

# JOTTINGS



A publication of the Danish American Archive and Library

September—December 2012

## Executive Director's Report

(From the Oct. 2012 Annual Meeting)



Jill Hennick

For the Director's Report I would like to describe a typical day in the Archive to you. As a matter of fact, I would love to describe a typical day, but if there is one thing we learned over the past year, it is "a typical day in the Archive is atypical."

For example: One day Pat Hunsche of the Washington County Genealogy Society was meeting a woman from Baltimore, her sister from Florida and their cousin from Des Moines at the Archive to do research. They were here off and on over a couple of days. On the last day, on his way out, the cousin Matt Petersen said, "I bet you could use some help digitizing your collection". My reply was, "Of course!" Matt now not only drives all the way over from Des Moines one day a week and works on scanning the Vig papers, but also has generously loaned the Archive the equipment to support the project and has set up a test web site where the material can eventually be accessed. This project will also give other members the chance to "work remotely" by helping with the tasks required to properly label and organize the collection, or to scan and upload material they have at home. Matt has provided training for two new volunteers from the Washington County Genealogy Society. So, this unanticipated project has given us 3 of our 8 new volunteers in 2012!

Sandra Wigdahl also had a typically atypical day in September. The phone rang while we were at coffee, and she happened to answer it. The person on the line was from Gothenburg, Nebraska, and he told her about a murder that had occurred in the late 1880's on the farm he owns. He knew the names of those involved and that it had been reported in a Danish language newspaper out of Omaha. Everyone's first guess was that it would be in the *Danish Pioneer*.

(Continued on page 2)



*Morning and afternoon breaks provided quality time to visit. L - R: Jody Sorensen, Marilyn Svendgard, Dody Johnson, Erna Bertlesen, and Julie Johnson.*

## Eventful Volunteer Week Brings Big Changes

During a busy week at the beginning of October, several major actions were taken that could have a profound effect on the Archive in the coming year. Volunteers from eight different states plus Denmark joined those who come in regularly from the local area making approximately 35 volunteers who gathered for a week of research, sorting, coding, cataloging, data entry, translating and filing as usual. But for the first time, they also manned a fundraising phonathon, and created a Facebook page for the Archive. On Tuesday afternoon, the volunteers, along with several local members of the Archive, met for our annual meeting. The following issues were discussed and dealt with:

- **The reelection of board members.** Tim Jensen, Marty Koefoed and Sandra Wigdahl. It was announced that board member Gary Madsen had agreed to succeed Tim Jensen as president of the archive.
- **That evening's first phonathon.** Board member Paul Johnson was in charge and stressed that the calls should focus on thanking people

for past support. Board member Christie Gehring provided a supper buffet for those participating in the phonathon.

- **The three main issues confronting the Archive.** Outgoing President Tim Jensen described them as "Location, Affiliation, and Donation." For Location, since a large part of our budget is consumed with rent payments, we need to investigate our options for either staying where we are with lower rent payments, or finding another, less expensive location. For Affiliation, we want to become closely associated with a parent institution, such as a college, museum or other publicly funded organization. It is extremely rare for an archive to survive independently, and we cannot do so indefinitely. Regarding Donation, we need to pursue all means of raising operating funds as well as add to the endowment fund.

- **Incoming President Gary Madsen.** Gary thanked Tim Jensen for his many years

(Continued on page 2)

## Volunteer Week (continued)

of service to the Archive and all the rest of the volunteers for bringing the Archive this far. He expressed his desire to pursue all three areas of the Archive's future issues as outlined by Tim Jensen, but doesn't intend to be an agent of change. He wants to enhance what the Archive is already doing.

- Several other issues such as bringing in additional, younger volunteers, working more closely with other Danish heritage institutions, replacement of board member Matt Plowman, and broadening the Archive's visibility through the use of social media.

Volunteers Laura Meldrum and David Shepard created a Facebook page for the Archive. This page allows us to keep viewers apprised of day-to-day activities at the Archive as well as interesting visitors who drop in. Laura is a Dana College graduate and the granddaughter of Jody Sorensen, longtime volunteer and one of our founding board members. You will find a link to our Facebook page on our website at [www.danishamericanarchive.com](http://www.danishamericanarchive.com). Please visit us and become a "friend."



