

The Little Mermaid



A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHWEST DANISH ASSOCIATION

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Landing Once Again in Denmark: Post-Højskole

By Sandra Pedersen

As summer begins to rust and I hear the distant melancholic melody of fall, I find myself once again in Denmark. Except this time, there's no højskole to poorly pack my bags for. Instead, I am searching now, for a job and a place to live, for a sense of physical permanence in Denmark.

I catch myself once more in the throws of change, and this time it's much harder than I expected. I've come to peace with the fact that job and home hunting calls for a backbone of patience. The process has been at times headache-inducing, but I would say the most challenging aspect of this new transition has been my routine.

My life is full of lovely family, friends, and experiences, but for the first time since I initially left for Denmark, I am alone. It's been almost a year since I slept in a room by myself. A room without the bustling low chatter of a roommate or my best friend's late-night snoring. At højskole, there's never really a quiet moment, and that was an environment I had come to cherish.

This past year I've gotten so used to having breakfast with several handfuls of people, so used to having someone always *be there, if not in the same room just one or two doors down the hall. So much so, the first week I slept at my cousin's house I would always wake up startled by the stillness of it all.*



Image: Hygging with my cousin's two corgis, Jones and Zeta.

Thankfully, it hasn't affected my surety about moving to Denmark, but I'm still getting used to being in control of my days. Since I can remember, I've always had the routine and responsibilities of school to shape my time. But now, the structure rests squarely on my shoulders, and the responsibility is mine to create them.

Which is an exciting and a bit daunting influence. So far, I have delegated many afternoons and evenings to friends, who have been anchors in this sea of adjust-

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Northwest Danish Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing with others our Danish culture, traditions, and values.

President's Corner



President's Speech at 100th Anniversary Gala

By Edith E. Christensen, EdD, NWDA President

Thank you for being a part of this special event. What a wonderful celebration, our 100 years of operation!

The Northwest Danish Association was established one hundred years ago, with the purpose of promoting and preserving Danish Heritage through a variety of intergenerational activities in Washington and Oregon.

Our history dates back 100 years following a picnic which was held by the Tacoma, Enumclaw, and Seattle Lodges of the Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood, meeting in Auburn, Washington.

The various Danish organizations and churches in Washington met in Auburn and decided to ask all the Danish organizations and churches in Washington to send a delegate to a meeting to be held at Washington Hall on February 19, 1923. A delegation met and soon after, the Danish organizations and churches in Oregon joined in the project. The Northwest Danish organization was officially begun in August 1923.

On July 12, 1924, the Hamm Brewing homestead in Des Moines in south Seattle was purchased for \$15,000. It served as a home for older Danes

and a gathering place for all area Danes.

In 1970 the building was razed and a new facility with meeting space was built. Since few Danes were using the Northwest Home it was decided to sell it and establish a new home for the Danish community. That project began on July 22, 1989 led by Flemming Sorensen assisted by Ed and Ruth Olsen. Many others worked on the building to get it ready for the Danes.

The Oregon center was located in the Bethany Lutheran Church for two years and then the Willamette Plaza Building in Portland. It is currently located in the Nordia House in Portland.

The primary source of funds were

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Image: The NWDA Building in Seattle



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NWDA News and Programs



DACR 2023: A Weekend Getaway with a Spotlight on Denmark

By Sonja Kromann



Image: Anna Eckhoff's presentation in Wright Hall (courtesy of Sonja Kromann)

The NWDA was excited to host the 2023 Danish American Cultural Retreat (DACR) the weekend of September 8-10 after three years of meeting virtually. It was a treat to return to the beautiful grounds of the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center in Corbett, Oregon, with its panoramic views of the Columbia River Gorge. Now in its 45th year, the Danish American Cultural Retreat welcomed attendees and speakers, delivering an entertaining and informative weekend in the tradition of the Danish Folk High Schools. This year speakers and guests came in from across the country and beyond, with attendees and speakers from California, Washington, Oregon, Utah, Nevada, British Columbia, Alberta, and several coming all the way from Denmark.

