

# JOTTINGS

A publication of the Danish American Archive and Library

Sept 2022—Jan 2023

## REMODELING IMPROVEMENTS

### The Dana Room

**Before:** Erna Berthelsen is pictured during a 2013 volunteer week. Note the dark corner in the back full of unprocessed boxes. There are also unprocessed boxes stacked behind the desk and the front is cluttered with office supplies.

**After:** Sandy Sonderup is pictured with new track lighting and an exhibit case behind her. The workstation now has a computer and an ergonomic office chair. There is also a standing table available for laying out projects, and the top of the front cabinet is open for displaying items.



### The main room as you enter the building

**Before:** During the setup for the 2018 “Kringle & Mingle,” Tim Jensen speaks with Pat Paulsen. The archive boxes on the right are stacked too high, and the exhibit cases are restricting the hallway. The library books are on the left side.

**After:** The boxes have moved into our new movable shelving. The exhibit case is in the front, and to the left of it is the Danish American Commemorative Wall - a nice welcome for visitors. The library books and periodicals have moved to the right and are nicely stacked. Also the entire facility now has better lighting, data ports and shelving. (continued on page 9)

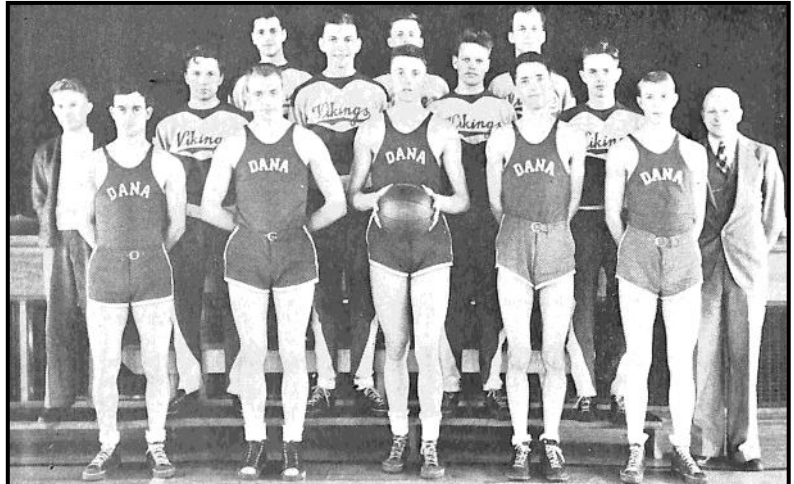


## FROM THE DANA ROOM

The 1936 Dana College Basket Ball (yes, not yet just one word) team had a typical up-and-down season, ending at 11 wins and 9 losses. Judging by the scores, the thorough trouncing of Nebraska Central College (originally a Methodist school but then turned Quaker) may have been the highlight of the entire season.

Or maybe not, for there is a game not listed in the results, one played on Thursday, January 23, against the Harlem Globetrotters.

Yes, those Harlem Globetrotters from...New York? Not really. The team originated in Chicago in 1926 as the "all-Black Savoy Big Five" and changed their name to the now-familiar one in 1930. "Harlem" was selected to associate it with the famous African American culture of that part of New York City.



*Dana's 1935-1936 Basket Ball team with Coach Rufus Olson*

With a virtual monopoly on Black talent due to their exclusion from professional basketball, the Globetrotters had access to tremendous talent. They developed a style of play that emphasized their amazing skills along with a unique form of comedy that many of us recognize from seeing them in the latter half of the last century up to the present. Remember "Meadowlark Lemon"?

On that evening in 1936 at Dana College, the "Terrible Danes" (as it was put in the student newspaper, *Hermes*) paid the price for tangling with the Globetrotters, who were then on an exhibition tour around several Nebraska colleges, sometimes playing the local team or, on other occasions, taking on their companion victims, the Notre Dame All-Stars, for the entertainment of locals. They played at North Platte, Nebraska Wesleyan, Atkinson, McCook Junior College, Kearney and, of course, Dana College. No doubt there were others.

Of those games, only the Nebraska Wesleyan players were able to down the visitors, defeating them 36 to 35. Clearly basketball was different in those days. In fact, a lot was different. The America of 1936 was deep in the Great Depression; Franklin Roosevelt was just ending the second year of what would turn out to be twelve as president. The *Lincoln Star's* report of the game with Wesleyan commented, "Snowy weather and unpopular prices combined to hold the crowd at a minimum." Well, a ticket for such a game in rural America of 1936 would have been quite a luxury for most.

