

# DACR

*Danish American Cultural Retreat*



## PROGRAM

June 23 – 25, 2017  
Menucha Retreat and Conference  
Center, Corbett, OR

Sponsored by



*Northwest Danish Association*



### *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 :|

Der sad i fordums tid  
de harniskklædte kæmper,  
udhvilede fra strid :|  
Så drog de frem til fjenders  
mén,  
nu hvile deres bene  
bag højens bautasten :|

Det land endnu er skønt,  
thi blå sig søen bælder,  
og løvet står så grønt :|  
Og ædle kvinder, skønne mø'r  
og mænd og raske svende  
bebo de danskes øer :|

Hil drot og fædreland!  
Hil hver en danneborger,  
som virker, hvad han kan! :|  
Vort gamle Danmark skal  
bestå,  
så længe bøgen spejler  
sin top i bølgen blå :|

### *There Is a Lovely Land*

There is a lovely land  
with spreading, shady beeches  
Near salty eastern shore :|  
Its hills and valleys gently fall,  
its ancient name is Denmark,  
And it is Freya's hall :|

There in the ancient days  
sat armoured Vikings rested  
Between their bloody frays :|  
Then they went forth the foe to  
face,  
now found in stone-set  
barrows,  
Their final resting place :|

This land is still as fair,  
the sea is blue around it,  
And peace is cherished there :|  
Strong men and noble women still  
uphold their country's honour  
With faithfulness and skill :|

Hail king and fatherland!  
Hail every Danish person,  
who does what work he can! :|  
Our olden Denmark shall  
endure,  
as long as the beech reflects  
its top in the blue wave :|



## ***Danish American Cultural Retreat***

### **2017 Danish American Cultural Retreat Daily Schedule**

*All DACR events will be in Wright Hall, unless otherwise noted.*

#### **Friday, June 23, 2017**

11:00 a.m. – DARC Registration Opens

Noon – Lunch

**1:00 p.m. – Flag Raising and singing of the Danish National Anthem – Gather at the flag pole outside Wright Hall**

1:15 p.m. – Welcome and Opening Comments

1:30 p.m. – Menucha Orientation

**1:45 p.m. – Pastor Birgitte Saltorp, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada – *Medieval Life in Denmark***

3:15 p.m. – Coffee Break

3:30 p.m. – Singing

**4:00 p.m. – Kristian Næsby, Seattle, Washington – *Danish Folk High School Traditions, Grundtvig, and the Development of Democracy***

5:00 p.m. – Nature Walk – **Gather outside Wright Hall**

**6:00 p.m. – Rasmus Thøgersen, Elk Horn, Iowa – Scening and discussion of the documentary *The Simple Gift of Walnut Grove***

7:00 p.m. – Dinner

**8:30 p.m. – Evening Entertainment – Danish Film: *Stealing Rembrandt* / Skt. Hans Aften fire and singing – Creevey Commons / Wright Hall Patio Fire Pit**

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

#### **Saturday, June 24, 2017**

8:00 a.m. – Breakfast`

**9:00 a.m. – Pastor Birgitte Saltorp, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada – *Heroes of the Danish Reformation***

10:30 a.m. – Coffee Break

10:45 a.m. – Singing

**11:00 a.m. – Rasmus Thøgersen, Museum of Danish American, Elk Horn, Iowa - *Update from the Museum of Danish America and the Current Exhibit on Iconic Danish Artist Bjørn Wüinblad***

Noon – Lunch

**1:00 p.m. –David Christensen, Christensen Publishing and Christensen Design Management, Bellingham, Washington – *'The Red Umbrella' – Memoir of Johna Christensen, WWII Denmark Through the Eyes of a Young Danish Jewish Girl***

2:00 p.m. – Coffee Break

2:30 p.m. – Singing

**2:45 p.m. – Dr. Elisabeth Ward, Los Altos History Museum, Los Altos, California – *Women of Vinland***

**4:00 p.m. – Field Trip to Vista House at Crown Point – **Gather outside Wright Hall****

6:00 p.m. – Dinner

**7:30 p.m. – Evening Entertainment – Performance by folk singer Flemming Behrend – **Creevey Commons** 9:00 p.m. – Party in the "Kro" – **Creevey Commons****

## **Sunday, June 25, 2017**

8:00 a.m. – Breakfast

**9:00 a.m. – Henry Geijsbeek, Kent, Washington - *Jacob Ellehammer, Danish Aviation Pioneer***

10:30 a.m. – Coffee Break

**10:45 a.m. – Dr. Elisabeth Ward, Los Altos History Museum, Los Altos, California – *Icelandic Manuscripts***

**11:45 a.m. – Sonja Kromann and Edith Christensen – *The Danish American Cultural Retreat: Discussion and Evaluation***

Noon - Lunch

**1:00 p.m. - Flag Lowering and Closing Ceremony**

## **2017 Danish American Cultural Retreat Presentation Abstracts**

---

**FRIDAY – Session 1 – 1:45 to 3:15 p.m. – *Medieval Life in Denmark*, Pastor Birgitte Saltorp, Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.**

In her talk *Medieval life in Denmark*, Pastor Saltorp will look at Medieval traditions, customs, and society during the Medieval period which falls between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. She will describe customs in Medieval Denmark including food and drink, how the land was worked, home life, changing fashions and ‘the reverse world’, as illustrated by traditional Danish church frescoes. This lecture gives a glimpse into medieval life with legends and quaint stories as well as ‘fanden og hans pumpestok’.