*Board member Christie Gehringer provided a wonderful dinner buffet for participants in the first ever phonathon.*

## Executive Director (continued)

would be in the "Danish Pioneer" newspaper. However, all of our original *Danish Pioneers*, are currently in La Crosse, Wisconsin, being digitized. You would have thought we would have to quit there. However, there is a lady in California who had been searching for articles in the newspaper written by her great-grandfather. She is getting printouts of the microfilm from the Nebraska Historical Society, going through them and highlighting articles she thinks are by her great-grandfather, then sending the copies here. We email the highlighted articles to Ralf Hoifeldt in Iowa for translation and keep the printouts. The murder happened in November of 1888. Although the newspaper was weekly, our collection only had three issues from 1888— an August, a September, and a November. But what was the likelihood that it would be the right week in November? Sandra tried to find out by reading the gothic Danish print, even though she is unfamiliar with gothic print and doesn't know Danish. In the midst of news from various states, she found "Nebraska", then "Custer County." She looked further and recognized the names! The next step was to take the article to Arvin Hernes, our resident Norwegian who is able to translate Danish, and he translated the article. Sandra mailed it to Gothenburg, and we received a \$40 check for our services.

You probably think it is only a few of us who get pulled from our routine jobs for new things; however, it seems to happen to everyone. Most of our regular volunteers have a job they come back to each time they are here. Tim and Sharon Jensen, Helga and Verlan Hanson, Phil and Florence Larsen, Ruth Rasmussen, George Madsen and Marty Koefoed all willingly leave their primary tasks and pitch in to do whatever needs to be done, from searching out and buying new file cabinets at a bargain to labeling photos or making coasters for coffee cups to protect our beautiful Danish table in the break room. What does this tell us about the Archive? It is an active, vibrant organization. We never know what the next day will

bring. We thank you not only for working on the many necessary routine tasks designed to make our materials more accessible to researchers, but also for being so flexible and willing to adapt to answer the diverse needs of our users.



*Volunteers Laura Meldrum and David Shepard created a Facebook page for the Archive during Volunteer Week.*

## Around the Archive

■ Ruth Bryan, the Archivist at the University of Kentucky stopped in one day in September to bring us seven boxes of materials by and about the daughter of H. Skov Nielsen, who managed the Lutheran Publishing House in Blair for many years. The collection was part of group of documents that came to the U of K archive.

■ The Blair Area Community Foundation notified the Archive that they had approved a \$1,000 grant to be used for additional shelving. This shelving will allow us to consolidate all the Danish Brotherhood materials into one area. Added to the \$1,700 already raised we still need an additional \$2,500 in order to purchase all of the shelving we need.

■ Les Valentine, University Archivist for the University of Nebraska-Omaha, visited the Archive on Thursday, January 3, 2013, to assist in planning for an exhibit that DAAL and UNO will collaborate on next fall. The exhibit will consist of photos and documents that illustrate certain aspects of the Danish American experience.

## THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

**Myrv Christopherson**

Senior Advisor for Advancement

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Those who know me know that I am disappointed when people are not as generous as I think they should be. My wife and I have tried to be more than tithers -- to our church and to charitable causes like the Danish American Archive and Library (DAAL), our colleges and other organizations we value. We have also chosen to be "first fruits" givers meaning that we give off the top. We don't wait to give what is left over. Of course, we urge others to do the same, but recognize that not everyone shares our views about giving or about the importance of the Archive.

I confess that I also fret that not all who are Danish Americans or who have benefitted from Danish American churches or institutions, like Grand View University, Dana College and the Danish Brotherhood, share our belief that DAAL performs an invaluable function that merits priority in support. However, I am gratified by the gifts received by the archive in 2012. DAAL donors made it possible for DAAL to finish the year in the black and with a small surplus. These gifts enabled us to pay our operating costs, make improvements in furnishings and equipment, and helped us begin to restore a share of the more than \$300,000 in restricted and endowed funds that were lost when Dana College closed in 2010. Mange tusind tak!

More important, I believe "the best is yet to come." I recently heard an archive visitor exclaim, "I had no idea that Danes were such prominent road builders, bankers, buttermakers, carpenters, and waste managers." And, "who knew that you could find the price of milk in Wisconsin and a loaf of bread in Oregon during the depression from letters stored at the Archive?" I am convinced that as more people discover what gems await them in Archive files, they will want to join in the support of DAAL.