Guests arrived Friday and were met with Danish flags and decorations. The chefs at Menucha presented a delicious Danish lunch featuring *køttorsk med sennepssovs* (cooked cod

with mustard sauce), and they continued the Danish menus throughout the weekend with other meals including, Danish pork roast, *agurksalat*, *frikadellar*, and *smørrebrød*. After lunch, we gathered on the patio to sing the Danish national anthem, *Det Er Et Yndigt Land* while raising the Danish flag officially opening the Retreat.

After opening comments and a round of Danish trivia, our first speaker, Phillip Lund, who serves on the Board on the Museum of Danish America gave a great talk on the history of the Museum located in Elk Horn, Iowa. The idea to build a Danish Immigrant Museum was initiated by the Danish American Heritage Society more than 40 years ago. Since then, the Museum has grown from its initial exhibit, growing its collection, and adding Bestemor's Hus, the Jens Jensen Prairie, the Genealogical Center and more over the years. After a coffee break with Danish *kringle* and singing led by Ingrid Salmon, we next

heard from Fidelma McGinn and Line Larsen, of the ScanDesign Foundation via Zoom. The ScanDesign Foundation played a major role in bringing Danish environmental artist Thomas Dambo to the Pacific Northwest and the installation of 6 of his trolls built with repurposed materials in Washington and Oregon. In the final presentation on Friday, we heard from Julie Allen, Professor at Brigham Young University. Julie discussed her 2017 book *Danish but not Lutheran*, and the role of Danish Mormon immigrants to the United States, particularly to Utah. Some counties in Utah are still largely of Danish descent and these immigrants retained Danish traditions. After Julie's talk, we had a guided nature walk of the Menucha grounds learning about the Columbia Gorge geology and the history of the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center. We closed out the day, socializing, playing games, and enjoying evening refreshments at the "Kro."

On the second day of the DACR, we welcomed Danish author, Anna Eckhoff and her publisher Heidi Korsgaard all the way from Denmark. In her book, *A New Beginning: Life on the Frontlines*, Anna recounts how after being widowed at age 56, she made the decision to leave her 6 adult children and a successful career in Denmark, and to pursue her life-

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Cover Story



Landing Once Again in Denmark: Post-Højskole

By Sandra Pedersen



Image: Exploring my boyfriend's childhood farm and feeding rye bread to his grandpa's sheep.

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ment. Living with my cousin, Tove, has also been a comfort. Having dinner with her family gives me a steadfast community that I'm grateful for. I value the evenings spent with her two kids who shine like tiny suns, full of bright looks and curiosity. Sharing reflective conversations with Tove and pocketing the bits of lived-in wisdom she shares.

Most of all, I'm learning the strength of gentleness. With myself, mostly. It's been interesting to notice how much I value treating my loved ones with kindness, but often forget to give myself any. During this period of potential and possibility and, frankly, unsurety, I am eager to be softer with myself. To find power in providing myself the whole-hearted compassion I would give a friend.

This shift has proven quite impactful, giving

me a sense of faith in myself as who I am. Not who I think I should become. It's even motivated me to bike in Copenhagen for the first time! Alone! I couldn't imagine doing that even a month ago. For me, that is proof. Proof that despite all the unsurety, I'm still growing, still becoming, and that is enough.



Image above: Sharing laughs with my Danish friend, August, as I introduce him to American Kraft Mac & Cheese.

Image to left: Reuniting ramen dinner with my RoFH højskole roommate after a yoga class at Absalonfolkehuset.

Write for The Little Mermaid!

Write about your experience at Danish events in the PNW or other topics related to Denmark or Danish culture.

Contact us at
seattle@nwdanish.org if interested in our publication.

Duos, Trios and Double-Deckers

By Jan Bruun-Petersen



Image: Here is Jan Bruun-Petersen with double-decker street car wagon number 22 from line number 3.

