

Celebration of the Century

Everything which we hoped for came true, when the Rebuild Celebration attained 100 year on July 4. The celebration of the century, no less.

Now the course is shaped for the next 100 years. We look forward and remember our remarkable history as we prepare for our trip into the future.



40 years of service



Coverage & the speakers from the anniversary celebration



"The Rebuild Portal"

“Gone - but Never Forgotten”

The Rebild Celebration attained 100 years on July 4. The author Helge V. Qvistorff has written a fine anniversary book, which gives an insight into history and a survey of 100 years with celebration in the Rebild Hills.

The Rebild Society has a vivid history, which at the same time is the story of how the emigration was like more than 100 years ago. It is also the story of the many Rebild Celebrations – in sunshine and rain, but every year with many eminent speakers from the US and Denmark.

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Linda Steffensen,
1582 Glen Lake Road,
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The course is shaped for the next 100 years

Dear Rebild Friends

Like we hoped it became the celebration of the century, when the Rebild Celebration completed 100 years, no less. Even the press used the big words when describing our “centennial celebration”. When the Royal Family and the weather are with us, it is easy to meet happy guests in the Hills on July 4. The celebration started already during the preceding days. The Danish Emigration Archives and Danish-American Club could celebrate their 90th and 80th anniversary respectively, and these events were of course also duly celebrated.

The Rebild Society’s own celebration started with the traditional picnic at Top Karen’s House and a concert by the Aalborg Symphony Orchestra – in high spirits. Never did “I Danmark er jeg født” sound more fantastic – to “the old tune” – and with an audience of 500 in the concert room. Thank you to Lars Erik Andersen for your wish for concerts!

We were very happy to see so many guests from the US, but there was certainly something to come home to. Around 1000 participants in the tent luncheon - I do not think we have ever tried that before - distinguished speakers, happy entertainment. Everything safely performed thanks to our Secretary General Ketty Bisgaard and the many volunteers. Magnificent. It was heartwarming to witness the reception of our patron, Her Majesty the Queen and our Honorary President, Her Royal Highness Princess Benedikte – with

enthusiasm and standing ovations, when they were escorted to the royal box at the stage.

It was a lovely experience to listen to the two descendants of our founder, Max Henius, actor and author Keith Carradine from California and our own Suzanne Brøgger. And our prime minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt caused hilarity with her remark about Danes who pay their high taxes with “something which looks like joy”.

It was also a great pleasure for us that Her Royal Highness Princess Benedikte participated in the succeeding gala dinner, which with more than 400 participants was the biggest and most fantastic in my time as president. We thank the mayors of Rebild and Aalborg, Anny Winther and Henning G. Jensen, for their never-failing interest in the

Rebild Celebration – and an extra thank you to Aalborg for the magnificent fireworks marking the closing of our 100 year anniversary. A fantastic period. Many more deserve to be thanked on such a day – for flowers, donations and other gifts – and because you came and made it the celebration of the century. Thank you all of you.

Now the course is shaped for the next 100 years. We look forward and remember our remarkable history as we prepare for our trip into the future. We know that what began long ago also has a future. We carry on building the bridge between those who “went out – but did not forget” – and those of us who got a good life in the old country – Denmark.

Karl K. Nielsen
President



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A Royal Rebuild Centennial

When Rebuild National Park Society celebrated its long-anticipated 100th anniversary on a warm and sunny July 4, 2012 in the Rebuild Hills in Denmark, among the special and honored guests were Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II, Her Royal Highness Princess Benedikte, Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt, American actor Keith Carradine, the great-grandson of Rebuild's founder Max Henius, and countless outstanding entertainers.

The Centennial Day began with music, sparkling, blue summer skies and the anticipation of royal visitors. Early arrivals to the Rebuild Hills attended the Open Air Church Service led by Pastor Torben Poulsen. "Little Rebuild" was open for the entire family and especially children to enjoy a taste of the Wild West. At this 12th Annual "Little Rebuild", it was possible to meet Cowboys and Indians, pan for gold and meet the Dalton Brothers, Lucky Luke and Jolly Jumper. Many children spent part of the day in the "Wild West".

Tent luncheon

Next, guests moved to the gigantic white tent, the largest ever complete with wooden floors, ready to serve more than 1,000 guests at the Rebuild Society's Annual Tent Luncheon. Inside the tent, the program was enjoyed with music, entertainment and singing. Among the highlights of the afternoon were the recognition of new Honorary Members Carlo Christensen, Palle Thomsen, Tom Paulsen, Carl Wilhjelm and Helge Qvistorff. Generous donations were made to Rebuild National Park Society by a number of Friends of Rebuild.



More than 6,000 people had found the way to the Hills of Rebuild on July 4th.