In Blair the Dana crowd seems to have been well entertained. "Slight irregularities occurred in parts of the game; viz., the first, second, third and fourth quarters. A minor difference with the referees occasioned the Black Beauties to practice a 'full Nelson' and a 'headlock' on the anatomy of the officials. Upon this grave breach of courtesy, the refs openly joined forces with the Danes in an effort for revenge," says the *Hermes* article. With such a combination, one would expect a positive outcome for the Danes. Sadly, no. "But all exertion was in vain." Thus did the Danes of Dana join the long list of victims in the Globetrotters' winning streak of 8,829 games.

The full article, available at or from the DAAL, is entertaining, for the event itself and, also, for the reporting style of the day. ■

### BASKET BALL RESULTS

Dana . . . . . 53	Omaha B.C. . . 26
Dana . . . . . 40	Concordia . . . 17
Dana . . . . . 43	Clarinda . . . . 16
Dana . . . . . 18	Midland . . . . . 38
Dana . . . . . 23	Hebron . . . . . 26
Dana . . . . . 26	Western Union 44
Dana . . . . . 27	Nebr. B. . . . . 36
Dana . . . . . 33	Luther . . . . . 19
Dana . . . . . 48	Omaha B.C. . . 32
Dana . . . . . 29	Trinity . . . . . 34
Dana . . . . . 40	York . . . . . 30
Dana . . . . . 35	Hebron . . . . . 33
Dana . . . . . 30	York . . . . . 44
Dana . . . . . 24	Nebr. B. . . . . 36
Dana . . . . . 65	Nebr. Central . 14
Dana . . . . . 41	Luther . . . . . 33
Dana . . . . . 13	Midland . . . . . 25
Dana . . . . . 53	Concordia . . . 22
Dana . . . . . 33	Grand View . . 26





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**The name of the 50/100 Club was inspired by the idea that if 100 members gave \$50 per month, most of our operating expenses would be met. Members sustain DAAL by giving a minimum of \$600 per year (given monthly, quarterly, or yearly according to the donor's preference). Those at the Founder Level give at least \$2,000 per year. An added benefit of being part of the 50/100 club is receiving one donation acknowledgment for tax purposes in January reflecting a yearly total of all donations, rather than getting a separate acknowledgment for each financial contribution. These donations are part of the General Fund. (\* indicates deceased)**

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 Myrv & Anne\* Christopherson  
 Bernhard\* & Marilyn\* Erling  
 Kathryn (Olsen) & Milbern Goetz  
 Lois Girtz Halley\*  
 Frederick "Fritz" J. Hansen\*  
 Roger J. Hanson  
 Michael and Jill Hennick  
 Russell P.\* and Esther A. Jensen  
 Tim & Sharon Jensen  
 Ada Jeppesen\*  
 Julianne Johnson and Judy Pollock\*  
 Oscar\* & Dody\* Johnson  
 Paul & Liz Johnson  
 Lorene Larsen  
 Phil\* & Florence Larsen  
 Carol Madsen Larson\*  
 Gene\* & Nancy Lindblad  
 Gary & Diane Madsen  
 George Madsen\*  
 Ronald D. Johnson\* and Bodil Strom Muller  
 John W.\* & Elizabeth\* Nielsen  
 LeVern\* & Marilyn\* Nielsen  
 W. Clayton Nielsen\*  
 Larry & Palma Plume  
 Joan Sorensen  
 Deb Schou Wood ■



## FINANCIAL REPORT (continued)

The endowment fund is an investment in the future of the Archive. Some named funds have been established in memory of loved ones. The balance in the endowment follows. Figures are rounded to the nearest \$500 and are listed at historic cost.

Ada Stokes Jeppesen Memorial Fund	\$100,000
Deloris Hansen Bengtson Memorial Fund	67,500
Oscar & Dody Johnson Memorial Fund	13,000
Bernhard & Marilyn Erling Memorial Fund	10,000
John T. & Virginia (Lippincott) Beck Memorial Fund	7,500
Rev. Aster & Ruth Neve Family Memorial Fund	7,500
Dagmar Vasby Memorial Fund	7,000
Martin & Else Andersen Memorial Fund	4,500
Earl Jensen Family Memorial Fund	4,000
Maryann & Jerry Lund Memorial Fund	2,500
Rev. Sigurd D. & Dorothy M. Petersen Memorial Fund	<u>2,500</u>
<i>Subtotal of named funds with balances over \$1,000</i>	226,000
General Endowment Fund	<u>125,000</u>
<b>Total Endowment Funds</b>	<b>\$351,000</b>

