trustee2@danishsisterhood.com

Carol Rudisill trustee1@danishsisterhood.com

COVER PHOTO—CERAMIC EXHIBIT TOUR

The cover photo was taken by Susan Jensen, secretary of Dronning Margrethe Lodge #15, Milwaukee, WI.

Article below is by Cathy Jones from Dronning Margrethe Lodge #15, Milwaukee, WI.

This picture is from a Ceramic Exhibit Tour presented by Adam Bierstedt; Adam's title is Albert Ravenhotz Curator of Danish-American Culture at MoDA. In this photo, Adam is standing in front of a pedestal holding the very delicate ceramic, *The Princess & The Pea*. Signage next to our guide notes it was, "...first produced in 1911 and displayed at the 1912 Paris Salon, where it earned the top prize for ceramics. It is considered one of the finest examples of Danish ceramics. The entire piece features 50-80 different colors. Producing just one piece can take up to eight months because it has to be fired after specific colors are applied."

MoDA (Museum of Danish America), in Elk Horn, Iowa, developed a full day of learning for Lodge #15 that included guided tours throughout the Museum with staff presentations at each area of expertise. Topics included a welcome and introduction to MoDA; a Spark! paper cutting activity focused on Danish Easter traditions; Staff Panel discussion with question/answer time; behind-the-scenes tour of the Collections; Sisterhood Archives tour; interactive play time with an HC Anderson traveling trunk program; a visit to their Genealogy Center and the Bedstemor's House; along with the Ceramic Exhibit Tour led by Adam Bierstedt. We learned of many prideful connections between the Sisterhood of America, our Lodge, and MoDA. In addition, our 5-day road trip from Wisconsin to Iowa included time experiencing downtown Elk Horn for hospitality at every door, dining experiences that will not be forgotten, and a trip to the Danish Windmill before we travelled onto Des Moines, Iowa for a Danish welcome from Lynette Rasmussen, honorary Iowa Danish Consul. Our visit included tours of Luther Memorial Church, Grand View University, and a visit to the Library's Danish Archives. A "successfully fun learning with pride in being Danish" was the focus of our experiences; along with the hope of many budding friendships and relationships.



PHOTO RIGHT: This is a close-up of the very delicate ceramic displayed on the front cover. This ceramic is called *The Princess & The Pea*.

WHO NEEDS A FOX WORLD TRAVEL WHEN WE'VE GOT A MARCIA JANTE?

By Cathy Jones, President of Dronning Margrethe Lodge #15, Milwaukee, WI

CALLING ALL SISTERHOOD LODGES OF AMERICA!

Who needs a Fox World Travel when we've got a Marcia Jante in our midst? We (15 of us from the Danish Sisterhood of America, Dronning Margrethe Lodge #15, Milwaukee WI), who signed up for a road trip to Elk Horn, Iowa, had one heck of a GREAT (not good) time in April 2026!

Each carpool of folks could come and go by any route they'd like, at whatever time they'd like, with the goal being to meet in Elk Horn, Iowa for an 8 a.m. Hygge Coffee Hour at Marcia Jante and Lou Nielsen's rental at The Review AirBNB, which by the way, was complete with beautiful, melt-in-your-mouth treats created by The Kringle Man bakery just a couple of doors down on Main Street.

Most of us took Marcia's traveling suggestions to heart which included staying at the newly retro-fitted Hygge Motel in Elk Horn. Formerly The Tivoli Inn followed by an Americ Inn, it is now a testament to the Danish legacy of this town - practical, efficient, relevant. The new owners identified needs to: help fill an apartment shortage, create a much needed space for family and friend gatherings or events (hey, maybe a future quilting event!), and bring motel rooms back to the area! It was clean, simple, very quiet, which we later learned was because of its sound construction from "back in the day". It was complete with a washer and dryer and amazing water pressure! What more could a traveler—who didn't even know where Elk Horn, Iowa was—appreciate?



