

DANISH CULTURAL CONFERENCE



PROGRAM

June 24 - 26, 2011
Menucha Retreat and Conference
Center, Corbett, OR



Northwest Danish Association



2011 Danish Cultural Conference Daily Schedule:

All events held in Wright Hall unless otherwise noted

Friday, June 24, 2011

11:00 a.m. - DCC registration opens

12:00 p.m. - Lunch

1:00 p.m. - Flag Raising

1:30 p.m. – Welcome and Opening Comments

1:45 p.m. – Peter H. Fogtdal – *The Tsar's Dwarf*

2:45 p.m. - Coffee Break

3:00 p.m. - Singing

**3:30 p.m. – Dr. John Mark Nielsen, Danish Immigrant
Museum – *Jens Jensen: Prairie Landscape Architect***

4:30 p.m. - Nature Walk

5:45 p.m. – Film on Jens Jensen

7:00 p.m. - Dinner

8:00 p.m. - Evening Entertainment – Danish Comedy TBA
– Creevey Commons

9:00 p.m. - Party in the "Kro" – Creevey Commons

Saturday, June 25, 2011

8:00 a.m. - Breakfast

**9:00 a.m. – Doug Morris, EnerSol, Inc. - *Energy Storage
Industry Trends for Electric Vehicles and Large Scale
Applications including Pacific Northwest ties to Critical
Danish System Developers***

10:00 a.m. - Coffee Break / Singing

**10:30 a.m.- Alter Wiener – *From a Name to a Number:
Surviving the Holocaust***

Noon - Lunch

1:00 p.m. – Melissa Lucas, University of Washington –*How Danish Developed: A Brief History*

2:00 p.m. – Coffee Break

2:15 p.m. - Singing

2:45p.m. – Esther Jacobsen Bates, Elverhoj Museum of History and Art – *Spirit of Solvang: Danish Colony in California*

4:00 p.m. – Field Trip to Crown Point

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. - Evening Entertainment – Concert by Flemming Behrend – Creevey Commons

9:00 p.m. - Party in the "Kro" – Creevey Commons

Sunday, June 26, 2011

8:00 a.m. - Breakfast

9:00 a.m. - Singing / Sunday Fellowship

9:30 a.m.- Christiane Lauritzen, Danish Embassy – *A History of Danish Diplomacy*

10:30 a.m. – Coffee Break

10:45a.m. – Flemming Behrend – *Danish Singer and Author*

11:45 a.m. - Sonja Kromann and Edith Christensen - *The Future of the DCC: Discussion and Evaluation*

12:00 p.m. - Lunch

1:00 p.m. - Flag Lowering

2011 Danish Cultural Conference Presentation Abstracts

FRIDAY – Session 1 – 1:45–2:45 p.m. – *The Tsar’s Dwarf*,
Peter H. Fogtdal, author and Portland State University
Professor, Portland, Oregon.

Author Peter H. Fogtdal will provide a fun presentation on his tragicomic historical novel, *The Tsar’s Dwarf* ((2008, Hawthorne Books, ISBN 978-0979018803) about a Danish dwarf who is given to Peter the Great during his visit to Copenhagen and the Danish Royal Court in 1716.

**FRIDAY – Session 2 - 3:30–4:30 p.m. – Jens Jensen,
Prairie Landscape Architect,** Dr. John Mark Nielsen,
Executive Director, Danish Immigrant Museum, Elkhorn,
Iowa.

Dr. Nielsen will discuss Jens Jensen, Danish immigrant landscape architect who worked with Frank Lloyd Wright, designed elements of the Chicago Park system, as well as landscaping dozens of estates along Chicago’s North Shore (Rosenwalds, Florsheims, Ryersons, Beckers) and elsewhere (Henry and Edsel Ford). An early conservationist, Jensen pioneered “the prairie school” of landscape architecture that focused attention on using native plantings to emulate natural environments. The Danish Immigrant Museum in Elkhorn, Iowa, is developing the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park to celebrate the contributions and design traditions of this innovative landscape architect. This new outdoor venue will provide picturesque landscaping, a pergola covered picnic area, walkways, sculptures and a pond for a more meaningful Museum experience.

**SATURDAY – Session 1 – 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. – Energy
Storage Industry Trends for Electric Vehicles and Large
Scale Applications Including Pacific Northwest Ties to
Critical Danish System Developers,** Doug Morris, CEO,
EnerSol, Inc., Portland, Oregon.