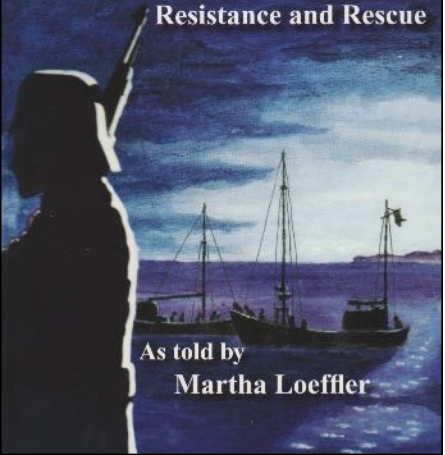
Over \$145,000 was donated to DAAL in 2012 by 348 individuals or giving units. The average annual contribution was just over \$417. Forty-three people made gifts of \$1,000 or more. Enthusiasm is growing as more recognize the value of the archival holdings at DAAL. The relationship which has been forged with the University of Nebraska-Omaha and their library and archival staff has resulted in plans for a significant exhibit at the University in the fall. New publications by the DAAL press, LUR Publications, are under consideration, and staff additions and internships are planned to enhance the reach of our volunteer staff. All such improvements can happen more rapidly with increased support.

I urge all DAAL friends to consider making and increasing gifts to the Archive in 2013! If you have not already joined those who have pledged \$50 or \$100 per month, please consider doing so. If you can make a transfer of stock or other investments to DAAL, let us know and we can help make that happen. Finally, if you have not already made a provision to make DAAL a recipient of a life insurance policy or IRA, or to designate in your will that a share of your estate go the Archive, consider getting that done in 2013. Let DAAL Executive Director, Jill Hennick, or me know of your plans or you need more information, and visit the DAAL headquarters on the main street of Blair to see what your gifts make possible. You may also discover that you have documents, letters, photos or records to add to our collection.



## Boats in the Night

Knud Dyby's Story  
of  
Resistance and Rescue



As told by  
Martha Loeffler


### Lur Publication's Bestseller on Sale!

Don't miss your chance to purchase a copy of Knud Dyby's fascinating story of his involvement in the rescue of the Danish Jews during World War II.

Lur Publication currently has a supply of these books in which the photos are a little lighter than usual.

Normally priced at \$18.95, you can purchase these misprints at just \$5.00!

Quantities are limited, so act soon. You can order by calling 402-426-7910 or by e-mail at [info@danishamericanarchive.com](mailto:info@danishamericanarchive.com).



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Hours: 8am-noon, Monday-Friday

**VOLUNTEERS:** 1938 hours by 54 volunteers from Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin and Denmark.

**VISITORS:** 83 visitors from Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin and Denmark.

**USERS:** 44 users from Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Nebraska, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, email, Denmark and Germany.

**ACQUISITIONS**

**Without your donations of materials, the Archive could not continue to fulfill our goal of documenting the history of Danish Americans from the time of their immigration to the present. Fortunately, we continue to receive a wealth of wonderful materials, including complete family collections, photos, books, periodicals, music and even obituaries.**

The following people donated materials from September to December, 2012:

- Pat Bentsen, Madagascar
- Erna Berthelsen, Albert Lea, MN
- Arlene Bisson, Muskegon, MI
- Ann Boos, Washington, DC
- Lu Vasby Brown, Blair, NE
- Nancy Carsen, Ashland, OH
- Christ Lutheran Church, Vienna, WV
- Dale & Laurel Christensen, Dannebrog, NE
- Milton Crum, Helena, MT
- Danish Immigrant Museum, Elk Horn, IA
- Lois & Mark Egleton, Umpqua, OR
- Robert Fisher, Fox Lake, WI
- Christie Gehringer, Omaha, NE

- Esther Grindberg, Circle Pines, MN
- Frederick J. Hansen, Wichita, KS
- Lloyd Hansen, Lincoln, NE
- Roger Hansen, Cedar Falls, IA
- Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt, Urbandale, IA
- Nira Horeis, Lafayette, CA
- Joann Jarvis, Omaha, NE
- Geraldine Jasan, Northfield, MN
- Genevieve Jensen, Plainview, NE
- Tim & Sharon Jensen, Blair, NE
- Julie Johnson, Columbus, OH
- Delores & Richard Jorgensen, Poy Sippi, WI
- Avis Jorgensen, Tucson, AZ
- Donna Kirschenmann, Waverly, IA
- Svend Koch, Cedar Falls, IA
- Marty Koefoed, Missouri Valley, IA
- Nathan Kramer, Omaha, NE
- Cal Larsen, Underwood, IA
- Ezra B. Larsen, Boulder, CO
- Phil & Florence Larsen, Blair, NE
- Carol Madsen Larson, Arvada, CO
- Barb & Harold Laursen, Kearney, NE
- Johannes Laursen, Rockville Center, NY
- Frank & Margaret Madsen, Milwaukee, WI
- Frances McGee, San Leandro, CA
- Betty Megrue, Blair, NE