PHOTO ABOVE: Jens Jensen's Prairie along with a Thomas Dambo Swan made from recycled plastic. *Photography Cathy Jones.*

Our carpools spent three days totally enjoying the Elk Horn and surrounding areas of Iowa. We started with a full day of planned programming at MoDA (Museum of Danish America). Did you know that MoDA is THE ONLY museum in the WHOLE COUNTRY devoted only to Danish heritage? I sure didn't! It was so special to get a hands-on, in-person tour of their Ceramic Exhibit; touch the educational tools in the Traveling Trucks that reach out to neighboring school kids; hear about the history and mission of the Museum. It was great to view the HC Andersen Traveling Trunk which was developed with a donation from our Lodge 15. We learned of the extensive and intentional care and protection of the archival collections (one of which is from our Lodge 15) that are stored there and made possible to share. It was great to see items from the National Sisterhood Collection like ribbons, name tags, and voting boxes. In addition, we were able to see the new home of our 135 year old Constitution from Lodge 15 which was recently donated to the Museum for safe keeping. A tour of the Genealogy Center is another reason to visit as it was amazing to see how well documented and tracked historical information has been kept. We received a special hands-on tour of the Bedstemor's House too. How this collection of talented, caring, and passionate professionals found each other to create this great space called MoDA was inspiring. Their focus on all things Danish American, as well as their love of the local community, was impressive to see and feel. The kindness shown from their gift store customer service and their volunteer greeters, to their highly educated staff and fearless Executive Director, made each of us feel like we were back home in our own Danish rooted communities, full of love and kindness for each other.

Continued on the next page.

WHO NEEDS A FOX WORLD TRAVEL WHEN WE'VE GOT A MARCIA JANTE?

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We couldn't invite ourselves fast enough into the Jens Jensen Prairie at MoDA. You immediately are greeted by a beautiful large white swan, which as you walk closer to read the signage, learn that Thomas Dambo created her out of recycled milk jugs years earlier. And I know I won't soon forget the explosive symphony of ephemeral pond frogs singing their hearts out to the collective sawing of wood for an almost completed new Thomas Dambo troll; who, by the way, was surrounded with volunteers from near and far. We were able to hygge connect with the Thomas Dambo troll team builders from Denmark, France, and Reno Nevada, as well as volunteers, and we were in the moment and heard about their artistic journeys! This newest addition to the Thomas Dambo troll family was to be completed on Thursday, April 23rd!

Our road show did not go hungry, either! Our ad-hoc tour guide arranged for dinner at The Buck Snort Restaurant in the neighboring town of Harlan. You have to go there just to check out the names of their sandwiches! Such fun! Besides kringle and homemade rye bread, The Kringle Man provided our entourage with an of out-of-this-world lunch of æbleskive made in front of our eyes and medisterpølse, as well as breakfast plates for a few of us who started hanging out at the bakery every morning with "the locals". When asked why his æbleskive tasted so wonderful, the response was, "...they are made with love" and that's what sets his recipe apart from so many others. FYI, the baked items even travel well, especially when hand carried to our car by our æbleskive-maker, Jo! I don't think anyone will forget our wonderful evening dinner and hygge time at the Elk Horn Norse Horse tavern! Not only did they open up just special for our group, they created a special homemade Danish dinner for us of frikadeller, rødkål (Danish red cabbage), new potatoes, brown gravy, homemade rugbrød (dense Danish rye bread), served on blue and white plates, and a special dessert! The dinner was extra special in that the museum staff, the Dambo team and community members, along with the Dambo build volunteers joined us for dinner and socializing. Needless to say, we pretty much took the Norse Horse for a run that lived up to its fun signage! We totally were captivated by our guided tour of The Danish Windmill... many of us had to come back a second time because their gift store was so extensive and just plain "good".



PHOTO ABOVE: Celia, one piece in the MoDA Ceramic Exhibit. *Photography Cathy Jones.*



PHOTO ABOVE: H.C. Anderson Traveling Trunk. The H.C. Anderson Traveling Trunk is a hands-on educational tool for students. *Photography Cathy Jones.*

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on the next
page.*

WHO NEEDS A FOX WORLD TRAVEL WHEN WE'VE GOT A MARCIA JANTE?