Celebration in the hills

After the tent luncheon, it was time to proceed to the hills to get ready for the arrival of Her Majesty Queen Margrethe, Her Royal Highness Princess Benedikte and Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt. These honored guests were escorted down the new Rebuild steps to the hills by Rebuild National President Karl K. Nielsen, U.S. Vice President Peter Orum and Danish Vice President J. Vagn Larsen. More than 5,000 visitors filled the Rebuild Hills in a majestic sight. Among the highlights were the Tivoli Boys' Guard playing in the hills. The M.C. for the festive day was Karin Færløv. Rebuild's President Karl Nielsen opened the 100th

Anniversary Celebration by ringing the Liberty Bell and Dannebrog and the Stars & Stripes were hoisted with Heidi Bisgaard singing the National Anthems.

Bishop Henning Toft Bro brought the prayer and President Karl K. Nielsen bid welcome. The Aalborg Police Orchestra performed on the huge stage, followed by Community Singing of "I Danmark er jeg foedt". American main speaker Actor Keith Carradine reflected on his Danish roots and his great-grandfather, Rebuild's founder Max Henius, in an outstanding speech. Ambassador Laurie S. Fulton brought greetings from the President of the United States and then popular

saxophonist Michael Lington played as "God Bless America" was sung. Next, Danish main speaker, Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt spoke including bringing greetings from the Danish Government. Michael Lington again led community singing of "Der er et yndigt land".

Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark stepped on stage and brought greetings to the enthusiastic crowd and congratulations to Rebuild National Park Society. Actor Susse Wold entertained and Danish writer Suzanne Broegger told about The Henius Family history.



Denmark's leading gospel and soul singer Marie Carmen Koppel performed followed by greetings from the Danes in the USA given by Minnesota Dane Palle Pedersen. Awards from the Thanks to Scandinavia/Sanna & Victor Borge Scholarship Fund were given by Janet

Borge Crowle. Awards from the Rebild Scholarship Funds were given by Irene Ahlefeldt-Laurvig.

The afternoon concluded with more music by the Aalborg Police Orchestra, closing remarks by President Karl K.

Nielsen and community singing of "Auld Lang Syne" by everyone. Many guests then ended the day with the Gala Dinner at Europa Hallen in Aalborg Congress & Cultural Center followed by a spectacular display of fireworks at midnight.

Text: Linda Steffensen



Mikael Vongsen interviewed on July 4. Mikael is the chairman of the youth organization "Returnees of Denmark".

Why are you participating in the Rebild Celebration?

To celebrate the friendship and the possibility for exchange of students between the US and Denmark. We are a total group of about 110 persons, of which the majority has been exchange students in the US. Our organization "Returnees of Denmark" has a good co-operation with the Rebild Society, and we should like to honor this co-operation by participating in the Rebild Celebration.

What does it mean to the exchange students that the Rebild Society exists?

It means that we have a place where we can meet every year and remember our stay in the US. We meet to have fun together, and the Rebild Celebration is one of the best reasons to meet.

Is there a future for the Rebild Society and the Rebild Celebration?

Yes there is, but the program is in a high degree applying to the older generation. This year we have arranged that a young artist "Roxie Bats" gave a concert at the stage, before the Celebration started. That applied to the younger generation. The Rebild Society has started applying more to the young people. I also see that this year we are twice as many young people than last year.

What does it take to secure the Rebild Celebration?

It must definitely apply more to the younger generation, as they have done this year with the concert. Also the youth speaker is important, Previously Sofie Lassen Kahlke and Ida Wohlert have been here – people we know from our every-day-life.

Interview: Jørgen Ahler, Text: Lars Bisgaard

American main speaker

Keith Carradine's speech at the Celebration

One hundred years ago today my great-grandfather Max Henius stood here and celebrated the realization of a dream: that here in these beautiful heather-covered hills there would be a gathering; that this gathering would take place every year on the occasion of the anniversary of his adopted country's inception; that there would be an annual recognition here in Denmark, the country of his birth, of the birthday of The United States Of America and of the great and lasting friendship of our two nations.

Fifty years ago today my beloved grandfather, Henry Henius, stood here and spoke of his father Max, of his Danish heritage and of his love for these hills and his fond memories of roaming them as a child. He then returned to his seat and, here amidst the beauty of this place and having felt once more the embrace of the Danish people, he drew his last breath and passed away. Rest assured I have taken every precaution not to repeat his poetic but inconvenient timing.