Street car or trolley in North America is the term used for a public transportation vehicle called tram in the United Kingdom and sporvogn in Denmark. The street car concept was already in use in some cities about two hundred years ago as a horse-drawn wagon for passengers, where the wheels rode on rails. The rails were a faster, more efficient surface than the uneven surface ordinary streets were back then. By the 1950's, Canada and the United States had passed new highway laws that strongly encouraged the use of busses and cars. So by the 1960's almost all the street cars in the US were gone.

Over in little Denmark, in its biggest city, Copenhagen, the mayor could see the tendency in other countries

that were shutting down street car lines. Also many of the street cars on the Danish streets had been running for over 60 years without being modernised. So by April 22nd, 1972, all of the Copenhagen street car lines were shut down. By the next year, came the oil crisis, polluting busses and much road construction to make room for more cars.

In 1965, the Sporvejshistorisk Selskab was founded by public transportation enthusiasts. It is this organisation of volunteers that founded and run Sporvejsmuseet Skjoldenæsholm out in the countryside at Jystrup between Roskilde and Ringsted. They have collected over 100 different vehicles, wagons or cars including older busses. It is Denmark's longest museum with about 2 km of track in operation since 1978.

After price of museum admission, wonderful classic-uniformed volunteers operate the equipment, so you can enjoy catching an old street car every ten minutes. At the parking lot for visitors, you are taken by street car to the center of the museum buildings, there you can take other street cars that can take you out into the forest to have a picnic or eat inside a converted German street car café.

In Odense, they already shut down all their street cars in 1951. Aarhus shut theirs down in 1971. Interestingly in 1979, Linie 3 popped up in Aarhus which means the number three line. But Århus never had a Linie 3 sporvogn, but in 1979 this Århus Linie 3 is actually the name of a still performing popular musical comedy trio: Preben Kristensen, Anders Bircow and Thomas Eje. During the heyday of street cars in Copenhagen, there was an electrified network of street cars spreading out from the city hall square and one of the popular well-used lines was Linie 3.

This Linie 3 served passengers from 1902 until 1968. The northern end

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NWDA News and Programs—100th Anniversary Events



Celebrations in Harmony Hall

By Emily Olsen



Image: 100th Anniversary Jubilee Gala Attendees

Summer went by so fast. I think that can be attributed to all the fabulous events to celebrate 100 years of Northwest Danish Association. The office was go, go, go all summer. I sincerely hope that everyone who attended any of the programs enjoyed themselves, because I know I did.

NWDA's actual anniversary was August 18, 2023. With that falling on a Friday this year (how fortuitous!) Seattle NWDA hosted our Open-House event on the actual day. About 50 people gathered to mark this impressive milestone. To celebrate we had displays put together that highlighted all the areas and programs that NWDA supports, with information about our history and lots of photos. There are some great photo albums stored as part of the Seattle Danish Library. Even photos from the 50th Anniversary celebration in 1973! Attendees had food prepared by volunteers and by Skål Beer Hall and finished the evening with cake from Larsen's Bakery.

On the 18th we were entertained by Brenda and Lone Bard on their accordions in the lobby of the Meridian Office Building, as well as up in Harmony Hall and accompanied by Rachel Nesvig, granddaughter of Ellen Juhl, on her violin. Flemming Behrend also graced us with his beautiful folk songs that evening. Many participated in a mini-troll hunt throughout the building. If they found a mini Dam Troll

Doll, they also won a Haribo gummy treat. I was still finding a few trolls around the building in the weeks following the anniversary.

The Open-House was a lovely way to celebrate the day, but we knew our big event to cap off our 100th year was truly the Jubilee Gala on September 23rd. That night we were expecting just over 100 people for dinner and merriment.

This was no small undertaking, but all the hard work paid off because it was a night to remember. We welcomed Brenda and Lone Bard again to fill the room with accordion music throughout the night. Guests were treated to a lovely dinner by Malin Jonnson of Borgstrom Catering. Her Danish and Scandinavian inspired menu was delicious. Flemming Behrend entertained with his folk songs in Danish and English that are always crowd favorites.

The Gala wouldn't have been complete without speeches and presentations by long time members of

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Image: Edith Christensen being awarded a crystal vase for her 17 years of service by Emily Olsen with MC Kenneth Olsen in the background



Visit our website for more information about events and programs!

