

Call for Papers for

“Danish American Fusion: A Blending of Cultures” The 40th Anniversary Conference of the Danish American Heritage Society

October 5-7, 2017 at the Hyatt in Schaumburg, Illinois



National cultures are inherently dynamic, reflecting the shifting demographics, values, and interests of the people who contribute to it. No one group gets to decide the national culture—it represents a fusion of many different elements. When hundreds of thousands of Danes immigrated to the United States in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the culture they brought with them reflected particular conditions in Denmark. The Danish American culture they created incorporated aspects of the places they settled and the people with whom they interacted. In the meantime, Danish culture was also changing, in response to political conditions in Europe, globalization, migration, modernization, and secularization. While the Danish culture of the early immigrants may seem on the surface to have little in common with Danish culture today, both Danish and Danish American culture reflect the fusion of many disparate ethnic, social, economic, and political elements.

At this conference, which celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Danish American Heritage Society, we will explore the phenomenon of cultural fusion as it has occurred in and between Denmark and the United States—in terms of its root causes, processes, and concrete and abstract effects—in areas ranging from food to fashion, theology to technology, music to movies. Our keynote speaker will be chef Trina Hahnemann, with special guest Danish ambassador Lars Gert Lose. Conference registration will open in June 2017 for all interested attendees, but anyone who is interested in presenting at the conference needs to submit a proposal by January 15, 2017. Submissions are welcomed in the following topic areas:

Topic Areas:

Architecture/Landscape Architecture

Literature and Film

Travel and Migration

Music and Dance

Food & Lifestyle (Health & Wellness)

Technology and Design

Over

Presentation Formats:

The structure of this conference aims to reflect the conference theme of fusion by offering presenters and attendees a variety of presentation formats. Presentation formats include:

- Traditional 3-person panel (20 minutes per presenter)
- Lecture (45 minutes)
- Roundtables (10 minutes per presenter, max. 6 presenters per panel)
- Poster Session

We also encourage submissions for pre-constituted panels and roundtables.

Submissions are due by January 15, 2017 to dahs2017conference@gmail.com and should include the following information:

- a paper title and 150-200 word abstract
- choice of topic area and presentation format
- brief (2-3 sentence) presenter bio and contact information
- A/V requests
- 3 relevant keywords