I was twelve years old that day, at summer camp on Catalina Island off the coast of southern California. When I was told of his loss I was bereft and inconsolable. He was a powerful and supportive presence in my young life, and I have been haunted by his memory ever since. Over the years I have often imagined this place where his spirit took flight. There was a painting that hung in my Grandparents' home of Max's summerhouse, which stood across the road from here. As a child I would gaze up at that painting, drawn to it by the feeling of bucolic serenity it evoked. But though my travels have taken me many places in the world, it wasn't until last summer that I finally came here. Well...better late than never, as they say. When my wife and I walked into this glen last August it was the beginning of a long-overdue odyssey of discovery. I had finally come not only to this beautiful place, but also to a burgeoning awareness of my Danish roots and how deep they reach.

My country, with the obvious exception of the Native Americans, is a nation of immigrants. Our society is a reflection of this. Our mores, our varied customs, and our myriad distinctive micro-cultures all reflect what was brought by those immigrants who made the society we have today.

We take pride, sometimes with unseemly bluster, in our often-messy democracy and our lurching efforts concerning liberty and social progress. We tend to forget that our "exceptionalism" is in fact a gift from abroad; a gift from those who came to American shores already committed to justice, freedom and the promise of a better life for themselves and their descendants. When it comes to matters of justice, equality and social tolerance I am staunchly liberal. And I have, until recently, assumed that my attitudes were profoundly influenced by having come of age during the nineteen sixties, a turbulent era



of social protest and landmark advances in the never-ending struggle to overcome bigotry and oppression. But what I am now learning about my Danish roots leads me to think that my humanist tendencies are due as much or more to my family heritage than to the political influences of my youth.

The Danish people have a long history of promoting tolerance, personal freedom, and respect for human rights. Consider, for example, the heroic resistance to oppression and bigotry by Danes such as Kaj Munk and King Christian X. And the Danish celebration of community sets an example that some American proponents of the philosophy of "every man for himself" might do well to reflect upon. Your society's commitment to freedom and human dignity are admired throughout the world, as is your embrace of cutting-edge approaches to critical issues like conservation and ecologically responsible energy production. It is precisely these qualities that Danish immigrants brought with them to America's melting pot, and American culture has been immeasurably strengthened by their contribution.

When Max Henius was confronted by water befouled with runoff from Chicago's notorious stockyards, he helped organize an engineering team to confront the problem. They devised a plan that actually altered the course of the Chicago River, thereby mitigating the pollution decades before the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency. And Max pioneered the cleanup of Chicago food supplies long before Sinclair Lewis wrote his famous expose "The Jungle," and years before the creation of the Food and Drug Administration. There can be no doubt that these public-spirited, progressive accomplishments were a reflection of my great-grandfather's Danish social and political values.

During World War Two, my grandfather Henry was instrumental in securing passage to and entrée into the United States for Jewish refugees escaping the Nazi occupation of Denmark.



Again, a reflection of humanitarian impulses, rooted in traditional Danish values, that Max had passed on to his son.

My grandfather also made really good beer. In fact, the craft of brewing has been in the Henius family since Max's father Isidor came to Alborg in 1837 and co-founded De Danske Spiritfabrikker. His Taffel Aquavit is stimulating palates to this day. And Max's Wahl-Henius Institute in Chicago was, prior to prohibition, the premiere place in America for the teaching of the art of brewing.

The more I learn of my forbears the greater is my sense of pride in my Danish heritage, and the deeper my appreciation for the tradition we celebrate here today. I find myself coming to a greater understanding of what my Grandfather and Great-Grandfather seemed innately to know: the boundless value of a sense of connection to one's ancestry, along with the importance of nurturing the friendships that spring from the bond between one's new land and one's ancestral home. We are, of course, all connected in so many ways – but there is a special resonance imbued in the friendship we celebrate here today. For this is a friendship dating back to the Vikings; a friendship that has endured through two World Wars and uncounted eras of dramatic social change. This is a friendship that transcends ephemeral politics; a friendship cemented by shared values and a shared sense of respect for our fellow man.

Friendship is a uniquely human trait. The word itself evokes a picture of our better selves – our capacity for compassion, a willingness to share hardship as well as joy. One of life's true graces is that a true friend accepts our failings as well as our triumphs. It has been said that no man can be called a failure if, at life's end, he can claim to have made one true friend. History confirms beyond any doubt that in Denmark the United States has a true friend indeed.



Max Henius made his life in America, but these hills were in his heart and that heart pumped Danish blood to his dying day. He understood that what he brought to his new country he brought from here, and he wanted to build a kind of permanent bridge between our two countries. He wanted it remembered for generations to come that an ocean was crossed and ideas were shared and lives were changed because of the bond between Denmark and America. I have only to look around me at this gathering to see this bond reaffirmed yet again. Just think, how remarkable this is! Here we all are, a world away from America, celebrating the 4th of July, America's Independence Day. It is well known that this is the largest such celebration outside of the United States. How proud the Old Eagle would be to know that a century after that first 4th of July celebration in 1912 his vision of an annual celebration of the Danish-American friendship he held so dear remains alive and well – that the bridge still stands.