- Ruth Mengers, Alliance, OH
- Lloyd & Muriel Neve, Blair, NE
- Clayton Nielsen, Elk Horn, IA
- John & Elizabeth Nielsen, Blair, NE
- LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen, Racine, WI
- Terri Nielsen, Borup, Denmark
- Ruth Nyegaard, Eugene, OR
- Mimi Payne, New London, MN
- Burke Petersen, Ft Calhoun, NE
- Ruth Rasmussen, Omaha, NE
- Suzanne Rasmussen, Kirkman, IA
- Sharon Rayburn, Blair, NE
- Esther Rigby, Lexington, KY
- Ann & Jack Rynes, Ralston, NE
- Eleanor & Don Schou, Albert Lea, MN
- Timothy Sorensen, Great Falls, MT
- Larrie Stone, Blair, NE
- Martha Stone, Boston, MA
- Kris Swanson, St Croix Falls, WI
- John Thomsen, Brooklyn, NY
- Peter Tveskov, Branford, CT
- Donald & Marjorie Wahlgren, Gowrie, IA
- Jane Wilson, Farragut, IA
- Paul Wolf, Elmhurst, IL
- Dorothy Wright, Blair, NE

**VOLUNTEERS COME FROM ALL OVER**

October's Volunteer Week proved that the people who come here to offer their services twice a year accomplish a lot of work in just one week. Not only that, they come from all over to do it! We thought it was interesting that no less than a half dozen of our volunteers were born in Denmark, and not surprisingly, they help us with translation. Others come here from as far away as Washington and Oregon, Ohio, Texas, Georgia and even Denmark.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED THE OCTOBER 2012 VOLUNTEER WEEK!**



*These volunteers were born in Denmark. Connie-Merete Pode still lives there and visits the U.S. L-R: Lili Gregerson, Inga Hoifeldt, Connie-Merete Pode, Ralf Hoifeldt, Borge Christensen and Bodil Muller.*



*This group of volunteers came to the Archive from the greatest distances. L-R: Julie Johnson-Columbus, OH; Bodil Muller-Hillsboro, OR; Lili Gregerson-Ridgefield, WA; Jodi Sorensen-Richardson, TX; Laura Meldrum and David Shepard-Roberta, GA.*