Jean Jaspersen-Naegle, Germany  
 Dan Jensen, Columbus, OH  
 Lori Jones, Texarkana, TX  
 Patti Jorgensen & Beth Heng, Menasha, WI  
 Bill Krause, Columbia, MO  
 Bill & Toni Lawson, Green Bay, WI  
 Kent & Ann Lynch, Edwards, IL  
 Edgar Madsen, Princeton, NJ  
 Barbara Meduna, Monument, CO  
 Linda Karen Miller, Henderson, NV  
 Vordyn Nelson, Marshall, TX  
 Loyd & Marie Neve, Omaha, NE  
 Roger & Marilyn Nichols, Tucson, AZ  
 Jay Planalp, Loveland, CO  
 Scott & Colleen Rasmussen, Omaha, NE  
 Deb Schou Wood, Bloomington, MN  
 Sandy Wunder, Eaton, CO

### \$250 - \$499

Al & Fran Anderson, Omaha, NE  
 Assured Life Association, Englewood, CO  
 Steven Bane, Scottsdale, AZ  
 Jean Barry, Kearney, NE  
 Dennis Barten, Manning, IA  
 Larry & Lois Bornemeier, Waukesha, WI  
 James Godson, Ripon, WI  
 Thomas Godson, Poy Sippi, WI  
 Scott & Shelly Grorud, Hutchinson, MN  
 Lorraine Jensen, Bloomington, MN  
 Paul & Jayne Jensen, Cresco, IA  
 Vibeke Jensen, Bennington, NE  
 Jean Kaldahl, Port Townsend, WA  
 Keith & Lori Larsen, Blair, NE  
 Liz Larsen, Cupertino, CA  
 David Nielsen, Winfield, KS  
 Beth Paulsen-Olmstead, Westbrook, ME  
 Donald B. Pedersen, Pea Ridge, AR  
 Duane & Dixie Petersen, Wichita, KS  
 Carl L.M. & Nancy Rasmussen, Sugar Grove, IL  
 Arliss Stockdale, Ames, IA  
 Larrie Stone, Ames, IA  
 Ron & Vicki Vig, Holdrege, NE

### \$100-\$249

David Aanonson, Coralville, IA  
 Marilyn & Greek Abariotes, Blair, NE  
 Sandra Allen, Los Lunas, NM  
 Erik Andersen, Croton on Hudson, NY  
 Bill & Betsy Anderson, Blair, NE  
 Lee & Norma Barney, Oregon City, OR  
 Donald Baxter, Wichita, KS  
 Jack & Lois Beal, Bothell, WA  
 Peter & Jan Beckman, Ottawa, IL  
 Marcia Bergmeyer, DeWitt, NE  
 Lisa Betts, Lincoln, NE  
 Deborah Biorn, St. Cloud, MN  
 Egon & Diana Bodtker, Junction City, OR  
 Frida Brewer, Lampasas, TX  
 James & Annette Brown, Mishicot, WI  
 Lois Olson Burkholder, Shakopee, MN  
 Vaughn Christensen, Blair, NE  
 Robert & Martha Christiansen, Scottsdale, AZ  
 John & Brigitte Christianson, Minneapolis, MN  
 Paul & Leana Christoffersen, Underwood, IA  
 Mary Hughes-Cowling, Bethlehem, PA  
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #35, Homewood, IL  
 Nancy Davis, Carroll, IA

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022

### \$10,000 and over

Phil & Florence Larsen, Blair, NE

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Thomas Bengtson, Rock Island, IL  
 Patricia Bentsen, Blair, NE  
 Chris Gehringer, Omaha, NE  
 The estate of Phil Larsen  
 The estate of Carol (Madsen) Larson  
 Ted Pedersen, Duluth, MN  
 Joan Sorensen, Richardson, TX

### \$2,500 - \$4,999

Erna Berthelsen, Albert Lea, MN  
 Michael & Jill Hennick, Blair, NE  
 Arvin Hernes, Blair, NE  
 Tim & Sharon Jensen, Blair, NE  
 Leon & Alice Neve, St. Paul, MN  
 Elizabeth Nielsen, Blair, NE  
 Larry & Palma Plume, Evergreen, CO  
 Washington County Community Foundation, Blair, NE

### \$1,000 - \$2,499

Lori & Kevin Bayne, Omaha, NE  
 Myrvin Christopherson, Decorah, IA  
 Danish American Heritage Society, Des Moines, IA  
 Berniece Grewcock, Omaha, NE  
 Carol Haussermann, Blair, NE  
 The Hernes Family Fund of Fidelity by Burnett & Cheryl Hernes  
 Joyce Johnsen, Homer Glen, IL  
 Julie Johnson, Columbus, OH  
 Chuck & Joyce Jorgensen, Blair, NE  
 Don & Joyce Jorgensen, Ripon, WI  
 Richard & Delores Jorgensen, Poy Sippi, WI  
 Charles & Janet Kahn, Gulf Breeze, FL  
 Marty & Linda Koefoed, Missouri Valley,