Via our website you can also sign up for our e-bulletin to receive updates on all these activities:

www.northwestdanish.org

NWDA News and Programs—100th Anniversary Events



Trolls, Mermaids, and Magic

By Kimbra Kasch



*Image: Blanche Niksich with Ole-Bolle
(created by Thomas Dambo and team)*

Trolls, Mermaids and Magic all came together on August 19th at Nordia House for a party! It was the 100-year birthday of the Northwest Danish Association and Kaja Voldbaek!

Hundreds of children lined up to be Holger Danske for a day...or, at least, a picture.

There were scavenger hunts, viking helmets and legendary history shared with so many it's difficult to capture it all. But, one thing is for sure, it was a celebration to remember because it's not every day that trolls are found hiding in bushes, along paths and peeking inside of houses.

The NWDA made sure children—and adults— will be talking about the 100-year NWDA anniversary cele-

bration far into the future.

People played Viking lawn chess—or KUBB— out on the lawn, while historic slideshows played, and vendors sold witch brooms and cookies stood side by side. People served traditional Danish Kringle inside the beautiful Nordia House, while others made Christmas Hearts and talked about Fastelavn and Himmelbjerget.

It was a day to celebrate the past, while bringing together all the Nordic people to help build a broader Scandinavian community for the future.

But this was only the beginning!

Let's all continue sharing the NWDA with cultural classes, crafts and sometimes a simple cup of coffee, so we can keep the NWDA thriving for another 100 years!



*Image: Attendee as Holger Danske
gets their picture taken*

Please continue sharing your stories and special moments with others and encourage your friends and family to join the NWDA so they too can benefit, while we all build a better future here in the Pacific Northwest and all around the world!

Here's to the next 100 years!!!



*Image: Ava and Jack Casalino and participants make crafts at
NWDA 100 Year Anniversary at Nordic Northwest Campus*

NWDA News and Programs



DACR 2023: A Weekend Getaway with a Spotlight on Denmark

By Sonja Kromann

Continued from page 3

long dream of working in conflict zones in the Middle East. Anna's talk was very inspiring and provided a first-hand account of life and challenges she faced living in conflict zones. We next heard from Otto Christensen, who discussed Danish Arctic explorer and ethnologist, Knud Rasmussen. After an overview of Knud Rasmussen's life growing up in Greenland, we heard about Rasmussen's Fifth Thule Expedition where he travelled via dog sled from Greenland across to Kamchatka in Russia over 3 years, accompanied by two Inuit fellow researchers. Our next presenter was Taylor Geer, a Vice President of Danish power company, Ørsted. They took their new name in 2018 from Danish physicist and chemist Hans Christian Ørsted (1777-1851), known as the Danish Thomas Edison. In the past 15 years, Danish Oil and Natural Gas, now Ørsted, transitioned from fossil fuels to green energy and is now a leading provider of green energy around the world. We next heard from Katia Johansen, retired textile curator for the Danish Royal Collections at Rosenborg Castle. Over her multi-decade career, Katia preserved clothing and other textiles owned by the Danish Royal family, curated numerous exhibits, and wrote many books. Her post-retirement project was the book *Ten*

Kings' Clothes which documents clothing from Christian IV to Frederik VII, dating from the years 1596-1863. After Katia's talk, the DACR program next took us outside to enjoy the beauties of the Historic Columbia River Highway with stops at Multnomah Falls, La Tourelle Falls, and Vista House at Crown Point. In the evening we were entertained by Henrik Bothe in a fun evening of magic, juggling, and comedy with lots of audience participation.

The third day of the 2023 DACR opened with a second talk by Katia Johansen who discussed the life and work of her mother, well-known textile artist and weaver, Margaret Kilbuck Johansen (1923-2004), whose work used a variety of techniques inspired by her Native American ancestry. An exhibit of her mother's work, which was until recently on display in Bend, Oregon, at the Central Oregon Community College Library, will next travel to La Conner, Washington where it will be displayed at the Pacific Northwest Quilt and Textile Arts Museum in 2024. Our final talk was by Kyle Dittmer about Willi Dansgaard (1922-2011), a Danish Paleoclimatology. The talk started with background on climate change and climate science, before discussing Dansgaard's life and research.