**Memorials:**

- A.M. Andersen  
Mike & Karen Brodie (Richardson, TX)
- Herbert Anderson  
Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
- Bill & Elna Bellows  
Ruth Connett (Pasadena, CA)
- Natalie Carlsen  
Phil & Marilyn Christensen (Sparks, NV)
- Dana College  
Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
- Richard "Dick" Dankert  
Phil & Marilyn Christensen (Sparks, NV)
- Verna Hagen Elias  
Phil & Marilyn Christensen (Sparks, NV)
- Cliff & Veola Hansen  
James & Annette Brown (Mishicot, WI)
- Florence Hansen  
Alvina Hjortsvang (Council Bluffs, IA)  
Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)  
John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
- Richard Hansen  
LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen (Racine, WI)
- Earl Hanson  
Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA) endowment  
Avis Jorgensen (Tucson, AZ)
- Persis Hanson  
Avis Jorgensen (Tucson, AZ)
- Herbert Hjortsvang  
Alvina Hjortsvang (Council Bluffs, IA)
- Ruth Jeppesen  
John Neitzel (Seattle, WA)
- Paul C. Johnsen  
Phil & Marilyn Christensen (Sparks, NV)  
Jon & Sonya Pedersen (Santa Ana, CA)
- Oscar Johnson  
Phil & Marilyn Christensen (Sparks, NV)
- Stanley Jorgensen  
Paul & Liz Johnson (Fremont, NE)
- Glade Kartz  
Don & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)
- Bill King  
Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA) endowment  
Bill & Toni Lawson (Green Bay, WI)
- Bee Krantz  
Agneta Gaines (Omaha, NE)
- Dorothy Larsen  
Alvina Hjortsvang (Council Bluffs, IA)
- Margaret E. Larsen  
Liz Larsen (Cupertino, CA)
- Oluf & Lillie Bondo Larsen  
Ruth Randall Benson
- Paul Laursen  
Phil & Marilyn Christensen (Sparks, NV)
- C.I. "Jerry" Lund  
Phil & Marilyn Christensen (Sparks, NV)  
The Green Kitty Cat Fund of the Lutheran  
Community Foundation (Maryann Lund)
- Bob Nelson  
Phil & Marilyn Christensen (Sparks, NV)
- Helen Nelson  
Karen Nelson (Albert Lea, MN)  
John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Cindy Schou (Bloomington, MN)  
Don & Eleanor Schou (Albert Lea, MN)  
Deb & John Wood (Oklahoma City, OK)
- Rev & Mrs A.V. Neve  
Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
- Eunice Neve  
Becky Bryant (West Des Moines, IA)  
Lois Carter (Blanchard, LA)  
Wade Frink (Fremont, NE)  
Timothy & Rosann Gettis (Hillsboro, OR)  
Lori Jones (Texarkana, TX)  
The Green Kitty Cat Fund of the Lutheran  
Community Foundation (Maryann Lund)  
Leon & Alice Neve (St Paul, MN)  
Don & Marjorie Wahlgren (Gowrie, IA)
- Reid Neve  
Leon & Alice Neve (St Paul, MN)
- A. Craig Nielsen  
Phil & Marilyn Christensen (Sparks, NV)
- LeVern Nielsen  
Michelle & Tim Adensam (Racine, WI)  
Mark & Jody Amland (Stillwater, MN)  
David & Betty Bidstrup (Racine, WI)  
Lois Carter (Blanchard, LA)  
Christ Lutheran Church (Vienna, WV)  
Margaret & Jack Christiansen (Racine, WI)  
Myrvin & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
David & Laurel Covell & family  
(North Olmstead, OH)  
Cumberland Island N.S. Employees Association  
(St Marys, GA)  
Davis & Shirley Darrington (Bennington, NE)  
Melissa & Benjamin Douglas (Oakdale, MN)  
Charles Doidge (Hopkins, MN)  
Barbara Dupuis (Racine, WI)  
Ken & Mary Ann Fehl (Racine, WI)  
Ron & Jean Flansburg (Tequesta, FL)  
Linda Gregson (Cleveland, OH)  
Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)  
Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)  
Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)  
Ron & Juli Hill (Keota, IA)  
Ruth Holz (Racine, WI)  
Anita Hussey (Apex, NC)  
Carl & Julie Huetteman (West LaFayette, IN)  
Audrey Jensen (Sioux Falls, SD)  
Ray & Julie Jensen (Aquilla, TX)  
Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA) endowment  
Lori Jones (Texarkana, TX)  
Joseph & Marilyn Kieman (Racine, WI)  
Tom & Julie Klimchak & family  
Herbert & Karen Knudsen (Ogallala, NE)  
Larry & Judy Larson (Racine, WI)  
Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
John & Minna Mortensen (Brook Park, OH)  
Leon & Alice Neve (St Paul, MN)  
Loyd & Marie Neve (Omaha, NE)  
Earl Nelson (Racine, WI)  
Nancy Nelson (Racine, WI)  
Thomas & Kathryn Nelson (Sun City, AZ)  
Carl & Lucille Nielsen (Racine, WI)  
John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Lisa Nielsen (Saint Marys, GA)  
Marilyn Nielsen (Racine, WI)  
Ruth Rushlow (Stoughton, WI)  
Ruth Schoening (Racine, WI)  
Carolyn Seeger (Racine, WI)  
Norma Skogen (Sioux City, IA)  
Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)  
Robert & Janice Sorensen (Stoughton, WI)
- Gerald & Delores Steege (Parkersburg, WV)  
Ardath Trebra (Racine, WI)  
James & Joy Webb (Racine, WI)  
Helen & Dan Zelinger (Kenosha, WI)
- Marilyn Nielsen  
Michelle & Tim Adensam (Racine, WI)  
Mark & Jody Amland (Stillwater, MN)  
Ila Berry (Willoughby, OH)  
David & Betty Bidstrup (Racine, WI)  
Fred Boyles (Saint Marys, GA)  
Davis & Shirley Darrington (Bennington, NE)  
Barbara Dupuis (Racine, WI)  
Ken & Mary Ann Fehl (Racine, WI)  
Ron & Jean Flansburg (Tequesta, FL)  
Cynthia & David Folin (Hopkins, MN)  
Linda Gregson (Cleveland, OH)  
Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)  
Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)  
Ruth Holz (Racine, WI)  
Carl & Julie Huetteman (West LaFayette, IN)  
Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA) endowment  
Judith Larsen (Racine, WI)  
Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
Earl Nelson (Racine, WI)  
Loyd & Marie Neve (Omaha, NE)  
Adolph Nielsen family (Cedar Falls, IA)  
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Lisa Nielsen (Saint Marys, GA)  
Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)  
Helen & Dan Zelinger (Kenosha, WI)
- Lucy Olsen  
Jill & Michael Hennick (Blair, NE)  
Marilyn Nielsen (Racine, WI)
- Alma Petersen  
Phil & Marilyn Christensen (Sparks, NV)
- Donna Pierce  
Becky Bryant (West Des Moines, IA)
- Art Sorensen  
Phil & Marilyn Christensen (Sparks, NV)
- Joan Petersen Sorensen  
Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)  
Phil & Marilyn Christensen (Sparks, NV)  
Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)  
The Green Kitty Cat Fund of the Lutheran  
Community Foundation (Maryann Lund)
- Norma Stone at birthday  
Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)
- Sue Thomsen  
Marilyn Meyer (Everly, IA)
- Ordell Witte  
Virgil Witte (Northfield, MN)
- Honoraria:**  
Archive Volunteers  
Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
Myrvin & Anne Christopherson  
Howard & Ruth Braren (Rock Island, IL)  
Gary Hansen's 80th birthday  
John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Ray & Nancy Johnsen's 60th anniversary  
The Green Kitty Cat Fund of the Lutheran  
Community Foundation (Maryann Lund)  
John W. & Elizabeth (Solevad) Nielsen  
Phyllis Krumrey (Des Moines, IA)  
Don & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)  
Joan Sorensen & her archive volunteer work  
Mike & Karen Brodie (Richardson, TX)  
Charles & Janet Kahn (Gulf Breeze, FL)