### IA

Lorene Larsen, Omaha, NE  
 Kris Lawson, Pittsburg, KS  
 Nancy Lindblad, Blair, NE  
 Gary & Diane Madsen, Omaha, NE  
 Lowell & Sue Madsen, Fresno, CA  
 Kathy & Duncan Meldrum, Mertztown, PA  
 The Wyman & Laurie Nelson Community Fund of the Washington County Community Foundation  
 John Mark & Dawn Nielsen, Blair, NE  
 Lisa Nielsen, Fairfield, PA  
 Robert Olsen, Richmond, TX  
 Stan & Nancy Rochlitz, Paxton, NE  
 Sandy Sonderup, Blair, NE  
 Martha Stone, Providence, RI  
 Carol Svendsen & Jay Mead, Denver, CO  
 Agnete Temali, Arden Hills, MN  
 Nick Temali, Mahtomedi, MN  
 Thrivent, Minneapolis, MN  
 Phil Vasby, Cambridge, WI  
 Sandra & LeRoy Wigdahl, Blair, NE

### \$500 - \$999

Dennis Andersen, Atlanta, GA  
 Schwab Charitable Fund by Keith & Paula Anderson  
 Benevity Community Impact Fund by Stephanie Adams and Fiserv  
 Mark Bondo, Freehold, NJ  
 Karen & Mike Brodie, Richardson, TX  
 Becky & Phil Bryant, East Dubuque, IL  
 Lois Carter, Blanchard, LA  
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, IA  
 Barbara & Dennis Garrett, Blair, NE  
 Sylvia Hamilton, Tucson, AZ  
 Stuart Hansen & Erica Eddy, Mount Pleasant, WI  
 Roger Hanson, Roseville, MN  
 Susan Jacobsen, Annapolis, MD

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022 (continued)

Lois Donaldson, Vancouver, WA  
 Arden & Roxanne Dorn, Pickrell, NE  
 Kimberlee Dwyer, Wichita, KS  
 Anne & Don Eppley, Omaha, NE  
 Sherry & Charles Forrest, Omaha, NE  
 Friends of the LeMars Public Library,  
 LeMars, IA  
 John & Barbara Fuller, Wichita, KS  
 Agneta Gaines, Omaha, NE  
 Joyce & Charles Gauck, Plymouth, MN  
 Milbern & Kathy Goetz, Greeley, CO  
 Georgia & Robert Graves, Middleton, WI  
 Virginia Graves, Fitchburg, WI  
 Charles E. Hansen, Mt. Prospect, IL  
 Dianne Hansen, Waukegan, IA  
 Joe H. & Rose Jean Hansen, Des  
 Moines, IA  
 Larry Hansen, Sunapee, NH  
 Larry & Sandra Hansen, Fremont, NE  
 Margaret Haugrud, Fargo, ND  
 The David & Polly Hendee Fund of the  
 Omaha Community Foundation  
 Al & Debbie Henke, Fitchburg, WI  
 Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt, Urbandale, IA  
 Karen Hoyle, St. Paul, MN  
 Suellen Hudson, Pensacola, FL  
 Kristin Jacobsen, Skokie, IL  
 Joan Jamison, San Rafael, CA  
 Jerry Jaspersen, Oakland, NE  
 Beth Jensen, Omaha, NE  
 Bonnie Jensen, Eagan, MN  
 Ken & Bonnie Jensen, Albert Lea, MN  
 Lynda Jeppesen, Oak Park, IL  
 Dorothy Jepson, Onawa, IA  
 June Johnson, Boone, IA  
 Nicklas Johnson, San Mateo, CA  
 Niel Johnson, Independence, MO  
 Paul & Liz Johnson, Loveland, CO  
 Dorothy Jorgensen, Bemidji, MN  
 Gary & Barb Jorgensen, Pine River, WI  
 Jim & Linda Jorgensen, Blair, NE  
 Kansas Grown Farmers Market, Wichita,  
 KS  
 Debbie Katt, Herman, NE  
 Richard & JoAnn Kleber, Northfield, MN  
 Karen Knudsen, Ogallala, NE  
 Larry Knudsen, Northfield, MN  
 Margery Koster, Fargo, ND  
 Lowell & Marilyn Kramme, Des Moines,  
 IA  
 Martin O. Kuhr, Jr., Blair, NE  
 Lee Anne & Eugene Lack, Montrose, MN  
 Susan & Ron Lomsdal, Fargo, ND  
 Brian & Leeanna Lunn, Upsala, MN  
 Peter & Barbara Mathiasen, Surrey, BC  
 JoAnn Matthews, Weatherby Lake, MO  
 Sarah Meldrum, Mertztown, PA  
 Dan & Alice Mikel, West St. Paul, MN  
 Patricia Miller, Crawfordsville, IA  
 K. Joyce Mynster, Council Bluffs, IA  
 NE/CO Dist. Danish Sisterhood, Ceresco,  
 NE  
 Roger & Donna Nelson, Blair, NE  
 Kaj Neve, New York, NY  
 Ron & Kathie Nielsen, Mahtomedi, MN  
 Folmer & Vera Nyby, Michigan City, IN  
 Wayne Olsen, Prior Lake, MN  
 Jim & Sue Olsen, Blair, NE  
 Dorothy Olson, Blair, NE  
 Philip Panum, Englewood, CO  
 Michael & Lisa Peck, Overland Park, KS