Thank you.



Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt interviewed July 4.

What is the Rebild Celebration to you?

The Rebild Celebration means that we celebrate freedom – We meet and celebrate the freedom, of which we are all so engaged. And then we celebrate the friendship between the US and Denmark.

Why is the Rebild Celebration so important?

First and foremost because it has a long tradition, and because it is a confirmation of the fact that we have quite a special friendship with the Americans. And at the same time it is the biggest celebration of July 4 outside the US.

I think that the Americans are happy about this celebration. When I am visiting the US I feel their opinion that Denmark

is a country you can count on, also in difficult times. They know they can count on Denmark, and I think we should be proud of that.

Has the Rebild Celebration a future?

When I look around to-day I can both see and hear many young people. When the students were mentioned on the stage, it was unavoidable to hear that they were here. This vouches well for the future, so I am not nervous for the younger generation and their ability to continue the old traditions.

Do you think there will be a Rebild Celebration again in 100 years?

Yes I think so – why not?

Interview: Jørgen Ahler, Text: Lars Bisgaard

Danish main speaker

Helle Thorning-Schmidt's speech at the Celebration

Your Majesty, Your Royal Highness, President of the Rebild Society Karl K. Nielsen, Ambassador, Keynote Speaker Keith Carradine. Danish-American friends, ladies and gentlemen. Dear everybody.

It is a fantastic day. And it is a special pleasure and a great honor to participate in the Rebild Celebration this year, when we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the July 4 Celebration in the beautiful Rebild Hills. I extend a huge congratulation to the Rebild Society and to all of you, who have worked hard to arrange this year's celebration. I know, it has been extra hard work this year. And also congratulations to all that are here to-day. It is our celebration. It is your celebration. And many of you have travelled a long way to come to Rebild.

It all started 100 years ago with a fantastic idea – much energy to carry it through and a belated celebration of the day.

The idea behind the Rebild celebration was originally that people from two nations should meet happily, but perhaps also a little sadly to see their family and friends in order together to think of the many people, who had found a future at the other side of the Atlantic. That is still the purpose to-day. But throughout the years the Rebild Celebration has also come to mark the strong friendship and the cultural bonds between people in The United States and Denmark.

At the first Rebild Celebration Denmark was in mourning because of the decease of King Frederik the VIII. Therefore the first Rebild Celebration was held in August, and here the new king, Christian X was the speaker at what has become history: the Rebild celebration of the umbrellas. This is not the case to-day. To-day the sun is shining beautifully, as it can do in Denmark, and since then the Rebild Celebration has become a firm tradition and a national festival – I think the biggest celebration of July 4 outside the US. That is fantastic.

There is a good reason for celebrating the day, because July 4 means freedom, and freedom is our common heritage and value between Denmark and the US.

Out of common values a close bond has grown between our countries. This spring I had the opportunity to visit President Obama in The White House. Here I experienced the true American hospitality, and the strong Danish-American friendship was confirmed. It is a friendship, which in Denmark we are proud of.

At the first Rebild Celebration 100 years ago the emigration to the US was beginning to languish. But during the previous years thousands of Danes and millions of Europeans had staked everything on one throw and pursued the dream of a new life in



America They had taken a huge step and started a long – and not always safe – journey.

The emigrants have always fascinated me. What did they think of? Which dreams did they have? And how dared they? Each individual emigrant had taken a difficult decision. A decision to leave everything which was well-known – their homes, their families and their country. A decision to cross the Atlantic to a new and unknown world.

Imagine the courage and will it demanded. Each emigrant brought his own history. And every Danish family has to-day its own emigrants, of which we speak occasionally. All the emigrants' small stories were tied together by the common wish for better opportunities. They all went out conscious of the fact that they did not need to put up with their place, but on the contrary could decide their own destiny.

Also in Denmark some people decided their own destiny 100 years ago. More than 100 years ago women and servants obtained the vote, and they used it. More than 60 years ago Denmark got on its feet after Second World War – with the help of the US, but also by its own unaided efforts. We built our welfare society, which provided opportunities to more people, and more than 40 years ago the women entered the labour market, got an education and got a job, which since then has been one of the foundation stones to equal opportunities for men and women in Denmark.

You can say that the development during the past 100 years is one long movement towards a society, where each individual seriously is allowed to use his potential – where rights and obligations go together, and where generations prior to ours stone by stone created a society, where all people are created equal – to use the words of Thomas Jefferson.