The 2023 Danish American Cultural Retreat closed with thanks to the many people who helped make the event a

success. These include Emily Olsen, Patti Olsen, Reina Burnett, Edith Christensen, Preben Pedersen, Ingrid Salmon, Kyle Dittmer, and Henry Geijsbeek. We also took the opportunity to remember regular DACR attendees who we lost in the past three years including Frank Christensen, Nora Martinez, Ellen Juhl, Georg Pedersen, and Birte Geijsbeek. They are missed, but not forgotten. Again, it was such a pleasure having the DACR return to meeting in person at Menucha. It is such a gorgeous spot for a group retreat and we look forward to our return next year. Please plan to attend next year and save the date for the 2024 DACR which will be held September 20-22, 2024.



*Image: Flag Pole outside Wright Hall
flying Dannebrog*

NW Danish Calendar



Sign up for our e-bulletin to receive the most recent updates: www.northwestdanish.org/e-bulletin/

October 2023

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
1	2	3 Work Party (S)	4 DBIA Meeting (S)	5 DBIA Meeting (E)	6 Fredagscafe (S)	7
8	9 Conversation Group (P)	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 DBIA & DSS Meeting (P) Pete Christensen Frikadelle Dinner (P)
22	23 Conversation Group (P)	24	25	26	27	28 NWDA Annual Meeting and Dinner
29	30	31				

November 2023

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
			1 DBIA & DSS Meeting (S)	2 DBIA Meeting (E)	3 Fredagscafe (S)	4
5	6	7 Work Party (S)	8	9	10	11 DBIA & DSS Meeting (P)
12	13 Conversation Group (P)	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Day Before Thanksgiving Seattle Office Closed at Noon	23 Thanksgiving Seattle Office Closed	24 Day After Thanksgiving Seattle Office Closed	25
26	27 Conversation Group (P)	28	29	30		

December 2023

Søndag	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Lørdag
					1 Fredagscafe (S)	2
3	4	5 Work Party (S)	6 DBIA & DSS Meeting (S)	7 DBIA Meeting (E)	8	9 DBIA & DSS Meeting (P)
10 Julestue	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Danes World Wide Event	20	21	22	23 Lillejuleaften (S)
24/31	25 Jul Seattle Office Closed	26 Seattle Office Closed	27 Seattle Office Closed	28 Seattle Office Closed	29 Seattle Office Closed	30

(P)= Portland (S) = Seattle (E) = Eugene



Donations: July to September 2023—Thank you!



Donations and gifts are cumulative from July 2023 to present.



Great Dane

Jette Bunch
Jim and Birte Falconer
Nils and Kathleen Jensen

Bold Dane

Nina Pedersen
Barbara Smith

Noble Dane

Sandra Boeskov
Minna Brask
Otto Brask
Henning and Greta Buus
Edith Christensen
Ulla Kauffman
Audrey Larson
Claus Mercer
Marvin and Sandra Nelson
Peder Nielsen
Hans Olsen
Anne Lise Pedersen
Britt Pfaff-Dunton and Chris Dunton
Bo Schultz-Andersen
Inger Seiffert
Annie and Jan Syberg

Lisa Toftemark

Royal Dane

Dianne and Paul Anderson
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Dane

Bonnie Fisher
Sandra Miller
George Nelson
Alice Paxton
Erik Pfaff

Restricted Contributions

Himmelbjerget Camp

Lois and Svend Toftemark



In Memory of Georg Pedersen

Else Christensen

In Memory of Birte Geijsbeek

Dianne Anderson

Celebrations in Harmony Hall

By Emily Olsen

Continued from page 6

NWDA. President Edith Christensen started with a speech about the past of our organization. Then



Emily Olsen, this author and near lifetime member and now staff, spoke about our present. Treasurer Preben Pedersen ended that part of the presentations with a discussion of our future, including the announcement that while he continues to be the board Treasurer he has also been appointed by the board as the new Executive Director of Northwest Danish Association. Attendees also heard from Joe Matsen, Nils Jensen, Bodil Stevns, Sonja Kromann, and we cannot forget our tremendous Master of Ceremonies, Kenneth Olsen. Edith Christensen was honored for her 17 years of service. Tusind Tak, Edith!