Jon & Sonya Pedersen, Homer Glen, IL  
 Noel & Ruby Petersen, Omaha, NE  
 Shirley Petersen, Canyon, TX  
 John E. Peterson, Pottstown, PA  
 Marc & Ruth Peterson, Oxford, MA  
 Pounds Printing, Blair, NE  
 The Moses & Emily Margritt Rodriguez  
 Fund of Schwab Charitable  
 Mindy & Marty Rump, Blair, NE  
 Kathryn Ryan, Beaver Dam, WI  
 Bob & Judy Schmoll, Omaha, NE  
 Greg Schou, Albert Lea, MN  
 Jens & Eileen Simonsen, Oakdale, NE  
 Jan Sorensen, Columbus, OH  
 John Swartz, Canby, OH  
 Paul Thisted, Evergreen, CO  
 Lynda & Randy Truhlsen, Blair, NE  
 Margery Waldhauser, Rockford, IL  
 Carol & Robert Watson, Overland Park,  
 KS  
 Helle White, TX  
 Kathy Zwanziger, Columbus, OH

### **\$50-\$99**

Karen Alldredge, Carbondale, CO  
 Timothy Barnes, Omaha, NE  
 Roma Beebe, Blair, NE  
 Wallace & Mary Billington, St. Paul, MN  
 Blair Area China Painters, Blair, NE  
 Judy Brehm, Blair, NE  
 Kathy Briley, Wichita, KS  
 Linda Brink, Liberty, MO  
 Jeffrey & Dianne Broman, Lakeville, MN  
 Karla Broman, Omaha, NE  
 Ruth Broman, Edina, MN  
 Oscar & Lois Christensen, Omaha, NE  
 Kristen Christopherson Clark, Gibsonia,  
 PA  
 Roger Clark, Franklin, WI  
 Elizabeth Dutton, Boalsburg, PA  
 Lyle & Dorothy Feisel, Chestertown, MD  
 Esther Grindberg, Circle Pines, MN  
 Lisa Gustin, Glenwood, IA  
 Erik & Greta Hansen, Racine, WI  
 Katherine Hansen, Minneapolis, MN  
 Lucy Hansen, Tipton, IA  
 Kristie Hansen-Mendez, Chicago, IL  
 Mary Henriksen & Alan Hanson, Omaha,  
 NE  
 Kevin & SusanAnn Harrison, Portage, MI  
 Marilyn Hawes, Fort Calhoun, NE  
 Donna Henton, Blair, NE  
 Eric & Suzie Hernes, PayPal  
 Jeffrey Hernes, Shoreview, MN  
 Selmer & Janet Hernes, Forest City, IA  
 Susan & Charles Hettinger, Westminster,  
 CO  
 Jeene Hobbs, Blair, NE  
 Ron & Rikki Hulsebus, Omaha, NE  
 Paul & Jean Hundtoft, Blair, NE  
 Frederik & Dawn Jensen, Minnetonka,  
 MN  
 Jane Jensen, Plainview, NE  
 Arne & Meryl Jessen, Woodbury, MN  
 Kevin & Kari Jo Johnson, Omaha, NE  
 Muriel Johnson, Highlands Ranch, CO  
 Richard & Pat Jorgensen, Blair, NE  
 Gladys Kempe, Tustin, CA  
 Ramona Alwill Klaasmeyer, Omaha, NE  
 Joan Krogh, Blair, NE  
 Karen LaCroix, Omaha, NE