We are now a new generation, who has got the responsibility to lead Denmark. In a time, where there is a crisis and real hard times everywhere in Europe. We use our responsibility to make difficult decisions, which shall lead us safely through the crisis. Decisions which only have one goal: To do what is best for Denmark. To do what is necessary to maintain and develop the welfare society, which through the years has secured safety and more opportunities for all of us. This is in many ways freedom in Danish.

On some points it deviates from the American way of doing things, because naturally The US and Denmark are different. It is a difference, which causes fascination and surprise. Fascination because in Denmark we have chosen to set up a society with less distance between top and bottom, and where people pay their taxes with something that looks like joy, where tee parties is something you participate in – not something you vote for.

But first and foremost the difference is calling for fascination. The US has a dynamic, which compel our respect. The US is a young nation with a vital mind. The US is a society able to create dreams, not only from San Diego to New York, but in the whole world.

The US stands for clear values. Values for which we are ready to keep the goal, for which to walk an extra mile, and to be leading. Among other things they are values of freedom, democracy and civil rights – values which have contributed to progress and prosperity in the whole world.

Many people have throughout the years grumbled about the popular culture of the US. It was not smart or fine to watch Dollars and Dallas, but I have nothing against disclosing a secret. I watched them, and so did my friends, just as today I watch Friends and other series together with my children – Not because JR, Crystal Carrington or Joey Tribbiani are role models, not at all.

But because popular culture contributes in a new way to tie the world together in a peaceful way. Because the difference of what is absorbing a teenager in Seattle and in Slagelse is not as big as one should think.

Just look at the music. Within the same week both Madonna and Bruce Springsteen are visiting our country. Here American influence has its effect – in a good way I should like to emphasize. At any rate I am a loyal fan of both. And in this way American cultural life means a great deal to all of us, also here in Denmark.

In other words it is not only values, which tie us together, but also solidarity around culture, which is also very strong, and which is renewed generation by generation.

As mentioned before: Denmark and the US are different societies. We do not always move in the same direction. But we know that we can trust each other, that we can count of each other, and that we respect each other.

And on a day as to-day we have to mark that the threads, which have been weaved through decades become stronger and stronger. This is not least due to the fact that young people – who are also here to-day – are using the world's opportunities.

Hundreds of Danish young people are educating themselves in the US, and hundreds of American young people are studying in Denmark. This makes good promises for the future.

We must keep on thriving for freedom. But we have to do it with the consciousness that it is a base, from which we cannot disengage ourselves, and do not have to: Our childhood and adolescence, our family, our roots.

I shall conclude by requesting that we keep the foothold in solidarity. That we remember our roots, our family and our friends, because that was the spirit behind the first Rebild Celebration 100 years ago and this spirit is just as strong to-day. That is also the reason why Rebild can still assemble so many people.

Ladies and gentlemen, Danish-American friends. This remarkable centenary celebration of the 4th of July in Rebild is an outstanding example of the vivid and strong bonds between the United States and Denmark.

In February this year, I had the great pleasure of visiting President Obama in the White House. We had a highly useful meeting in a nice and warm atmosphere. My talk with the President and my meetings with Americans in Washington confirmed the close and warm relations between our two countries.

Dear Danish-American friends. From this Fourth of July celebration in Denmark, I would like to send my best regards to the American people and express my best wishes for the future.

Congratulations on the 100 years and have a continued fantastic celebration in the beautiful hills of Rebild.

Thank You.

Relative of Max Henius

Suzanne Brøgger's speech at the Celebration

“Yes, it is a longer way to America than to aunt Lise in the country.

But if you have done the crossing
With silver the hoof of the horse has been mounted.
And the gold is at your feet, and you only bow down to pick it up”.

So Christian Winter wrote in his famous poem: “The Flight to America”

Max Henius, who is to be thanked that we can be together here to-day on July 4 in Rebild, did not bow down for the gold. He was not thinking of leaving Aalborg – and not at all flying to America. Uncle Max dreamt about SNAPS! Aqua Vita - water of life. Max Henius was a 2nd generation immigrant, the eldest of a handful of brothers, born in Aalborg, who already during second generation were proclaimed “The Great Sons of Denmark”. Several of them went to America, but uncle Max was enthusiastic for the aquavit, wanted to take over his father's factory, Aalborg Akvavit. For that purpose he had studied chemistry in Germany and had become a doctor – in snaps.

But from where did it come that snaps?

His father, my great grandfather Isidor Henius brought it with him from East Prussia, to-day Poland, and he walked on his flat feet to Aalborg with a recipe of potato aquavit in his pocket. He was poor. He was a jew. Nothing of it to write home about. Who wanted to be part of a minority? He had to have a permission to do business in Denmark. Isidor received a “Royal Charter” and built in Aalborg the most advanced distillery in Europe – to-day a museum. The snaps was free from fusel. Aalborg Taffelakvavit was an aquavit, which fine people could put on their table without blushing – and Isidor Henius became a rich man, who renovated the estate of Sohngaardsholm.