**FRIDAY – Session 2 – 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. – *Danish Folk High School Traditions, Grundtvig, and the Development of Democracy*, Klaus Næsby, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.**

Niels Frederik Severin Grundtvig is arguably the most important and influential Dane to ever set foot on this planet. He was a poet, a politician, a philosopher, a theologian, a priest, a historian. In this talk Kristian Næsby will present another essential aspect, viz. as founder of the Danish Folk High School movement. Grundtvig’s thoughts on education and democratic enlightenment are still at the foundation of the Danish

educational system, and are as relevant today as when he wrote them around the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Kristian Næsby taught at a Danish Folk High School in Denmark for 7 years, and this talk will focus on the importance of democratic enlightenment and the democratic conversation, and how this is taught at folk high schools in Denmark today.

**FRIDAY – Session 3 – 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. –**  
**Screening and discussion of the documentary *The Simple Gift of Walnut Grove*, Rasmus Thøgersen, Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, Iowa.**

*The Simple Gift of Walnut Grove* is a short film about the life of an early 20th century Danish immigrant named Hans Hansen, as told by his son, 96 year old Walter Hansen. Hans emigrated from Denmark to the United States in 1899 and built a farm out of the native timber he found alongside a marginal piece of land on the Cedar River near West Branch, Iowa. Within Walter's soft-spoken account emerges the dynamic of a father-son relationship forged under the harsh conditions of the early Midwestern settlement.

**SATURDAY – Session 1 – 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. –**  
***Heroes of the Danish Reformation*, Pastor Birgitte Saltorp, Danish Lutheran Church, Vancouver, British Columbia.**

2017 marks the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Reformation beginning with Martin Luther posting some thoughts on the church door in Wittenberg in 1517. Birgitte Saltorp will briefly introduce the

background for the Reformation and then move us on to Denmark where peasants' sons and priests' illegitimate children were at the forefront of the changes, well supported by the Danish King.

**SATURDAY – Session 2 – 11:00 to Noon – *Update from the Museum of Danish America and the Current Exhibit on Iconic Danish Artist Bjørn Wiinblad, Rasmus Thøgersen, Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, Iowa.***

Rasmus Thøgersen, the new Executive Director of the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa, will give an update on the museum, explain ongoing and future projects and exhibits, such as the redesigned core exhibit in Elk Horn, the travelling Bjørn Wiinblad exhibit and a preview of the upcoming exhibit on Danish American military relations with the working title: 'Denmark – America's Smallest and Biggest Ally'. He will demonstrate how the museum utilizes modern technology to reach out to constituents across the country and speak on his vision for the museum.

**SATURDAY – Session 3 – 1:00–2:00 p.m. – *'The Red Umbrella' – Memoir of Johna Christensen: WWII Denmark Through the Eyes of a Young Danish Jewish Girl, David Christensen, Christensen Publishing and Christensen Design Management, Bellingham, Washington.***

David Christensen will speak about his sister Johna Christensen's memoir, *The Red Umbrella*. *The Red*

*Umbrella* recounts Johna Christensen's memories of her life growing up in World War II Denmark, the disabled daughter of a Danish Jewish mother and a Danish father. Coming from very different backgrounds in very challenging times, Johna's parents were faced with difficult decisions prior to their evacuating to Sweden. After Johna's death in 2002, David had her notes edited and published them first in print and then in digital editions.

**SATURDAY – Session 4 – 2:45–3:45 p.m. – *Women of Vinland*, Dr. Elisabeth Ward, Fremont, California.**

Although many people associate the names Erik the Red and Leif the Lucky with the Norse discovery of North America, there is archaeological and literary evidence that women were on the voyages as well. In this illustrated lecture, Dr. Ward discusses the women whom the sagas say were integral to the North American adventure. The lecture outlines how the depiction of these women changed over time as attitudes about the proper female place in society became more restrictive. Including readings from excerpt of the sagas, this lecture also gives an overview of the evidence for the Viking discovery of North America 500 years before Columbus.