James Meldrum (Boulder, CO)  
Gift membership for Lynn Tveskov  
Peter Tveskov (Branford, CT)

#### General Fund:

Marilyn & Ernest (Greek) Abariotes (Blair, NE)  
Lloyd & Ann Bansen (Yamhill, OR)  
R.L. Barley (Springfield, MO)  
Dennis Barten (Kirkwood, MO)  
Kevin & Lori Bayne (Omaha, NE)  
Grace Beck (Omaha, NE)  
Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)  
Blair Area Community Foundation (Blair, NE)  
Cargill  
Carla Andersen  
Julie Warden  
Mark & Erika Bondo (Freehold, NJ)  
Ann Boos (Washington, DC)  
Judy Brehm (Blair, NE)  
Ronald Bro (Cedar Falls, IA)  
Tim & Lu Brown (Blair, NE)  
Becky Bryant (West Des Moines, IA)  
Ingrid Christiansen (Brookline, MA)  
John & Janis Christensen (Omaha, NE)  
Glen & Margaret Christoffersen (Redwood City, CA)  
Myrvin & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
Bob & Joan Coffey (Menomonee Falls, WI)  
Gary & Marge Danielson (Bemidji, MN)  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1 (Omaha, NE)  
Danish Vennelyst Park (Omaha, NE)  
Connie Derry (Omaha, NE)  
Anne-Marie Douglas (Chicago, IL)  
Ann Clark Eppley (Omaha, NE)  
Doug & Cindy Eriksen (Grants Pass, OR)  
Bernard Falksen (Ellendale, MN)  
Dorothy Farthing (Colorado Springs, CO)  
Lyle & Dorothy Feisel (St Michaels, MD)  
Peter Fiinch (Arlington, VA)  
Don Freberg (Prairie Village, KS)  
Helen Freund (Sun City, AZ)  
Jerry & Joyce Gilbert (Eugene, OR)  
Alf & Lili Gregerson (Ridgefield, WA)  
John & Esther Grindberg (Blaine, MN)  
John & Letha Grutzik (Buena Park, CA)  
Cynthia Gunderson (Elgin, IL)  
Frank Hansen (Washington Island, WI)  
Shirley Hansen (Edina, MN)  
Alice Hanson (Oregon, WI)  
Roger & Marilyn Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)  
Lee & Charla Hardesty (Fair Oaks, CA)  
Robert Hemmingson (Fergus Falls, MN)  
Arvin Hernes (Blair, NE)  
Isabel Hoegh (Atlantic, IA)  
JoAnn & Roger Hohensee (Blair, NE)  
Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt (Urbandale, IA)  
Ron & Rikki Hulsebus (Phoenix, AZ)  
Lynette Hunt (Blair, NE)  
Clement & Phyllis Hunter (Oregon City, OR)  
David Iversen (Minot, ND)  
May Jackson (Rochester Hills, MI)  
Joann Jarvis (Omaha, NE)  
Esther Jensen (Santa Maria, CA)  
Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)  
Lynda Jeppesen (Oak Park, IL)  
Joyce Johnsen (Huntington Beach, CA)  
Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)  
David & Michelle Johnson (Lawrence, KS)  
Niel Johnson (Independence, MO)  
Paul & Liz Johnson (Fremont, NE)  
Alice M. Jorgensen (Ferndale, MI)  
Don & Joyce Jorgensen (Ripon, WI)  
Herb & Carol Jorgensen (Green Lake, WI)