Uncle Max was ready to take over as the eldest son and heir. But Aalborg Akvavit was sold as a limited corporation, and Max got neither snaps, nor estate nor gold nor the girl he loved – at first. He was deceived!

But what do you do, when your dream fails? You make a new dream. Move the dream elsewhere. If you are at top speed. And America has always been the land of dreams. The United States of America.

Max Henius set up business in Chicago, the Wahl-Henius Brewers Institute and became an important public figure both in the world of science & culture. Amongst his many endeavours he saved lives by finding the source of the typhus epidemic in the



pollution of Lake Michigan. In America they called him “The Eagle”.

But he never forgot his native country. He still kept Denmark in his heart. Crossing the Atlantic Ocean 99 times he realized that you may very well be attached to two countries, two cultures at the same time. Today's immigrant is supposed to love one country only and forget about the past. Not so with uncle Max. He was loyal to two. This was Max Henius' great idea. So he decided to celebrate this human capacity for double-up-devotion. Love of Denmark. Love of America. Rebild.

Max Henius assembled wise, strong people to be at the head of the idea to celebrate the American Independence Day in Aalborg on July 4. King Christian X was the guarantor. Georg Brandes, Knud Rasmussen and later Mr. Stauning were amongst those who supported the idea as speakers. Because it was a good idea. A great idea. To love two countries equally much.

And today on the 4th of July, we are celebrating as well as recognizing the Danish community in America who still keep Denmark in their hearts by paying tribute to the land of their ancestors.

An excellent case in point are the American descendants of uncle Max. We are thrilled to discover them and get acquainted.

Max Henius hated affectation, talked equally easy with kings, farmers, and vagabonds. When he built the Hørgdal House here in Rebild, “The Eagle's Nest”, he let a question be engraved over the door: “Are you genuine?”

“Are you Genuine?” This was uncle Max's persistent question. So I'm glad to discover that the American descendants of uncle Max are actors. Genuine actors in three generations.

Because in our family runs the hidden rule: "Thou shalt be a personality." Never mind if you misbehave or make a scandal. You are forgiven, as long as you are "a personality".

So I'm glad to announce that the Carradine clan of actors are completely orthodox in their devotion to this rule. The Carradine clan is the most flamboyant and talented tribe of Hollywood

New Life Members

Also in this issue of Rebuild Newsletter we have the pleasure of welcoming new life members of the Rebuild Society. First Ms. Eva Flinch from Skorning, who as a resident in the neighbourhood of the Rebuild Hills and through a brother in the US has made her interested in the Society, so she signed up as a life member. A warm welcome to Eva as life member No. 88

It is a great pleasure for the society that the Ambassador of The United States of America, Ms. Laurie S. Fulton, also wants to become a life member of the Rebuild Society. Laurie S. Fulton has been and still is a very good friend of the Society and has willingly helped the Society in its work to get fine American key note speakers. - Thank you very much and a warm welcome to Laurie S. Fulton as our life member No. 89.

Then our Board member for many years in the US, Jorgen Andersen, has decided to change his membership to a life membership. Jorgen has worked hard for the society and have provided many new members through gift memberships to friends and family. Thank you very much, Jorgen - You are now life member No. 90.

Ketty Bisgaard

actors and actresses worldwide. Present with us today is Keith Carradine, actor, composer, musician and Oscar winner. It is a great adventure for me to discover my American family for the first time in my life. The great grandson of Max Henius.

Welcome to Denmark, Keith Carradine, and thank you, uncle Max.

Nominating Committees for 2013 Board Elections

According to society by-laws the below named individuals have been named members of the US and Danish nominating committees for the 2013 Board Elections. Please send suggestions to a member of the committee as soon as possible, though no later than October 1.

In 2013 the term of office will expire for the following board members:

Denmark
Jørgen Vagn Larsen and Bente Merrild
According to the by-laws Jørgen Vagn Larsen and Bente Merrild *cannot run* for re-election.

USA
Dorthe Mikkelsen Wright, Ole M. Pedersen and Tove K. Jørgensen.
All can run for re-election.



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Rebuild National Membership Meeting Minutes 2012:

Thursday, July 5, 2012 - 1:30 p.m. Membership Meeting, Comwell Rebuild Bakker, Denmark

Welcome by President Karl K. Nielsen: Karl welcomed a packed room of Danish and U.S. members at 2:10 p.m. and started his Presidential Report by thanking everyone who had come from near and far and gone out of their way in order to attend the Rebuild Festival in Denmark. Peter Orum acted as translator - quick and full of humor as always! Rebuild's attorney Martin Gräs Lind was introduced.