Although batteries and energy storage systems have been vital to the success of many consumer and industrial products, there is increasing focus on emerging energy system technologies to solve major issues associated with electric vehicle (EV) and large scale storage products. With lithium ion batteries becoming the de facto standard for most rechargeable battery applications, the needs of EV and storage projects are more complex, and more sensitive to price. As a result, a number of options are being explored, and new rechargeable battery technologies developed, to meet the unique needs of these emerging and potentially huge new battery markets.

Doug Morris, CEO and Founder of Portland based EnerSol, Inc, will provide an overview of EV and storage markets and will discuss battery and storage technology advances in each of these areas. In addition, a brief tutorial on battery technologies will be provided, to help understand the trade off's and needs of various product applications. The discussion will also include some background information on industry trends, pricing, and new breakthroughs in batteries and other energy storage technologies, as well as EnerSol's partnership with two Danish companies, Lithium Balance and Addvantech.

SATURDAY – Session 2 – 10:30 a.m. – Noon - *From a Name to a Number: surviving the Holocaust*, Alter Wiener, author and Holocaust survivor, Portland, Oregon.

Mr. Wiener will discuss his experiences as a boy in Poland, surviving the Holocaust, and his life since as told in his book, *From a Name to A Number: a Holocaust Survivor's Autobiography* (2007, AuthorHouse, ISBN: 978-1425997403). Alter Wiener was 13 when his father was murdered by the German invaders of Poland in September 1939. At the age of 15, he was deported to Blechhammer, a forced labor camp for Jews, in Germany and over the course of World War II, survived a total of five concentration camps. Upon his liberation by the Russian Army on May 9, 1945, Alter weighed only 80 lbs. Mr. Wiener's autobiography is not only a compelling and detailed attempt to record his life and tragic events during the Nazi's occupation of Poland, but also, in commemorating the deaths of millions of victims of the Second World War, it serves as a powerful reminder about the importance of life. It has a message about what prejudice may lead to and how tolerance is imperative.

SATURDAY – Session 3 – 1:00–2:00 p.m – How Danish Developed: A Brief History, Melissa Lucas, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

Rasmus Rask (1787-1832), a Dane from the Island of Fyn, was one of the founders of comparative historical linguistics. Using the techniques employed by Rask and others (among them Jakob Grimm, of fairy tale fame), the existence of an “Indo-European” language family was established. This is the family Danish (and English) belong to. We will use these same techniques to look at developments across the centuries which led from Proto-Scandinavian to Modern Danish. During the hands-on portion, participants will have an opportunity to analyze some Danish language “data,” and draw conclusions from their investigations.

SATURDAY – Session 4 – 2:45-3:45 p.m. – Spirit of Solvang: Danish Colony in California, Esther Jacobsen Bates, Executive Director, Elverhøj Museum of History and Art, Solvang, California.

Many Danes settled in rural areas across the United States and often banded together in colonies for mutual support. Solvang was such a colony. From the town’s founding in 1911 to its transformation to a Danish-themed downtown visited by millions annually, Solvang’s story is extraordinary. Using beautifully restored historic photographs, Bates will tell the story of the town and its early settlers, the pioneers with a vision, who worked so hard to achieve the American Dream while honoring their Danish heritage. The bonds linking Solvang and Denmark remain vital. See how “The Danish Capitol of America” is celebrating its 2011 centennial with a year-long series of events that focus on the history, traditions, heritage, and cultural connections that make Solvang the vibrant community it is today.

SUNDAY – Session 1 – 9:30–10:30 a.m. – History of Danish Diplomacy, Christiane Lauritzen, Royal Danish Embassy, Washington, DC.

The history of diplomacy goes back centuries. Up until the 17th century the main purpose of the diplomats was to find a suitable wife for the King, spying on the host country, and to promote personal interests. A century later diplomacy became more formalized with diplomats working more for the benefit of their country. The

foundation for what we now associate with diplomacy was laid when the diplomatic service was institutionalized as the official link to governments of foreign countries. Today Danish diplomats and embassies are carrying out official duties and working hard to promote Danish interests as well as assisting Danish citizens.

SUNDAY – Session 2 – 10:45-11:45 a.m. – Adventures of a Danish Immigrant and Musician, Flemming Behrend, Danish folk musician and author, Olympia, Washington

Mr. Behrend will discuss his experiences growing up in Copenhagen in the 1950's and how he ended up immigrating to the United States. As a Scandinavian 'fresh off the boat' arriving in Washington, D. C. with a wife and baby, Flemming will relate how life turned out in the Promised Land. In addition to being a musician and performer, Flemming Behrend has written a book about his experiences and the lives of the people in his family, *78 RMP: The Record of a Family* (2005, AuthorHouse ISBN: 978-1420872408) and has a number of CDs of his music.