**SUNDAY – Session 1 – 9:00–10:30 a.m. – *Jacob Ellehammer, Danish Aviation Pioneer*, Henry Geijsbeek, Kent, Washington.**



Henry will speak on Danish aviation pioneer, Jacob Christian Hansen Ellehammer (1871 –1946). Jacob Ellehammer was born in Bakkebølle, Denmark. Ellehammer established his own company in Copenhagen in 1908, producing cigarette machines, beverage machines and other electronic machinery. In 1904 he produced his first motorcycle, the Elleham motorcycle after which he built the world's first air-cooled radial engine, a three-cylinder engine, which he used as the basis for a more powerful five-cylinder model in 1907. In 1905 he constructed a monoplane and the following year a 'semi-biplane'. Ellehammer's later inventions included a successful triplane and helicopter as well as a convertible car/plane.

**SUNDAY – Session 2 – 10:45–11:45 a.m. –  
*Icelandic Manuscripts*, Dr. Elisabeth Ward,  
Fremont, California.**

Central to our understanding of the Vikings are the books written down in Iceland 200-300 years after the end of the Viking Age (793-1066 A.D.). In this illustrated lecture, Dr. Ward traces the origin and fate of these books from their creation in the 14th century through to today, passing from Iceland to Norway to Sweden and Denmark. Part of the pan-Scandinavian identity celebrated in the 19th century, the Icelandic Sagas continue to be a rich source of research material for Scandinavian scholars.



*Columbia Gorge and Signal Rock from Menucha*

## **About the 2017 DACR Speakers**

---

**Flemming Behrend** grew up in Copenhagen Denmark. He began playing the guitar at age 15 and hasn't put it down since. In 1980 he emigrated to the USA and now lives in Olympia WA. His albums include *Vi er Ravnen*, *Livets karrusel*, *Olympia*, *Sangen om Tordenskjold*, *Hjem til Skagen*, and *Peters Jul* among others. Over the years Flemming's inspiration has been a mixture of Danish folk music as well as the traditional American folk with singers like Bob Dylan and John Gorka. Flemming Behrend is also a published author, with his memoir *78 RPM: The Record of a Family*.

**David Christensen** was born in Seattle, after his parents and older sister immigrated to America from

Copenhagen at the end of WWII. He lost both parents in 2 separate tragic events within 1 year, when he was only 10 years old. After losing his parents, David's older sister, Johna Christensen, became the legal guardian of both David and his younger sister Linda, since she was 16 years older, and their only relative in America. Johna passed away in 2002 with unpublished manuscripts of her experiences during the Nazi occupation in Copenhagen, 1943-45. David arranged for professional editing and finally published her memoir in 2013. It is available in paperback and digital versions. He was interviewed about the memoir on national TV in a C-Span broadcast. He has a lot of extended family members in Denmark and Sweden, so additional information for the book was learned from them. He has spoken about the book to a Chapter of the Daughters of Norway, but speaking to Danes is much better! David is currently an award-winning Architect with Christensen Design Management, based in Bellingham, Washington.

**Kyle Dittmer** has served for a number of years as Master of Ceremonies for the Danish American Cultural Retreat. Kyle lives in Portland, Oregon and is a professional scientist who has taught university science courses for over 20 years. In addition to teaching, Kyle also works as a Hydrologist and Meteorologist for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Since connecting with his Danish roots a number of years ago, he has been very active in the Danish community in the Portland area. Kyle has served as the Master of Ceremonies and note-taker for the Danish Cultural Conference, now the

Danish American Cultural Retreat, and also helps lead the nature walks and local excursions.

**Henry Geijsbeek** is a long time aviation enthusiast and photographer. Henry's mother is from Denmark and he spent summers with his mormor og morfar in Kalundborg growing up. He holds a commercial pilot's license, has taught ground school, and has held numerous positions in the aviation industry. Henry has previously given talks on the *History of SAS* and *The Royal Danish Air Force* at the DACR and the Nordic Ventures lecture series for the NWDA. He currently works for The Boeing Company as a technical analyst and lives in Kent, Washington.

**Kristian Næsby** is a Visiting Lecturer of Danish at the University of Washington, Department of Scandinavian Studies. He moved to Seattle, Washington in 2016 and began teaching at the U.W. Fall Quarter 2016. This academic position is sponsored and partially funded by the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science in an agreement that was established in 1997. The University of Washington's Dept. of Scandinavian Studies, the city of Seattle, and the Danish community in the Pacific Northwest have benefited from this arrangement for the past 20 years and Kristian is the sixth person to have held this position. Prior to his move from Denmark to Seattle and his work at the U.W., Kristian taught at Nørgaards Højskole in Bjerringbro, Denmark in Jylland. Kristian studied Nordic Languages and Literature at Aarhus University after graduating from Amts gymnasiet in Paderup,

now known as Paderup Gymnasium, in Randers, Denmark.