The evening concluded with another scrumptious cake by Larsen's Bakery. They were even able to recreate our NWDA logo on the cake, which, in my opinion, is a beautiful logo that has not aged at all. The Pacific Northwest mountain and trees backed by a Danish flag sky will always be important to me. As we move into our second century, we remembered where we started, how we have grown, and where we are now, while also looking to the future and the longevity of an organization so near and dear to so many people, this author included and especially.

Tillykke!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has donated to NWDA.

We would not be here without your support!

Mange tak!

All Donations are Tax-Deductible!

The Northwest Danish Association is a 501(c)(3) organization registered in the State of Washington (Tax ID: 91-0565541)

From Denmark—Continued



Duos, Trios and Double-Deckers

By Jan Bruun-Petersen

Continued from page 5

of the line was at Melchior Plads in Østerbro, while the southern end of the line was at Mozarts Plads in Sydhavn (southern harbor). In the early years of the line, they used double-decker street cars, so you could sit above and enjoy the view. But then in Sydhavn they had a new bridge with a clearance problem, so they would switch to normal street cars for north of the bridge, passengers could switch at Enghave Plads and ride the rest of the way south on the taller street cars for Linie 3. The center of the street car line did not go to city hall but rather to Nørrebro, ran parallel just to the northern side of the three rectangular lakes, one of the streets for the line being Blegdamsvej.

There was also a musical comedy duo who made 48 movies together in the fifties and the sixties: Dirch Passer and Ove Sprogø. In the 1953 movie, "Ved Kongelunden", Passer played a conductor and Sprogø the motorman for street car line number 8. The song probably is the most famous Danish song about street cars: "Der kommer altid en sporvogn og en pige til". The song is about line 8, which of their two jobs is more important and which one of them can attract more girls. Line 8 stopped in 1965. The amusement park Tivoli has made a type of train that has run since 1968, that runs without rails through the park with passengers. The design and look is an homage to line 8.

President's Corner Continued

By Edith E. Christensen, EdD

Continued from page 2

the investments from the sale and other events such as raffles, an Annual Auction, special events, and donations from various Women's Circles. An essential part of the programs is services and programs for elders and young people.

Some of these programs are the Danish culture and language camps for children, as well as for adults, both overnight and day time programs. There are special programs such as the Friday Evening get together, once a month luncheons, coffee and refreshment events, and other gatherings, such as song evenings, book discussions, Christmas Bazaars, Fastelavns Fest, and other holiday events. There also have been Theater Groups, and other special Danish holiday events.

People with a Danish background have had meetings and events for many years.

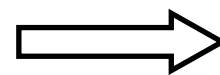
Thank you for coming to celebrate our 100 years as an organization.

NEED A SPACE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT?

The Seattle Danish Center is available for special events such as birthdays or anniversaries.

Conveniently located near Northgate between Aurora 99 and I-5, the Center features a full kitchen, dance floor, and can host up to 112 people or can be divided in half.

Call the NWDA at [206-523-3263](tel:206-523-3263) for more information.



SCAN ME

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Save the Date:

FREDAGSCAFE, Seattle —Oct. 6th, Nov. 3rd, Dec. 1st
ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER, Seattle—Oct. 28th
JULESTUE, Seattle—December 10th
LILLEJULEAFTEN—December 23rd

Monthly Events (subject to change)

- Work Party — First Tuesday, Seattle
- Fredagscafe — First Friday, Seattle

(all events listed above are not held in July & August)

Watch our e-bulletins each week for specific times and dates of programs. Note: Monthly events are subject to change. Some programs do not run in the summer.

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