Jim & Linda Jorgensen (Blair, NE)  
Lis Jorgensen (Burnsville, MN)  
Richard & Delores Jorgensen (Poy Sippi, WI)  
Michael & Jeanette Jurkovich (Fresno, CA)  
Jean Clark Kaldahl (Port Townsend, WA)  
Jerry Kirkegaard (Denver, CO)  
Mike Knudson (Blair, NE)  
Bob & Joan Krogh (Blair, NE)  
Charles Lang (Uehling, NE)  
Clark & Christine Larsen (Columbus, OH)  
Lorene Larsen (Omaha, NE)  
Nancy B. Larsen (Ashland, OH)  
Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
Roger Hans Larsen (Fremont, NE)  
Johannes Laursen (Rockville Centre, NY)  
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The donations listed are only those from September-December 2012. Those received in 2013 will be listed in the next *Jottings*.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2011

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**\$2,000+**

*The Archive was thrilled to receive a donation of \$20,000 for our endowment from Earl Bengtson of Lincolnshire, IL in memory of his wife, Deloris.*

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## **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

In 2012 we had **general fund revenue** of **\$109,907.55**. That included revenues for the John W. & Elizabeth Solevad Nielsen fund for non-routine expenses, which currently has a balance of \$6,485.00; Lur Publications, which currently has a balance of \$1,090.52; and non-budget income, which has a balance of \$1,110.94 for shelves and \$100 for a scanner.

Our **general fund expenses** for the year totaled **\$91,332.84**. In summary, this consisted of \$22,942.86 salary expense, \$18,204.94 development expense, \$44,903.51 facility expense, and \$5,281.53 miscellaneous expense.

Our **net income** was **\$18,574.71**. We do not have a steady stream of income each month. The months varied from \$2,413.20 to \$25,442.62. Many non-profits have a line of credit with a bank to be able to pay expenses during months that expenses exceed income. However, we have had a "cushion" in the bank from our 2010 and 2011 profits to get us through our lean months. Now this 2012 profit should help us avoid opening a line of credit in 2013.

#### **Other good news:**

Our **endowment fund** grew from \$350.00 to **\$33,481.96** in 2012.

Generous in-kind donations, including over \$2,000 from our landlord, John Eriksen, and many day-to-day needs provided by our volunteers, have reduced our expenses. **Thank you!**



**ARCHIVE LOSES LONG TIME VOLUNTEER COUPLE**

The DAAL suffered a significant loss in the last quarter of 2012. Pastor LeVern Nielsen of Racine, Wisconsin, passed away October 14 after an extended illness, and his wife Marilyn followed just two months later on December 15.

Both LeVern and Marilyn were descended from prominent Danish UELC families. LeVern was the son of Pastor N.P and Maren Nielsen, and Marilyn was the daughter of Harold and Ruth Holm of Racine.



*Marilyn and LeVern Nielsen at Volunteer Week 2009.*

Marilyn donated a valuable collection of her parents' papers and documents to the Archive. She was an early volunteer coming over from Elk Horn, Iowa, when the Archive was still located at Dana College. LeVern began to come with her after he retired from the ministry. They had continued to come twice a year for the spring and fall volunteer weeks after they moved back to Racine, and worked on the Danish Brotherhood collection.

According to Helga Hanson, who oversees the collection, Marilyn and LeVern did a lot of work recording data onto the forms that were then used for data entry.

"Marilyn was one of a small group of dedicated people who combed through newspapers for the obituaries of people of Danish descent," says Director Emeritus John W. Nielsen. "We will miss those contributions. Although suffering from cancer herself, Marilyn nursed LeVern through his long final illness, and she remained interested and cheerful to the end," he said. "Her radiant personality uplifted us through her telephone calls even until a week before she died."