Marilyn Larsen, Underwood, IA  
 Connie & Bill Mamas, Naples, FL  
 Don Mattox, Sheboygan, WI  
 Stacey Maxwell, Kasson, MN  
 Ruth McMaster, Omaha, NE  
 Ann McPhillips, Omaha, NE  
 Sol Mockicin, Oaks, OK  
 Ruth & Dale Mortensen, North Olmsted,  
 OH  
 Coleen Muth, Swansboro, NC  
 William C. Nelsen, St. Peter, MN  
 Duane Pedersen, Ames, NE  
 Laurids & Judi Pedersen, Blair, NE  
 Eric Petersen, Mission, KS  
 Eric & Natalie Petersen, South Bend, NE  
 Julie Petersen, Lincoln, NE  
 Amanda Phillips, Omaha, NE  
 Bob & Darlene Rademacher, Lincoln, NE  
 Gary & Karen Riddle, Blair, NE  
 Anne Robertson, Columbus, NE  
 Charlie & Julie Rohlfing, Blair, NE  
 Steven & Kathleen Schou, Minneapolis,  
 MN  
 Mark Schulze, Omaha, NE  
 David & Ellen Solevad, Washougal, WA  
 Frank & Sandra Soltis, Rochester, MN  
 Lyle & Cathy Stone, Parkville, MO  
 Starla Sweda, Selma, TX  
 Wayne & Naomi Theye, Winona, MN  
 Nancy Thompson, Urbandale, IA  
 Charlotte Travis, San Antonio, TX  
 Raymond Turpen, Papillion, NE  
 William & Marion Vierow, Saco, ME  
 Kevin & Sara Wamsat, Bennington, NE  
 Barbara K. Ward, San Diego, CA  
 Ronald & Kathleen Widgahl, Colorado  
 Springs, CO  
 Woodmen of the World Life Ins. Soc.,  
 Omaha, NE  
 Kitty Wooley, Colorado Springs, CO

### **\$49 and Under**

AmazonSmile  
 Janet Anderson, Ft Collins, CO  
 Art & Betty Beckman, Omaha, NE  
 Ginny Blood, Burnsville, MN  
 Anne Marie Bradford, Omaha, NE  
 Kathy Card, Fargo, ND  
 Barbara Carlsen, Omaha, NE  
 Charities Aid Foundation by Lars Madsen  
 Patrick & Mary Dahlhauser, Arlington, NE  
 Joanna Dubisher, Littleton, CO  
 Jeffrey Gross, PayPal  
 Kenneth Hansen, Blair, NE  
 Ann Hardy, Anthon, IA  
 Gregory Hatt, Omaha, NE  
 Jim & Annette Holtam, Fremont, NE  
 Roger & Linda Howland, Omaha, NE  
 Margie Hussey, Bellevue, WA  
 Douglas Jensen, Aberdeen, SD  
 Randy & Ruth Jensen, Blair, NE  
 Anita & Bob Johnson, Wichita, KS  
 Marjorie Johnson, Blair, NE  
 Lis Jorgensen, Burnsville, MN  
 Nancy Kay, Omaha, NE  
 Patricia Knuth, Columbia, MO  
 David & Jane Kruse, Spirit Lake, IA  
 Julie Kuhr, Blair, NE  
 Carolyn Kundel, Roland, IA  
 Charlie Lang, Orlando, FL  
 Lynn & Mark Langenfeld, Monticello, WI



## ANNUAL REPORT 2022 (continued)

Larry & Susan Legore, Algona, IA  
 Karen Madsen, Blair, NE  
 Sheri Matzen, Blair, NE  
 Gilda McCorkle, Louisville, NE  
 Ralph & Patricia Mehrens, Bellevue, NE  
 Maxine Mitchell, Omaha, NE  
 Norma Nabity, Omaha, NE  
 Arno & Betty Neben, Papillion, NE  
 Howard Nicholson, Marquette, MI  
 Cheryl Nielsen, Harlan, IA  
 Stanley Nielsen, Monona, WI  
 Liv Paulson Norderhaug, Chanhassen, MN  
 Skip Pedersen, Omaha, NE  
 Donna Rector, Norfolk, NE  
 Nita Richards, Omaha, NE  
 Ted & Susie Rudberg, Paradise Valley, AZ  
 Amy Schindler, Omaha, NE  
 Richard & Marlene Schlenker, Kennard, NE  
 SHARE Omaha, Omaha, NE  
 Steve Stodola, Blair, NE  
 Robert Stone, Omaha, NE  
 Diane & Cal Stoner, Kennard, NE  
 Paul Swanson, Omaha, NE  
 Ellen Thain, Stoughton, WI  
 Nate & Julie Wigdahl, Omaha, NE  
 Rita Wilcox, Blair, NE ■