Thank You's and Appreciations: Special thanks were given to Ketty Bisgaard and all the staff & volunteers, who over a year ago started the preparations in order to pull off large and festive tasks.

The Program: Queen Margrethe responded to Rebuild's invitation within a month. The fact that Her Majesty indicated that she would be happy to come was a great positive for the festival. The Queen was certainly the pull. Karl explained that Rebuild searched long and hard for the U.S. main speaker. Ambassador Laurie Fulton was also asked to assist. Max Henius's great grandson and movie star, Keith Carradine from Hollywood, California, was asked and happily accepted to be the American speaker. This year many Danish artists were on the stage this year, both as speakers and as entertainers, also an amazingly talented saxophone player Michael Lington, who lives in California, accepted to be on both the Festival program as well as the gala dinner program.

Rebuild Kommune and Aalborg City want the Festival to continue: The Kommune and the city have expressed this and we thank both for their continual and great support.

Many thanks to Donors: The Maersk Foundation and many others have graciously donated this year to the Festival. The elder Maersk unfortunately passed away in April. Instead the Foundation's Chief was on the Sunday prior to the Festival, shown the many improvements Rebuild had been able to make, thanks to Maersk funds. Lunch was served for them at Top Karen's House.

Diverse observations from members: Søren Pflug thanked our leaders for "the Best Festival ever". He had learned that a new President had been selected and that the Board had discussed the issue.

USA member complaint: Olof Ericson from the USA brought to our attention that he had experienced problems with receiving his tickets in a timely manner. He had checked at the Radisson hotel 3 times, but they did not have the tickets. Ketty responded that they regretted the inconveniences and will strive to make it better next year.

People are still looking for each other (a comment from the floor): Karl explained that we have limited time and have not been able to help with this like they did in former times, but people have cell phones today and mobile devices.

Marianne Adamsen commented about the flags: She made us aware of the fact that 12 x 15 feet flags had not been put up. Instead storm flags were put up, why? (Note: Because the big flags do not exist any more.)

Peter Orum about flags: Let's make sure that the pole and the size of flags we use fit each other. (such as regular flags, big flags and storm flags). We will be studying flags rules in the future.

Comments about the new Rebuild Books: Two new books have been written about Rebuild's history, One by Marianne Adamsen/Henrik Bugge Mortensen, another by Helge Qvistoff. Questions have been raised during the festival days, why 2 books with somewhat the same contents were written? Karl Nielsen said Rebuild was happy with all books written about and promoting Rebuild. Please buy the books.

Skjold Herbst comments about ineffective loud speakers at the tent luncheon: This resulted in many members not being able to hear. Ketty replied that an agreement had been made with a professional sound man, who had promised that the sound would be in order all over the tent. We shall now take the matter up with the sound man.

Thank you's from Mayor Anny Winther: Anny thanked Rebuild Leaders for a great Festival and announced that together we will have a new Tourist Center. Loving comments from Anny: "Karl you have not always been easy to work with, but I am sure it was necessary." Everyone had a good laugh!

Pictures from the Rebuild Festival: Lars Bisgaard presented enjoyable film coverage of the festival, including a short video with greetings from President Bill Clinton, which will also be posted on the Rebuild website. The Rebuild Festival pictures are also on the Rebuild website.

Channel 2 with 3 ½ minutes of TV coverage: This year TV Channel 2 also covered our event and thus created more PR for our organization. We were told they covered:

- Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt
- Folk Dancers
- Danish and American Flags
- Interview with Danish and American members
- The Queen's speech (Rebuild has a long future)
- Singing Danish songs
- Interviews with the public

Text: Pia Ringheim Jensen

40 years of service

Wednesday August 1 was the last working day for Tove Hannibal – The Secretary of the Rebild Society for more than 40 years. Thank you very much to Tove for a great and familiarizing commitment to the Society through the whole period.

What has been the most exciting?

The most exciting was of course the Rebild Celebrations and the communication with all the speakers and artists. It has also always been exciting, how the weather would be. Would the sun be shining or the rain pouring down. I have experienced both, and sunshine is absolutely preferable. It is not funny to see Uffe Ellemann Jensen coming from the hills and look like a drowned rat, or to watch singer Jesper Lundgaard singing dressed up in disposable boiler suit and rubber boots – and without music accompanying him.

I think that one of my greatest personal experiences was the year, when Richard Chamberlain presented me and my 2 daughters with a photo, signed to us personally. Who did not watch him performing in “Tornfuglene” – The Thorn birds - in Danish TV, and judging from the reaction of all female participants in the hills that day, many of them shared my enthusiasm for him.

