

DANISH CULTURAL CONFERENCE



PROGRAM

June 22 - 24, 2012
Menucha Retreat and Conference
Center, Corbett, OR

Sponsored by



Northwest Danish Association



2012 Danish Cultural Conference Daily Schedule:

All events held in Wright Hall unless otherwise noted

Friday, June 22, 2012

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. – Desiree Ohrbeck, University of Washington –
*Melancholy and the Mermaid: Affecting Emotions in the
New Millennium***

2:45 p.m. - Coffee Break

3:00 p.m. - Singing

**3:30 p.m. – Bruce Bro, Danish Immigrant Museum – *An
update on current and planned Danish Immigrant Museum
events and exhibits***

4:30 p.m. - Nature Walk

**5:45 p.m. – Bruce Bro, Danish Immigrant Museum - *Slide
Show from Mt. Kilimanjaro***

7:00 p.m. - Dinner

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

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



Saturday, June 23, 2012

8:00 a.m. - Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – Jette Bunch, Northwest Danish Association - *Nordic Voices: a Nordic Heritage Museum oral history project documenting Scandinavian experiences in World War II.*

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

10:30 a.m.- Mette Hjermind McCall, author – *Titanic: the Danish stories*

Noon - Lunch

1:00 p.m. – Sonja Kromann, Northwest Danish Association – *Danish immigrant communities in Argentina*

2:00 p.m. – Coffee Break

2:15 p.m. - Singing

2:45p.m. – Dr. Inga Wiehl, author – *Heartstrings: A tale of Danish Loyalty, Resistance, and Homecoming*

4:00 p.m. – Field Trip to Multnomah Falls

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. - Evening Entertainment – Comedian Henrik Bothe – Creevey Commons

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

10:00 p.m. – Skt. Hans songs – Creevey Commons

Sunday, June 24, 2012

8:00 a.m. - Breakfast

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

9:30 a.m.- Dr. Thaisa Way, University of Washington – *Translating Danish Design to Foreign Landscapes*

10:30 a.m. – Coffee Break

10:45a.m. –Henrik Juhl Madsen, Danish Embassy - *Anchored in the port of Washington, DC: Representing a seafaring nation*

11:45 a.m. - Sonja Kromann and Edith Christensen - *The Danish Cultural Conference: 2012 and Beyond*

12:00 p.m. - Lunch

1:00 p.m. - Flag Lowering

2012 Danish Cultural Conference Presentation Abstracts

FRIDAY – Session 1 – 1:45–2:45 p.m. – Melancholy and the Mermaid: Affecting Emotions in the New Millennium.

Desiree Orhbeck, University of Washington, Scandinavian Studies Department, Seattle, Washington and Copenhagen, Denmark.

Desiree Ohrbeck will discuss H.C. Andersen and his influence and impact on modern Danish literature and authors. In 2005 H. C. Andersen's bicentennial was celebrated throughout Denmark and the rest of the world. Unfortunately the opening celebrations were marred by scandal and this is what many Danes remember rather than the many successful events that took place around the country. During H.C. Andersen's bicentennial year, two short story collections 'Det er Ganske vist. H. C. Andersen I nye klæder (Borgen)' and 'Reisekammeraten Og Andre H.C. Andersen-historier I Nye Klæder' (People's Press) were released, but were completely overlooked in all the bicentennial events. Desiree Ohrbeck will discuss the back story behind these two collections. She will also examine the theme of melancholy in Andersen's story "The Little Mermaid" and contrast it to the melancholy that occurs in the newer Jan Sonnergaard versions of the story. Finally the paper asks the question if the literary stories in the two short story collections were just a commercial stunt, or if they were significant because they give us an opportunity to compare if and how emotions, exemplified by melancholy have transformed through the last 200 years.

FRIDAY – Session 2 - 3:30–4:30 p.m. – What's New at the Danish Immigrant Museum?, Bruce Bro, Development Officer, Danish Immigrant Museum, Elkhorn, Iowa.