## Featured Danish American Commemorative Wall Panel



### John Wolter Nielsen and Elizabeth Solevad Nielsen

John W. and Elizabeth S. Nielsen were both children of Danish immigrant parents. They received much of their education at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska. It was here that they were married in 1949. John also attended Trinity Seminary and was ordained in 1953. He served St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Northfield, Minnesota. In 1962 they returned to Blair where John served as Dana's first campus pastor and a professor of religion, and Elizabeth taught art at Blair High School. He continued to acquire more education which culminated in a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Oxford University. During his time at Dana he headed the Religion Department and implemented and directed Dana's unique Humanities program assisted as well by Elizabeth. After retirement he focused on expanding Dana's institutional archive to one that collected materials from all of Danish America. This became the Danish American Archive and Library and he served as its Director until 2011.

## REMODELING IMPROVEMENTS (CONTINUED)



**The northeast quadrant in the main room**

**Before:** In 2015, Phil Larsen, Ralf Hoifeldt, Inga Hoifeldt and Florence Larsen visit in front of a cluttered corner with boxes stacked too high and a hodgepodge of furniture.



**After:** Matt Petersen, Jens Simonsen and Eileen Simonsen work in what has become our "book nook". The open area allows us flexibility in setting up our workstations. Since this photo we have also added a power pole with outlets and a data port, so the books are accessible without the danger of tripping over cords.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



**Executive Director  
Jill Hennick**

Every mosaic is made up of many tiles. Each tile has a specific place. Increasing the number of tiles and integrating them properly result in a strikingly beautiful picture. Some artists become experts at mosaics. One such artist was Rev. F. W. "Bill" Thomsen. In Blair, he is most famous for the "Tower of the Four Winds" sculpture in Black Elk – Neihardt Park. His mosaics also grace the facades of public buildings and churches, including the C. A. Dana Hall of Science building on the Dana College campus.

This is a story about how the properly timed efforts of a large number of people will enable us to display a Bill Thomsen mosaic in the Archive.

When Dorothy Wright was moving from her home to assisted living, one of her daughters asked if the Archive would accept a mosaic that Dorothy and husband Harold commissioned based on Bill Thomsen's painting "White Forevermore". Normally, we take paper materials rather than artifacts.

However, in this case it made sense for the artwork to reside here. Dorothy and Harold were long-time volunteers at the Archive. Bill Thomsen was a Dana College art and religion professor. The Archive has a 12-box collection on this Danish American which includes some of his other artwork. And the family wanted the piece to stay in Blair where the Wright and Thomsen families spent so much of their time, as a third mosaic that the community could enjoy.

Last fall, the marketing director of the local paper, Paul Swanson, stopped by the Archive for the first time. While he toured the facility, he asked why there was a mosaic sitting on the floor in our hallway. The mosaic has yet to be displayed, because it weighs approximately 250 pounds. The Wrights had to reinforce a wall to hang it! A few days later the editor, Greg Forbes, was here writing a story entitled "Heavy Piece of History: Bill Thomsen mosaic finds new home at DAAL" for the *Washington County Enterprise*.

In September a dear friend of the Archive, Duane "Bud" Petersen, passed away. His family named the Archive for memorials. The last time he and his wife Dixie visited the Archive, we spent a lot of time looking through the Bill Thomsen boxes. When Bud was growing up Bill Thomsen was his pastor at Moorhead, Iowa. Also, Bill was the Dean of Men during Bud's years at Dana College. Later, when Bud was on the church council of Messiah Lutheran in Ralston, Nebraska, he convinced the council to hire Bill to design and build the mosaic on the front exterior wall.

On the Tuesday after Thanksgiving (nationally known as "Giving Tuesday"), the Washington County Chamber of Commerce and



**Rev. Thomsen at work with "White Forevermore" in the foreground**

the Washington County Community Foundation host "Washington County Gives". On that day, there are two reasons that encourage local non-profits to use this platform to raise additional funds. The first is that credit card fees are covered by the Wyman and Laurie Nelson Community Fund of the Washington County Community Foundation, so 100% of the donation goes to the designated non-profit recipient. The second reason is that from 7am to 7pm every non-profit that receives a donation during the hour is placed in a drawing for additional funds available from corporate sponsors.