About the 2011 DCC Speakers

Flemming Behrend is a Danish folk musician and author. He performs in the traditional Danish style with vocals and acoustic guitar. His goal is to support Danish culture and tradition in America, often playing gratis for Scandinavian organizations, libraries, and museums. In the past, Flemming has played Balkan, Eastern European and American folk songs. The website: Samarkandfolk reflects the cultural melting pot of Euro/Asia. Since the fall of 2009, Flemming has embraced his Danish roots and performs primarily in his native language. See his You-Tube-media for over eighty songs, mostly Danish traditional folk tunes. These have been listened to by over eighty-five thousand people, mostly in Denmark. Flemming will perform a concert Saturday evening with a selection of his Danish folk music repertoire and will discuss his experiences growing up in Denmark

and immigrating to the United States. He is the author of a book about his life and the lives of the people in his family, *78 RMP: The Record of a Family* (2005, AuthorHouse ISBN: 978-1420872408).

Peter H. Fogtdal has written 12 novels in Danish. Three have been translated into French, two into Portuguese, and one into English. At the Danish Cultural Conference, he will discuss his novel, *The Tsar's Dwarf* (2008, Hawthorne Books, ISBN 978-0979018803), which was translated into English by Tina Nunnally. In Denmark he is known for writing novels with a spiritual, mystical slant. In 2005 he won a French literary prize, Prix Littéraire des Ambassadeurs de la Francophonie for his translated novel *Le front chantilly* (Floedeskumsfronten). In 2001 this novel was named one of the three best novels of the year by the biggest Danish newspaper [Jyllands-Posten](#). Peter H. Fogtdal splits his time between Portland, Oregon and Copenhagen, Denmark.

Esther Jacobsen Bates is the Executive Director of Elverhøj Museum of History and Art in Solvang, California. A first generation American, she was raised in Solvang where Danish was her first language. She has worked in the non-profit sector for more than 15 years, serving previously as program director with an arts organization focused on bringing arts and music to youth and schools. As a community volunteer she is active in area youth, education, arts, and culture organizations. Bates has a leadership role with Solvang's Centennial Committee, was instrumental in having Solvang designated as a federally recognized "preserve America Community"—an award signed by First Lady Michelle Obama—for a continuing commitment to preserving the city's cultural resources, and regularly collaborates with the Danish Embassy on projects and events. She has two children and resides in Solvang with her husband, Mark.

Christiane Lauritzen has worked as Assistant Advisor at the Royal Danish Embassy in Washington, DC since September 2007. Before moving to Washington, she worked at the Danish Embassy in Damascus, Syria from August 2005 to July 2007. Christiane Lauritzen holds her Masters of Arts in History and Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Aarhus and University of Southern Denmark.

Melissa Lucas grew up in Michigan, but now calls Seattle home. Her fascination with languages has led her through three masters degrees (in speech pathology, linguistics, and Scandinavian studies) and she is currently working on a PhD in Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington with a focus on Danish language. Melissa has studied for extended periods in Denmark and was a recipient of the ScanDesign Fellowship for study in Denmark.