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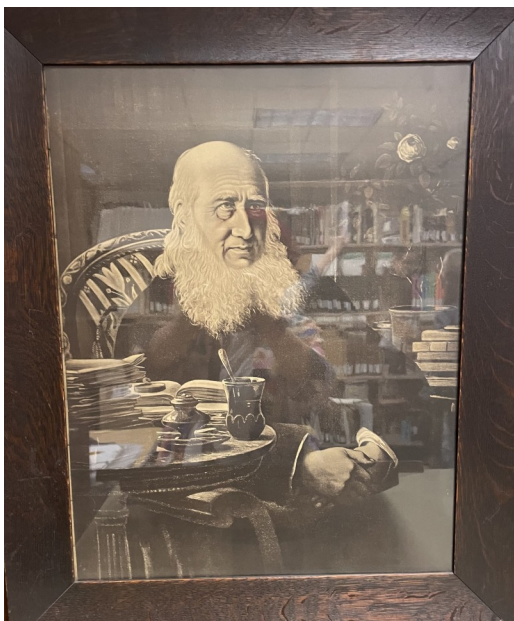
We sadly left our new “best Elk Horn friends” and continued to the Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa where we fell in love with another set of equally inspiring Danes: From our welcome with the honorary Danish Consul, Lynette Rasmussen, who so kindly hosted us to coffee, kringle, and fascinating stories of her work as the Consul of Iowa! She continued to captivate us with a tour of the Luther Memorial Church (which, by the way, had a sidewalk sign for Hygge Happy Hour every Thursday 11-12). Lynette introduced each of us to a leader from the past, whose name I had never heard of before, N.F.S. Grundtvig (1783-1873). She spoke of the “Happy Dane” concept, which he is attributed with. That sounded like something worth following up with when I got home. But I didn’t have to wait that long as the University team that took us through a lovely tour of the campus, led us to the Library where we were greeted by Librarian Sheri Muller. Sheri shared the library’s Danish Archives with us. And there he was, N.F.S. Grundtvig, seriously bigger than life, staring at us in a big black and white picture frame! Without knowing that Lynette had mentioned his name, Sheri explained that Grand View University is deeply rooted in the Danish folk school traditions largely influenced by this gentleman. Google says N.F.S. Grundtvig “...created a supportive, uplifting educational environment often characterized by community shared, life-long learning and a positive outlook on human existence.”

Librarian Sheri invited us to check out the archive room. We did! With her help, we found yearbooks filled with lovely photos and stories of our very own Sister, Lou Ann Jensen who is a graduate of Grand View. It’s no wonder she’s been such an asset to our Lodge - she can’t help herself! We ended our remarkable tour of the University with a panel conversation of professors and students who participated in the Summer 2025 Denmark Study Tour.

It was so much fun! I truly felt like I was back in Stephenson, Michigan, 60 years ago when my relatives were actively contributing to their little downtown with pride, collaborative energy, flexibility, and ingenuity. At the same time, they were genuinely embodying the notion of “extravagant welcome” to borrow a term.



PHOTO ABOVE: Lynette Rasmussen, honorary Danish Consul for Iowa at Luther Memorial Church (far left); Tim Nelson, Sabrina Nelson, Marcia Jante, members of Dronning Margrethe Lodge #15, Milwaukee WI.



For someone who never even knew there was such a place as an Elk Horn, Iowa, and someone who certainly would never have gone there on my own without a group tour to say, “I can’t wait to go back,” is saying a mouthful!

Sisterhood Lodges of America: Unite and head to Elk Horn, Iowa ASAP! P.S. Plan to stay longer than expected so you, too, can be carried away with this special breed of Danes. They wear their kind and gentle hospitality on their sleeves. That allows you to be present in the moment and enjoy the Hygge atmosphere!

PHOTO LEFT: Picture of N.F.S. (Nikolaj Frederik Severin) Grundtvig located in the GrandView University Danish Archive collection. He is attributed with the concept of “the Happy Dane” philosophy which the University and Luther Memorial Church embraces.

DID SOMEONE SAY, "ROAD TRIP!?"

By Sabrina Nelson, Lodge #15, Milwaukee, WI

Sing the following to the tune 'Born to be Wild'!

Get your luggage packed up.
Hygge on the highway.
Learning about things Danish
Start making plans today
Going to EIIIIkkkkkk Hoooooorn...



In April, a group of Sisters and Mr. Sisters from Lodge # 15 (Milwaukee, WI) embarked on road trip for several fun-filled days to Elk Horn, IA.

Are you saying, "Elk-what? Elk-where? Elk-Why?" Well, read on for my Top 10 reasons as to why you (or your lodge) should start making plans for a road trip of your own today!