Bruce Bro will discuss recent and upcoming events and exhibits at the Danish Immigrant Museum and provide an

overview of the Museum's outreach efforts through electronic and social media. He will also provide a brief overview of Danish settlement in western Iowa and the Danish communities of Elkhorn and Kimballton and the establishment of the Danish Immigrant Museum.

SATURDAY – Session 1 – 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. – *Nordic Voices: a Nordic Heritage Museum oral history project documenting Scandinavian experiences in World War II*, Jette Bunch, Northwest Danish Association, Normandy Park, Washington.

Jette Bunch will discuss the process of collecting oral histories of Pacific Northwestern residents who were living in Scandinavia during World War II. Jette was one of a team of volunteers that collected these interviews which were combined and edited into the film *Nordic Voices* by the Nordic Heritage Museum. Highlights of the film will be shown as part of the presentation.

SATURDAY – Session 2 – 10:30 a.m. – Noon – *Titanic: De Danske Fortælinger (Titanic: The Danish Stories)* – Mette Hjermind McCall, author, Bolinas, California.

Mette Hjermind McCall will discuss her book co-authored with her Father Jesper Hjermind who is a curator at the Viborg Museum. The book was released on April 15, 2012 on the centennial of the sinking of the *Titanic*. The book tells the stories of the different parties of Danes traveling together following them from their decision to travel to the United States relating their stories prior to the disaster and later follows the stories of the survivors. The book is currently available in Danish, but an English translation is planned.

SATURDAY – Session 3 – 1:00–2:00 p.m – *Danish immigrant communities in Argentina*, Sonja Kromann, Northwest Danish Association, Everett, Washington.

Argentina was the destination for many Danish immigrants with the main wave of immigration peaking around 1930. Sonja Kromann's Danish grandparents moved to Argentina in 1925 and her father was born in Argentina in 1926. The family had moved back to Denmark by 1931, leaving behind extended family in Argentina. In 2010, Sonja had the opportunity to travel to Argentina and was able to meet two of her father's second cousins and their families. This presentation will provide an overview of the Danish immigrant communities and the history of Danish immigration to Argentina from a personal perspective.

SATURDAY – Session 4 – 2:45-3:45 p.m. – *Heartstrings: A Tale of Danish Loyalty, Resistance, and Homecoming*, Dr. Inga Wiehl, author, Yakima, Washington.

Dr. Wiehl will discuss her 2011 book, *Heartstrings: A Tale of Danish Loyalty, Resistance, and Homecoming*. In it she relates the experiences of Danes living in Southern Jutland during the period of Prussian/German annexation between 1864 and 1920. Many Danes living in the annexed territories stayed and were compelled to serve in the German army in World War I despite their continued allegiance to Denmark, others moved elsewhere in Denmark, and still others emigrated to the United States and other parts of the world. Told through the voice of Inga's Grandmother, the story provides two perspectives looking at the experiences of those who stayed compared with others who emigrated through their letters home. *Heartstrings* also looks at the immigrant experience and examines how we are linked to our families, social institutions, and our country of origin.

SUNDAY – Session 1 – 9:30–10:30 a.m. – *The Influence of Danish Design on Landscape Architecture and Urban Design*, Dr. Thaisa Way, University of Washington, Landscape Architecture Department, Seattle, Washington.

Dr. Way will discuss how Danish design elements have influenced the fields of landscape architecture and urban design. This talk will consider how Danish design, particularly

landscape architecture, architecture, and planning has been interpreted and translated in the United States as well as in Japan and elsewhere. We will consider the specific work of individual artists as well as more general interests in Danish Design as a model for sustainable good design.

SUNDAY – Session 2 – 10:45-11:45 a.m. – Anchored in the port of Washington, DC: Representing a seafaring nation.
Henrik Juhl Madsen, Maritime Advisor for the Danish Embassy, Washington, D.C.