LeVern and Marilyn will be sorely missed here at the Archive, and the outpouring of gifts to the Archive in their memory shows they were valued everywhere they lived. As volunteers they donated not only their service, but also material and money. We honor their memory.

**NEW RETIREE INVESTMENT POLICY**

This is an excerpt from the January 21, 2012 issue of the Omaha World-Herald, Omaha, Nebraska. It describes how under a new provision of the American Taxpayer Relief Act, you will be able to rollover required withdrawals from your IRA to the Danish American Archive and Library without paying additional tax on the funds.

*Beginning in 2006, retirees were allowed to satisfy their minimum distribution requirement and avoid income tax by having up to \$100,000 transferred directly from their IRA to a charity. Though the rollover provision expired at the end of 2011, the American Taxpayer Relief Act signed by President Barack Obama on Jan. 2 revived it for the 2012 and 2013 tax years.*

*Ordinarily, a donor must transfer — "roll over" — funds directly from his or her IRA to the charity to qualify for the benefit. However, the new law gives a donor three options to qualify for the retroactive benefit:*

*» If an IRA distribution was transferred directly to a charity during 2012.*

*» If a direct transfer to a charity was made during January 2013, the rollover benefit can be claimed for either 2012 or 2013.*

*» If a mandatory withdrawal was made from the IRA in December 2012, the person can qualify for the tax write-off by making a cash gift to a charity by Jan. 31.*

*Omaha financial adviser Mary Jochim, president of Sterling Financial Advisors, said she is urging clients who must make mandatory IRA withdrawals to consider making charitable donations.*

The DAAL is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and qualifies to receive this type of donation. Please consult your own tax advisor. To read the entire article in the Omaha World-Herald, go to: <http://www.omaha.com/article/20130121/NEWS/701219953>



**Would you like to help?**

Please cut out this card and send it in with your tax-deductible contribution.

A check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. (Please make payable to the Danish American Archive and Library.)  
Or to pay by credit card:

Mastercard     Visa     Discover     Am Ex    for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ V-Code No. \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Thank you for your ongoing support of the Danish American Archive and Library

## Gary Madsen Elected President

The board of directors of the Danish American Archive and Library has elected Gary Madsen, PhD as president of the DAAL. Madsen takes over presidential duties from Timothy Jensen, PhD, who held the position since the Archive formally organized in 2010.

Dr. Madsen currently serves as entrepreneur in residence for UNeMed, the technology transfer company for the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The entrepreneur in residence program brings unique skills to the process of technology development and commercialization to the Med Center.

After earning his undergraduate degree in biology from Dana College, Dr. Madsen went on to receive his master's and doctoral degrees in medical microbiology from Creighton University. He has more than 30 years of experience in building new technologies into real diagnostic and life science products. Dr. Madsen began his career with Abbott Laboratories where he held a variety of posts over 17 years. Abbott is one of the leading biopharma companies in the world. For the past 10 years he has lived in Madison, Wisconsin, where he helped grow four different small- and medium-sized biotech companies. Two years ago, he founded Biotech Resolutions LLC, a consulting firm that works closely with startup companies as well as established biotechnology firms.



Earlier this year, Dr. Jensen indicated he felt he had taken the DAAL as far as he was able, and that someone with different background and experience was needed to lead it to the next level. Gary Madsen, who was serving on the board of directors at the time, was the first name mentioned as a replacement.

“During the past two years the Archive has undergone a period of tremendous transition, and we are so grateful that Tim Jensen was there to negotiate all the legal issues of leasing our own space and becoming an independent organization with tax-deductible status for donations,” says Executive Director Jill Hennick. “Now we’re excited to see where Gary and our current board will take us.”

“The Danish American Archive and Library contains extraordinary collections of not only local, but also national significance,” says Dr. Madsen. He goes on to say that his three main goals for the DAAL are to sustain and grow it, to secure a permanent location, and to develop and strengthen a relationship with an associate institution, such as a college or university. “Independent archives are rare, but the DAAL has been growing and drawing a wider circle of supporters and volunteers over the past two years. Our biggest challenge is going to be to secure a permanent relationship with an umbrella organization that will help preserve our collections for future generations. I look forward to helping to face this challenge.” Dr. Madsen and his wife Diane are currently residing in Blair, Nebraska, with Diane’s parents, Phil and Florence Larsen, while they complete renovations on their house in Omaha. They hope to be settled in their new home by the end of the year.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

1738 Washington Street  
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