Road Trip to Elk Horn, IA

TOP 10

- #10 Explore the Museum of Danish America (MoDA); focused on all-things-Danish! Our history, stories, achievements, innovations and culture.
- #9 See a real, working windmill - sent over from Denmark!
- #8 Experience nature and walk the Jens Jensen Prairie at MoDA.
- #7 Visit nearby Kimballton (also a Danish town) & stroll the lovely Hans Christiansen Andersen sculpture garden.
- #6 Quench your thirst (and hunger) at The Norse Horse Tavern. SKAL!
- #5 Shop till you drop! If it's Danish-it's at the museum and/or windmill gift shops. The "Egg Crate" is a great antique store too!
- #4 Research your family-tree at the MODA Genealogy Center.
- #3 Indulge at 'Kringle Man'; authentic Danish pastries, rye bread & more. Check the freezer for homemade Æbleskiver and Leverpostej.
- #2: Take a stroll & discover the troll. Thomas Dambo's newest creation, Fjord Færdemand has come ashore on the grounds of MODA.

And the #1 reason to visit Elk Horn, IA ???

Friendship and fun with your fellow Sisters & Misters!



PHOTO LEFT: This photo is from Lodge #90. In April 2026, Lodge #90 prepared an æbleskive luncheon. They served sausage, hashbrown potatoes, fruit, and juice along with æbleskive. Subsequently, members planned a day trip for their June meeting. A group photo was taken by *Fran Freeman* correspondent.

From left around table to right: Donna Hansen, Kathy McLaughlin, Mary Brass, Dawn Buss, Molly Boyd, Mariann Boyd, Mary Stanley, Jane Nyfeler, Gene Brass, Ane McBride and Vicki Bousguet.

EVERYTHING GREEN MEETING, DSS LODGE #36

The Sisters of Lodge #36 had their meeting in March 2026 at the Danish Home in Edison, New Jersey. The weather was cold and windy, but inside the Danish Home it was warm and inviting. The Sisters of Lodge #36 gathered to enjoy celebrating St. Patrick's Day. It has been our tradition that we celebrate "Everything Green" at our March meeting.

We also gathered to install our new Board for Lodge #36, and to present membership pins to 10 and 25 years members. We are very lucky to be able to hold our meetings in the beautiful Danish Home of Edison. Our new board consists of President Carole Pierorazio, Vice President Deborah Larson, Secretary Dawn Skoube, Treasurer Vibeke Aagesen, Trustees Karen Haansen, Kathy Lamaster, Pauline Siecinski, and Marshall Mary Flannary. We presented membership pins to two 25-year members: Carole Pierorazio, and Olga Little. We presented three 10-year pins to Karen Hansen, Dawn Skoube, Joe Pierorazio. Congratulations to all!

Freja Lodge #36 was formed just a few weeks after Lodge #35 was instituted in Duluth, Minnesota on September 4, 1896. We will be celebrating our 130th anniversary in September. In the year 1892 there were 7 new lodges formed. We were growing fast.

Perth Amboy, New Jersey in the 1900's was a thriving Danish community with over 7% population of Danish descent. The Danish Home was established in 1914 by the Danish Brotherhood Lodges and Sisterhood Lodges of the Northeast. It is now 112 years old. The Home was on a 72-acre farm located in what was then known as Metuchen, on New Durham Road. The farm was maintained and provided food for the Home residents. The old farmhouse burned down in 1952. In 1950 the new home was dedicated across the road in what is now Edison, New Jersey at 855 New Durham Road. Much of the property has been sold off with just a few acres remaining. The grounds are now used for picnics and cultural events. Located at the back of the property is a Viking style Mausoleum/Mindehøj for internments of Danish Lodge members. The Home is no longer a residence for the aged. It is being used as a cultural center and a museum.

DANE is an acronym, for Danish Archives North East. It was chosen to describe the records, books, letters and genealogical information, and sociological data comprising the collection of Danish heritage. DANE meets at the Home once a week. The volunteer members help with genealogical research, setting up new presentations and exhibits for the museum, and working in the archives. The Home is run by a dedicated Board of Trustees, led by President Rick Thoren, and consisting of members representing the New Jersey and New York Lodges. The Board manages the Home, including repairs and upkeep. In the spring there is much work to be done to get the Home ready for events, such as The GCEL Convention in April and Constitution Day in June.