Henrik Juhl Madsen will give participants insights about the Danish maritime cluster and discuss what it means to represent Danish maritime interests and policy goals for the Danish Embassy in Washington, D.C. During his presentation he will answer questions including: How does the Danish Embassy work with private companies, with other embassies, and with a range of federal authorities with stakes in the maritime arena? What is the importance of the U.S. market to Danish maritime interests? What are the current challenges for Danish shipping and what is the Danish government doing to overcome them?



Multnomah Falls



About the 2012 DCC Speakers

Bruce Bro has served as the Development Officer for the Danish Immigrant Museum in Elkhorn, Iowa since 2009. Bruce attended Dana College majoring in Speech Communications. Bruce currently resides in Henderson, Nevada near Las Vegas and does Museum public relations for the western U.S.

Jette Bunch is very active in the Danish and Scandinavian communities in the Seattle areas. She is on the Boards of both the Northwest Danish Association and the Nordic Heritage Museum and is a member of the Eastside Circle of the Danish Sisterhood. Now retired, Jette worked as a translator at the Seattle Tacoma International Airport. In addition to serving on the Board of the Northwest Danish Association, she is also chair of the Programs Committee and an active volunteer for NWDA events. Jette is a resident of Normandy Park, Washington.

Sonja Kromann is on the Board of the Northwest Danish Association. In addition to coordinating the Danish Cultural Conference for the past three years, she also serves on the NWDA

Program Committee and heads up the NWDA Seattle Book Club. Sonja Kromann is a librarian by profession having earned her M.L.S. from the University of Washington. She worked in academic libraries at the start of her career, but has spent the past 20 years working in a specialized library serving NOAA's National Marine Mammal Laboratory in Seattle, Washington. Sonja lives in Everett, Washington.

Henrik Juhl Madsen is Maritime Advisor for the Danish Embassy in Washington, D.C., a position he has held this position for 3 years. Prior to this position, Henrik was Head of Section at the Danish Maritime Authority in Copenhagen, where he helped coordinate a wide range of portfolios within the maritime cluster. Henrik holds a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Copenhagen. He is originally from Denmark's oldest town Ribe, on the west coast of Jutland. He loves travelling in both the US and in Europe and enjoys music and running.

Mette Hjermind McCall is a freelance journalist based in the San Francisco Bay area and Århus, Denmark. She studied at the Danish School of Journalism and at Cardiff University in Wales. Mette writes for both US and Danish markets with US clients including the San Francisco Chronicle and the Point Reyes Light newspapers and Computer World. In Denmark, her stories have been published in Nyhedsbladet Dansk Energi, Magasinet, and IT2U, to name just a few. Mette also works as a communications consultant, tour guide, Danish teacher, and researcher. Her latest project, *Titanic: De Danske Fortællinger (Titanic: The Danish Stories)* was co-authored with her father Jesper Hjermind. It was published in April 2012 coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the *Titanic*.

Desiree Ohrbeck is a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Washington, Department of Scandinavian Studies. She earned her master's degree in Danish from University of Copenhagen in 2005. Desiree has taught at several higher educational institutions in greater Copenhagen including the Danish Technical University. She specializes in classical short story theories and its usefulness on newer short story prose in Danish literature. During her studies and professional teaching career, Desiree has further focused on sociolinguistics and how language is used as a mark of identification. She has been teaching Danish to foreigners since 2002 where she taught phonetics at the Pedagogical University of Tallinn, Estonia.