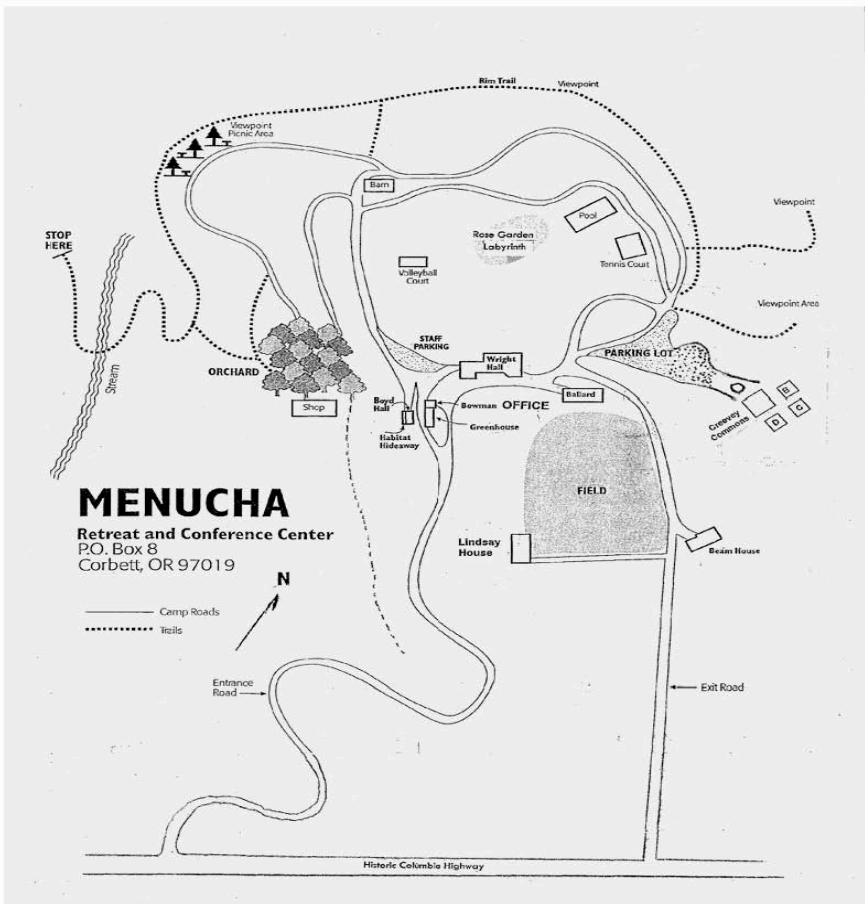
Doug Morris is currently president of EnerSol Consulting Services, Inc. a firm that focuses on bringing his portable energy technology, business, and problem solving expertise to growth businesses with particular emphasis on the challenges facing emerging technology companies. In addition to providing consultation services, EnerSol has established a global network of partners capable of developing products for consumer, commercial, and industrial applications. Partners include battery manufacturers, design engineers, testing labs, and distribution centers. Doug's focus has historically been with early stage companies assisting them in commercializing their new technologies. Customers included A123 Systems, where Doug identified an Asian cell assembly partner for their first product, Enevate and Imara Corp, where he led Operations and set up electrode production and contract assembly in China, and Perpetua Power Systems, an emerging thermoelectric generator product for wireless networks where Doug helped establish a license agreement with Pacific Northwest National Labs. Prior to his EnerSol experience, Doug was Vice President and Director of Engineering, Quality, and Supply Chain for the Energy Systems Group at Motorola and established close relations with global rechargeable cell suppliers. He created and managed the Motorola Product Testing Services business. Doug holds a bachelor's degree in Physics and has been awarded five patents, with an additional four patents pending.

Dr. John Mark Nielsen is Executive Director of The Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa, and Emeritus Professor of English at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska. A 1973 Dana graduate, Nielsen earned his Master of Arts degree from Creighton University and his Ph.D. in English from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In 1977 he was awarded a Marshall Fellowship for study in Denmark, and in 1983-84, he was a Fulbright Lecturer in American Literature at several colleges in Denmark. During that time he was a consultant to the National Museum of Denmark in preparing "The Dream of America," a major exhibit on Danish emigration to the United States. He has written extensively on the Danish American immigrant experience since that time. In 2000-2001 Nielsen was named a Fulbright Senior Lecturer in American Literature, lecturing at numerous colleges and universities in the south of India. From 2005-2007, he served on the Council for Independent Exchange of Scholars' committee that reviewed and recommended candidates to receive Fulbright awards to North Africa, the Middle East and India. Nielsen has been the recipient of numerous teaching awards. In addition to being named "Professor of the Year" on three occasions by the Dana College student body, he has been the recipient of the Burlington Northern Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Education. In 1999, Nielsen was named "Nebraska Professor of the Year" by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, located in Washington D.C.

Dr. Nielsen was a charter member of the Board of Directors of The Danish Immigrant Museum, serving from 1983 to 1991 and was again elected to the Museum's Board in 2000. He became the museum's Executive Director in July 2003. In recognition of the museum's 25th anniversary in 2008, he was the American Main Speaker at the Rebild Fourth of July Celebration in Rebild, Denmark, the oldest and largest celebration of America's independence held outside the United States. In May 2009 he and other international scholars worked together on "Stories of Nationhood in Plural Societies," a multi-national project sponsored by Århus University in Denmark.

Alter Wiener is one of the very few Holocaust survivors still living in Portland OR. Growing up in Poland, he moved to Oregon several years ago and since then he has shared his life story with over 650 audiences in universities, colleges, middle and high schools, churches, synagogues, prisons, clubs etc., and has been interviewed by radio and TV stations as well as the press. Mr. Wiener received an Honorary Bachelor Degree from Warner Pacific College and an Honorary Law Degree from Lewis & Clark Law School. His story is a testimony to an unfolding tragedy taking place in WWII. It has a message what prejudice may lead to and how tolerance is imperative. Mr. Wiener's autobiography, *From A Name to A Number* was published in April 2007 is available on line and bookstores.

MENUCHA RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER SITE MAP



Menucha daytime assistance - (503) 695-2243

After hours emergencies – (503) 866-2485