**Pastor Birgitte Saltorp** currently lives in Vancouver, British Columbia where she serves as Pastor for the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver, located in Burnaby, British Columbia. After living in as different places as rural Iowa (14 miles north of Elk Horn) and the New York metro area, and served for ten years as a pastor in Denmark, she became a folk high school teacher at Seniorhøjskolen Marielyst where she taught history, art history, sociology and creative writing. Returning to the ministry she moved to Vancouver, BC in 2012 and she was the ‘headmaster’ of the Danish–Canadian Heritage Seminars in 2013 and 2016.

**Rasmus Thøgersen** hails from Hellerup, a suburb of Copenhagen. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the Royal School of Library and Information Science at the University of Copenhagen and has a joint master’s degree from the Universities of Oslo, Parma and Tallinn. Prior to accepting the position as Executive Director of the Museum of Danish America, he was the Library Director of the Morton-James Public Library in Nebraska City. His wife, Jennifer, is a Nebraska native and is on the faculty of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Thøgersen has day-to-day administrative responsibilities but will also develop strategic plans. He ensures continued compliance with legal, financial, accounting and ethical requirements, including the standards and practices of the American Alliance of Museums.

**Dr. Elisabeth Ward** has a PhD in Scandinavian Languages and Literatures from the University of California, Berkeley, where she studied Scandinavian literature from Denmark, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden in the original languages, as well as modern literary theory and analysis. Her specialization is in the Old Norse Icelandic saga literature and its relationship to the landscape. Her professional career has included work at several museums including: the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History; Vikingaheimar Museum in Iceland; Norwegian Pavilion at Epcot Center; the Scandinavian Cultural Center at Pacific Lutheran University. She is currently the Executive Director of the Los Altos History Museum in the San Francisco Bay Area.



*Vista House at Crown Point*



*Poolside vista of the Columbia Gorge*



**The Northwest Danish Association  
gratefully acknowledges financial support for the 2017  
DACR from the following:**

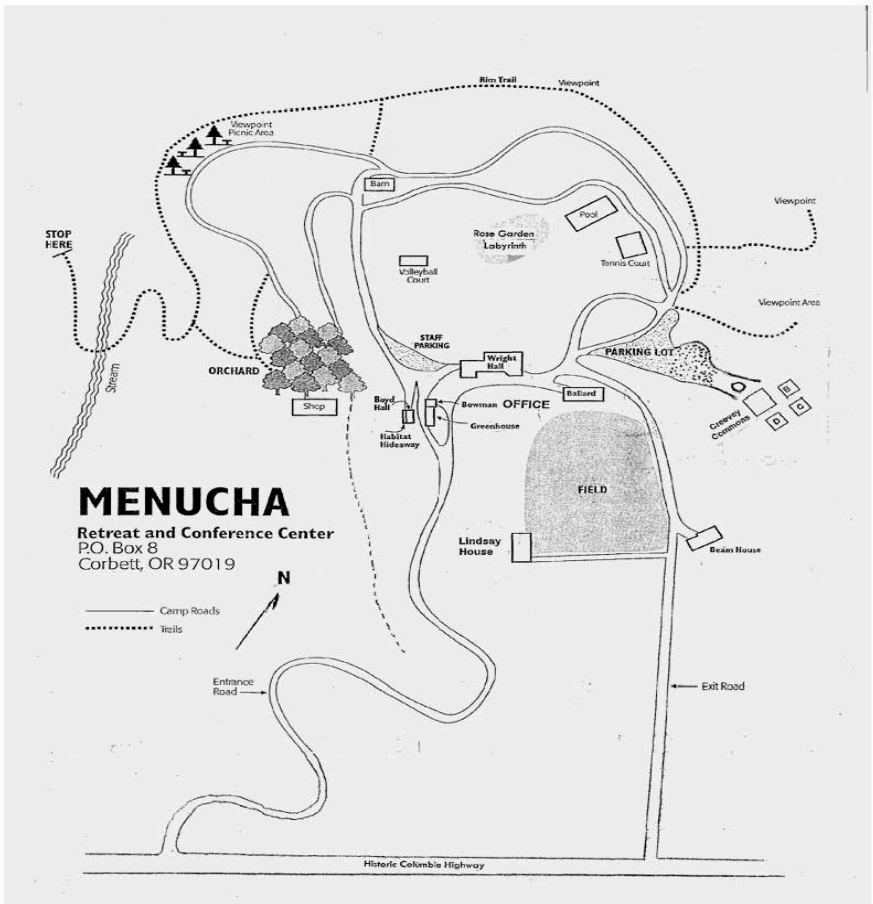


**CENTER FOR WEST EUROPEAN STUDIES | EU CENTER**

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies

# MENUCHA RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER SITE MAP



**Menucha daytime assistance – (503) 695-2243**

**Menucha afterhours emergencies – (503) 866-2485**

**Sonja Kromann, DACR Coordinator –  
(425) 359-0919**