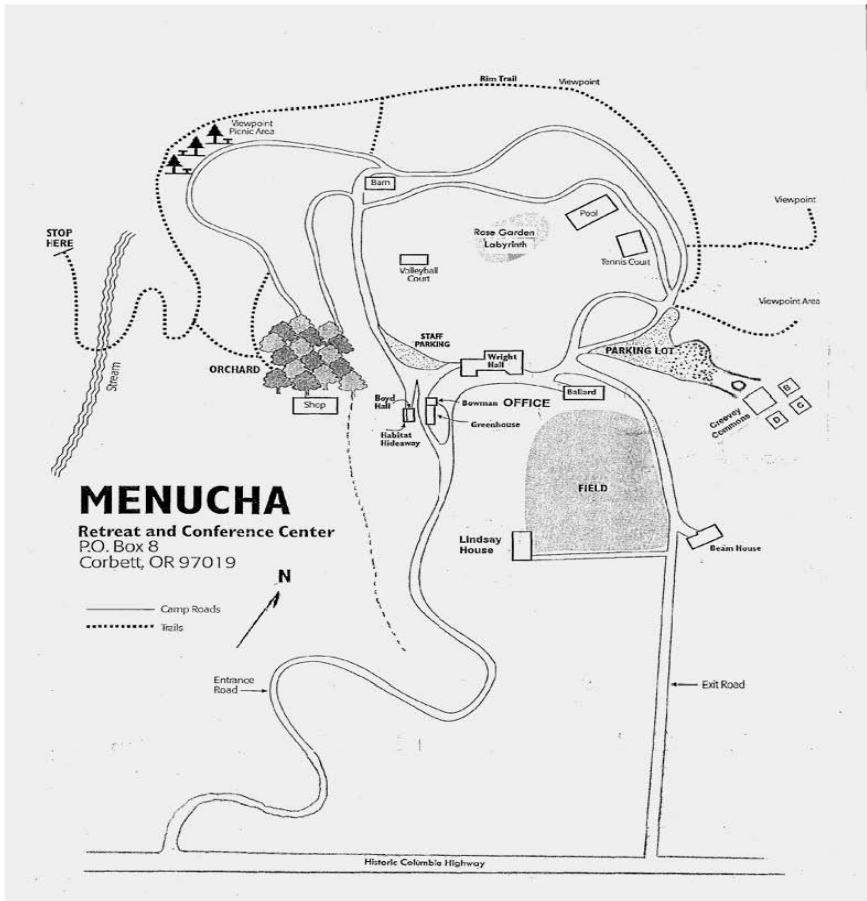
She has also served as an external consultant on several EU sponsored language programs.

Dr. Thaisa Way earned her doctorate in the History of Architecture from Cornell University and is an Associate Professor, in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington teaching landscape history, theory, and design. Her research considers how diverse approaches have shaped and informed relationships between people and landscape, cultures and nature, and practices and professions. She also researches sustainable design theory and its role in environmental sustainability. Her book *Unbounded Practice: Women and Landscape Architecture in the Early Twentieth Century* has won a number of awards since its publication in 2009.

Dr. Inga Weihl moved from Denmark to Seattle to get her master's degree and stayed on to earn her Doctorate in comparative literature from the University of Washington. Dr. Weihl's career included teaching English at the University of Washington, University of Utah, Westminster College, Utah, University of Texas, Centralia Community College, and at Yakima Valley Community College, from where she retired in 2001. She published her first book, *When Professional Women Retire... Food for Thought and Palate* in 2005. Her second book and first novel, *Heartstrings: A Tale of Danish Resistance, Loyalty, and Homecoming* was published in 2011. It incorporates her family's Danish history and her grandmother's decision to stay in Denmark through World War I. Dr. Way lives in Yakima, Washington.



MENUCHA RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER SITE MAP



Menucha daytime assistance - (503) 695-2243
After hours emergencies - (503) 866-2485



Der er et yndigt land

Der er et yndigt land,
det står med brede bøge
nær salten østerstrand :|
Det bugter sig i bakke, dal,
det hedder gamle Danmark
og det er Frejas sal :|

Vort gamle Danmark skal bestå,
så længe bøgen spejler
sin top i bølgen blå :|

English Translation

There is a lovely land
it stands with broad beeches
near the salty eastern strand
It winds itself in hill, valley,
it is called old Denmark
and it is Freja's hall

Our old Denmark shall endure,
as long as the beech reflects
its top in the blue wave