The Danish Home in Edison is bright, warm and inviting, a perfect place for our Danish Sisterhood meeting. We realize how lucky we are to have the Danish Home to meet at, and to be able to enjoy the Danish décor and surroundings. The Home is laid out like a Danish farmhouse, decorated with Danish plates on the walls, a Grandfather clock, lovely curtains on the windows and comfortable chairs in the living rooms, a fireplace, a sunny porch, and a large meeting room with dining tables. There is also a very large kitchen which we use to prepare and heat our food for our meetings and dinners. On the 2nd floor there is a large meeting room with a bar. The rooms where residents lived have now become a museum, reflecting the history of the Danes in Perth Amboy in the early years.

This year in April, the Lodge will meet at the Prince Tea House in Edison, New Jersey for a social lunch. We always have a wonderful time together. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead. Freja Lodge #36 has a bright future. We are a strong Lodge with many dedicated members.

Sisterly Regards,

Carole E. Pierorazio
President, Lodge #36



SAVE THE DATE

Weaving our Danish Story - 2027 National Convention in Chicago - Thursday, Sept. 30, 2027 - Saturday, Oct 2, 2027 - Save the Date

Hotel: Rosemont Embassy Suites - 5500 N. River Rd, Rosemont, Illinois 60018 - just minutes from O'Hare Airport

Room Rates: \$155 plus taxes for a King-size Bed Suite and \$175 plus taxes for Queen-size 2 Bed Suite. Each Suite has a pull out sofa bed in a separate room with a microwave, refrigerator and coffee maker. Free breakfast is included as well as a Happy Hour from 5:30-7pm with 2 complimentary drinks per day along with complimentary snacks. **Rooms can be reserved for 3 days before our convention and 3 days after for that low price.

Extras: Free shuttle from O'Hare Airport if flying

Parking is reduced to \$18 per day for those driving

Free shuttle has a stop at the restaurants and outlet stores; a 7-minute walk or 2-minute shuttle ride

Free shuttle can take you to River's Casino

Restaurant in the Hotel - SLYCE Coal Fired Pizza Company



Pre and post tours are being arranged, more information to come soon. Please come early and stay late to enjoy the Chicagoland area.

Chicago has many attractions:

Wrigley Field - an American icon

Baha'i Temple - unique to the US with 9 beautiful gardens

Botanic Gardens

The Morton Arboretum

Lambs Farm - one of a kind NFP helping adults with developmental disabilities

Volo Museum: Iconic automobiles you've seen in movies, Titanic Exhibit, Jurassic Gardens, Rental of electric scooters available

And so much more...

PHOTO RIGHT: Vallø

Castle (Danish: Vallø Slot).

This is a manor house located 7 km south of Køge, in Stevn Municipality, on the island of Zealand in Denmark.

Date of photo: 4 May 2011

File:Vallø Castle (Stevns Municipality).jpg - Wikimedia Commons

Author: Flemming



MoDA STAFF PANEL DISCUSSION

PHOTO RIGHT: This photo is taken by Cathy Jones of Dronning Margrethe Lodge #15, Milwaukee, WI. This photo is the MoDA Staff Panel Discussion.

Left to right: Angela Stanford, Director of Curatorial Services and Registrar; Adam Bierstedt, Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American Culture; David Anderson, Registrar; Hannah Kidder, Curator Intern; Anna Cheyanne Thomas, Youth and Community Educator; Cheyanne Nordquist, Archives Manager.

Please see pages 7 - 10 for more information about the road trip to Elk Horn, Iowa.



AMBER OR NORDIC GOLD

By Christine Rindone, Western Star Lodge #113

Amber, also called "Nordic Gold", is fossilized, hardened pine tree resin. It is commonly found along the west coast of Jutland, a mainland peninsula of Denmark bordered by the Baltic Sea. The semi-precious gem is one of the few organic gemstones. An organic gemstone is derived from living organisms or through biological processes. Amber is usually formed one to two days after fall and winter storms because the sea floor is then stirred up. After a long period, the resin ends up in the ocean with no oxygen or geological pressure. The resin changes, the oil content is reduced and real amber is created. Amber can be yellow, red, orange, brown, milky white or black. It can also be blue, green or purple but these colors are rare. Yellow is the most common color and is usually found in the Baltic region. Some pieces of amber have insects or rare plants in them. Amber has a static electricity property. It will attract objects when rubbed-like a balloon. Amber is lighter in weight than stone, will float in a bowl of water and is warm to the touch. Amber is highly valued for jewelry but also is used for perfume and incense. It smells like a warm blend of smoke, leather and pine. It is believed to help with chronic pain and to support emotional healing. Years ago, it was used for beads and sacrifices.