However, an experience which to-day matches Richard Chamberlain, was that I had the possibility to go to the US for the Annual General Meeting in 2009, held in Berea Kentucky, and when subsequently we had the possibility to visit both Dollywood and Graceland, to sail by a “paddle steamer” on the Mississippi, visit Nashville, Memphis and Birmingham, Alabama. That was an experience for life.

How did your engagement with the Rebild Society start?

I started working for the Rebild Society back in 1968, when Erik Emborg became President of the Society. I was his secretary, and most of the work of the Society was done at his office in Aalborg, so therefore I wrote most of the letters, but I was not engaged by the Society. However, an engagement contract was made as per April 1, 1988, when we moved into the office in Rebild after having used the office of Emborg in Aalborg until then.

When I first came to work for the Society there were 243 members in Denmark, but thanks to Erik Emborg this number was soon multiplied, just as for instance he introduced joint journeys to the annual membership meetings in the US.



Furthermore he took many initiatives so that the Society developed to its present status. During the years I have also come to know a lot of lovely people, both in the US and in Denmark, and I shall certainly miss the contact with them. I should like to thank everybody for a good cooperation throughout the years.

What about the future?

I have not made many plans for the future. I do not think it will be necessary. My children are happy that I stop, because then it is easier to find a nanny when necessary, and with 8 grandchildren I am sure that I shall have no problem with killing time.

Thank you very much for the many exciting years. I have served under 5 Presidents and 10 Secretaries General.

Text: Tove Hannibal and Lars Bisgaard

The Log Cabin changes its name



President Karl K. Nielsen mounts the brass plate with the new name: “The Tom Paulsen Cedar Log-Cabin” at the door frame of the log cabin museum.

The Log Cabin Museum is beautifully situated at the entrance to the Rebild National Park. Until now the name of the Log Cabin has been “The Lincoln Log Cabin” after US President Abraham Lincoln (1861-1965). The Board of the Society has decided to change the name of the museum to: “The Tom Paulsen Cedar Log-Cabin”.

The change of name is to commemorate and honor Tom Paulsen, honorary member, who provided the 70-250 year old American cedar wood, of which the museum has been built.

www.rebildfesten.dk/blokhusemuseet

Text: Lars Bisgaard

Construction has started

Under a blue sky and in lovely sunshine the first sod was cut to the “Rebild Portal” on August 9. More than 60 persons had come to follow the first groundbreaking at Rebild.

Mayor Anny Winther welcomed the many guests on the building site at Rebildhus and revealed the new name of the house “Rebildporten – Rold Skov og Rebild Bakker” (The Rebild Portal – Rold Forest and Hills of Rebild). The Rebild Society was also represented by President Karl K. Nielsen and Vice-President J. Vagn Larsen.

For more than 1½ years the project has been known as “Infoportal – Rebild Hills and Rold Forest”, but we have not been quite satisfied with the name. Therefore just before the summer holidays we found a new one, and hopefully a more poetic and concrete name, Anny Winther said.

For joy and use

The mayor expressed great expectations from the arrangement – both the physical exhibition within the building, the virtual portal and the APP, which can be brought



The project is financed by Realdania with DKK 8 mill. The Rebild Municipality with DKK 6 mill.1 and The Obel Family Fund with DKK 3.515 mill.

outdoor by means of your cell phone – and which will give the visitors a survey of all the magnificence, the natural and cultural experience. The Rebild portal will make it easier to custom-make experiences suitable for the individual visitor – for the benefit of tourists and local citizens, but also for the benefit of the tourist business. It is a clear purpose that the Rebild Portal will be beneficial to the tourist business, and therefore the plan is that the trade must be involved in the process of making the Rebild Portal beneficial to the individual actor. I really look forward to this part of the process, the mayor said.

The Rebild Tourist Office will be housed in the building, and it is hoped that both the Rold Forest Nature and Culture Center and the Rebild Society will see the benefit of moving to this new building at the entrance of the Rebild Hills.

Shape as a dormer

In her speech Anny Winther thanked Realdania and The Obel Family Fund for the financial support, just as she thanked the contractor HJ Byg and the architect company CEBRA for the co-operation up till now. The floor was then given to project manager Eske Moller of Realdania and architect Mikkel From from CEBRA, who both expressed their happiness and satisfaction with the project.

Mikkel Frost spoke about the building, where the shape of the front has been inspired by the look of a dormer – and that the wood for the building comes from the local area and is worked at the Rold Forest Sawmill in order for everything to fit into the area and nature.

*Text: Niels Larsen, Rebild Kommune and Lars Bisgaard
Photos: Jørgen Nøhr*



From the left: Mayor Anny Winther, Project Manager Eske Moller of Realdania, Fund Administrator Britta Graae from The Obel Family Fund and finally chairman of the tourist forum of The Rebild Municipality Mette Bonderup.

Thank You to benefactors and sponsors

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