We've never taken much advantage of this platform, since our annual appeal letter is mailed shortly before Thanksgiving. But this year, with all the recent developments, a targeted campaign to display the mosaic made sense. Bud Petersen's family agreed to let us use his memorials as matching funds to encourage people to give during the hours of 7 am and 7 pm. The *Washington County Enterprise* allowed us to share the mosaic story via email and link to it from our Facebook page. The campaign was a great success. \$880 of the project funds were matched from Duane "Bud" Petersen memorials. We won a \$500 raffle sponsored by Cox Communications! In addition to Nebraska, our donors came from Colorado, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, and New York. That gave us an additional surprise the next day when we won another \$500 sponsored by Fastwyre/American Broadband for the non-profit with donations from the most states! The funds from Washington County Gives will enable us to properly showcase this unique piece of art.

Dana art professor Milt Heinrich is working on the design for the stand that will allow us to display the mosaic without reinforcing a wall, and he will also be the intermediary with the manufacturer.

The mosaic will be at the front of the building next to the Danish American Commemorative Wall, so Milt suggested that we use one of the Commemorative Wall panels for the narrative about the mosaic. That will blend everything together wonderfully.



**Rev. F. W. "Bill" Thomsen's Mosaic**

Because DAAL board members suggested we join the Blair Chamber of Commerce in 2023, we can coordinate with them to perform a ribbon-cutting at the event to celebrate the completion of the project.

This is only one of many examples that show how small pieces can fit together to make a whole. Talking with volunteers, community members and board members sparks ideas. The time and talents they add move the archive in different directions and enable our accomplishments to multiply. Even from afar, people perform tasks such as clipping obituaries, sending family documents, translating, spreading the word about the DAAL, giving us family updates and sending all types of encouragement. All the efforts each of you make are like tiles that build the mosaic called the Danish American Archive and Library. It is beautiful to behold. ■



## Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in the Danish American Archive and Library. All members enjoy three issues of the *Jottings* newsletter each year and reduced program service fees. The newsletter is mailed in March, July and December. Please keep your contact information current.

OLD ADDRESS:  see label on reverse, *or*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

## NEW ADDRESS

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

If not permanent: \_\_\_ Temporary from \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ (month/year) to \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ (month/year)

\_\_\_ Seasonal (repeat every year) from \_\_\_ (month) to \_\_\_ (month)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ ( send *Jottings* via email)

Additional information \_\_\_\_\_

## AROUND THE ARCHIVE

- The Spring Volunteer Week will be April 24-28, 2023, and the Fall Volunteer Week will be October 9-13, 2023. Please let us know if you will be able to join us so that we can have workspace and a project ready for your arrival. The Meeting of Members will take place during the Fall Volunteer Week.
- Thanks to dedicated Dana College alumni and volunteers we raised over \$700 at our “Kringle & Mingle” rummage sale of Dana memorabilia. We hope to do something similar at this fall’s “Kringle & Mingle” event.
- Volunteer Skip Pedersen made us a table-top Lazy Susan for our coffee breaks. Now we don’t have an issue with people passing too much or not enough! After numerous requests at our last “Kringle & Mingle” for the Kringle Bar recipe, we are introducing this new column. **As the Table Turns** will feature our favorite coffee break recipes.

### Kringle Bars

1 cup almond paste  
2 cups sugar  
2 cups flour  
2 eggs  
1 tsp almond flavoring  
Slivered almonds

Mix all but the almonds together and press into a greased 9" x 13" pan. Sprinkle generously with sugar and slivered almonds. Bake @ 350 degrees for 30 minutes, or slightly longer until golden.



*DAAL volunteers Betsy Anderson and Barbara Garrett serving refreshments at the 2022 “Kringle & Mingle.”  
Photo by Kori Archbold*

- The Danish American Heritage Society (DAHS) is hosting a conference entitled “Ecologies and Ethnicity” which will be held June 22-24, 2023, in Elk Horn, Iowa. The event kicks off with a reception on Thursday evening and culminates with the Museum of Danish America’s 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner. The DAAL is one of the co-sponsors for the event; and we will have registration forms available, as will the other co-sponsoring organizations Grand View University and the Museum of Danish America. The DAAL will have a table at the event. Please visit us at our table or greet us if you see us at one of the events. You can register online at [Danishheritage.org](http://Danishheritage.org) or by mail using a registration form. Early bird deadline for registration ends April 1, registration deadline is May 31.■





## PARTING SHOT

This notecard features the artwork of Elizabeth Solevad Nielsen. Elizabeth passed away in December 2022 at the age of 95. Other samples of her artwork in the DAAL include Christmas cards and magazine covers. She taught art at Blair Community High School from 1967 to 1975. She was also a gracious hostess at events and in her home for Dana College faculty, students and Archive volunteers, as well as family and friends. This notecard is from the Paul and Lela Neve collection, and the message inside reads, “For friendship and fellowship, thank-you Paul and Lela – John & Liz.” See the Nielsen Commemorative Wall panel pictured on page nine. ■