Baltic amber is worth \$2 - \$15 per carat. High quality or rare pieces such as those with insects or a unique color can be worth \$20 - \$100 per carat. Raw amber is worth .25 - \$2 per carat. Finished jewelry can be worth \$20 - \$200+ per carat. Perfectly preserved pieces can cost thousands. Rare colors like green, blue or deep red are the highest priced pieces. Amber is not really rare. It is found worldwide, including in Kansas where it is the state's gemstone. However, Baltic amber, from the Baltic region, holds significant importance.

The Copenhagen Amber Museum's main attraction is a collection of more than 100 pieces of amber. The museum provides magnifying glasses to help visitors see the insects and plants in the gemstones. This museum has the world's largest piece of amber weighing 47.5 kilograms or 104.72 pounds. The museum is in central Copenhagen in the Kanneworff House which is one of Copenhagen's oldest houses built in 1606. Amber gatherings in Denmark is a year-round activity and has guided tours, workshops and festivals available for finding "Danish Gold". A sun-holder is made of bronze and amber and originated in Denmark. When the sun-holder is held up to the light, a sun cross appears in the middle of the amber disc.

Following are the verses where amber appears in the Bible. These verses describe the brilliant, fiery appearance of God's glory and represent a divine, glowing substance.

Ezekiel 1:4 *I looked, and there was a whirlwind coming from the north, a huge cloud with fire flashing back and forth and brilliant light all around it. In the center of the fire, there was a gleam like amber.*

Ezekiel 1:27 *From what seemed to be his waist up, I saw a gleam like amber, with what looked like fire enclosing it all around. From what seemed to be his waist down, I also saw what looked like fire. There was a brilliant light all around him.*

Ezekiel 8:2 *I looked, and there was someone who looked like a man. From what seemed to be his waist down was fire and from his waist up was something that looked bright, like the gleam of amber.*

ELK HORN, IOWA HAS A NEW TROLL CREATED BY THOMAS DAMBO AND FRIENDS



The photographer for these glorious photos is *Amelia Juhl*, Communications Manager from the Museum of Danish America.

PHOTO LEFT: This photo shows some people involved with the new troll created by Thomas Dambo. Danish Sisterhood National President, Nealna Gylling, is in this photo wearing a red top. The young man in the gray shirt is unknown. Mike Riggs from Elk Horn is in the background of the photo and is next to Nealna Gylling.



PHOTO LEFT: Danish Sisterhood National President, Nealna Gylling, is shown here actually building the Dambo Troll, Fjord Ferryman, at the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa in April 2026.



PHOTO LEFT: This photo is the building in process of the Dambo Troll, Fjord Ferryman, at the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa in April 2026.



PHOTO RIGHT: This is the close-up of the face of Dambo Troll, Fjord Ferryman, during the time of its construction in Elk Horn, Iowa in April 2026.

DANISH SISTERHOOD BUTIKKEN

Visit the DSS Website Marketplace—Butikken to see all items available for purchase.



PHOTO LEFT: NEW 3.5 inch clear heart shaped laminated DSS emblem sticker, \$2.00



PHOTO RIGHT: DSS Iron-on patch 3 x 2.26 inches, \$5.00

PHOTO BELOW: DSS Oval Vinyl Car decal, \$2.00.



PHOTO RIGHT: DSS Necklace red with 24 inch silver chain, cost \$12.00.



To order, contact:
Karen Vig-Keathley
Email:
trustee3@danishsisterhood.com
Phone: 708.715.0071
109 South First St., Itasca, IL 60143

Note: Prices do not include shipping and handling. All prices subject to change.

PHOTO RIGHT: DSS sheet of stickers red, \$3.00 a sheet.





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Greetings from Linda, Elsa & Elizabeth Steffensen
Proud Members of the Danish Sisterhood
Dagmar Lodge #4, Chicago, IL

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