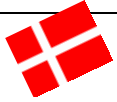


## ARCHIVE JOTTINGS



### DAAL Hosts *The Danish Pioneer* Exhibit

On April 16<sup>th</sup> the DAAL proudly debuted *The Danish Pioneer - Connecting an Immigrant Community*, an exhibit that was funded by the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. The DAAL partnered with the current owners of *The Danish Pioneer*, as well as with the Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa, for historical content and development of the exhibit.

*The Danish Pioneer* was founded in Omaha in 1872 by Danish immigrant Mark Hansen, with financial support from Edward Creighton, and is the oldest continuously published Danish-American newspaper in the United States. Five tall panels tell the story of *The Danish Pioneer* using photographs and text to trace the newspaper from its beginnings in Omaha in 1872 to the current publication based in Chicago. Viewers can see for themselves how the style and content of the newspaper evolved over time, and come face-to-face with the people who shaped its history. The DAAL holds the most complete collection of *The Danish Pioneer* in existence today.



The exhibit has provided an excellent opportunity for the Archive to reach out to a large segment of the Danish American community.

*Continued on page 3*



Florence and Phil Larsen (standing) brought in a delicious lunch for the volunteers.

## VOLUNTEERS FLOOD THE ARCHIVE

On April 23 volunteers from as close as Iowa and as far away as Texas began to arrive for Spring Volunteer Week. Each year in the spring and the fall these wonderful people come at their own expense help us make a leap forward in our archival work.

This year participants worked on sorting photos, digitizing Danish Brotherhood and obituary materials, indexing the Ansgar Lutheran magazine collection, translating, labeling and even shredding sensitive materials.

As always, the coffee breaks in the morning and afternoon consisted of delicious treats, and yielded many stories and memories of early Danish American days. Two local couples provided meals: Phil and Florence Larsen brought in lunch for the volunteers on Tuesday and Julie and Charles Rohlfing entertained them for dinner Wednesday evening.

Those attending were:

Ralf and Inga Hoifeldt—Urbandale, IA  
Erna Berthelsen—Albert Lea, MN  
Marilyn Meyer—Everly, IA  
Don and Marjorie Wahlgren—Gowrie, IA  
Karen Brodie and Joan Sorensen—Richardson, TX  
Dody Johnson—Iowa City, IA  
Roger and Marilyn Hanson—Cedar Falls, IA  
Palma Plume—Evergreen, CO  
Pete and Shirley Petersen—Canyon, TX

Our profound thanks go to all those who attended Volunteer Week from out of town as well as to our faithful regular volunteers who live in the area. Many of them donated not only their time but also their money to the tune of nearly \$6,000. Without their help there would be no Danish American Archive and Library.

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Wandering: the Story of Ruth Rasmussen's Many Contributions to DAAL



Ruth Rasmussen describes her life as one of wandering. In her own view the goals have not always been clear. Yet, to those who know her the accomplishments have been exceptional, and her many talents continue to benefit the Danish American Archive and Library.

Ruth was born in Omaha and raised on a dairy farm on the city's northern fringe. Her dad was born in Denmark. She began school in rural District 20 at age 4, launching her into the world of books that has been a hallmark for nearly eight decades. This may be where the wandering started, but such an early encounter with learning carries a hint of destiny. Her wandering never took her far from the life of the mind. When she was a teenager her father sold the dairy and the family then moved to Laurens, a small community in northwest Iowa. After graduating from high school in Laurens she enrolled at the University of Northern Iowa. It took her six years to get her degree in education, since she had to work to support herself and to pay the costs of college. Wandering was complemented by persistence.

She moved to Omaha to teach. Unexpectedly widowed with two little boys to care for, she continued as an elementary school teacher. Her predilection for wandering led her in 1967 to Dana College, first as a library clerk but eventually as library director. In 1972 she moved with her sons (at that time in grades 4 and 7) to Iowa City to complete her Master's in Library Science at the University of Iowa. Even while wandering, perseverance, planning, and a talent for multi-tasking proved essential.

Ruth's arrival at Dana coincided with a decisive turning point in the history of the Archive. Although among Dana's faculty there had always been glimmers of an expanded view of an archive as a repository for the stories of all Danish Americans, the actual collections centered almost entirely on church and college. Yet by the late 1960's there were few students, staff, or faculty of Danish extraction and the Danish Lutheran synod that had founded Dana had virtually disappeared into a larger Lutheran body. Dawning awareness of the swift passing of the era of Danish immigration led to a quest for archival materials beyond the strict bounds of college and church. English professor Norman Bansen and then library director Ron Johnson led the way. Ruth was there to observe and to participate. When for the first time the Archive was given its own space in the Dana library, Ruth along with Lela Neve arranged with Nebraska Furniture Mart for a discounted price on the carpeting. Ron Johnson, Ruth says, taught her to negotiate—a skill that, as we shall see, continues to benefit the Archive.

As the Archive expanded, Ruth's contributions expanded as well. She wrote thank you notes for the material and financial donations. She arranged for Sharon Jensen, then the Dana library's Assistant Director, to devote part of her time to cataloging archival materials. She encouraged Tom Nielsen to join the library staff, and Tom then did much of the work in preparing Lur books for publication. Through her continuous involvement in the Archive she now is the bearer of much of its institutional memory.

Her participation in the work of the Archive continues. She is in charge of three discrete parts of DAAL's work, all reflecting her ability to wander confidently into unfamiliar territory. She is in charge of the "family files." When people think of the Archive's collections, they usually visualize the gray acid-free boxes that cover the shelves on the Archive's east side. However, there are thousands of instances in which a particular collection is not large enough to warrant even a single box. So, information by and about this family (or

individual or organization) is placed in a manila folder in the family file. Much of the Archive's growth is actually occurring in the family file section, as DAAL supporters continue to send in newspaper articles, photographs, and writings of Danish Americans. For many years the family files were themselves stored in boxes, a cumbersome, expensive, and time consuming procedure. Ruth suggested that it would be far simpler to store these folders in three four-drawer filing cabinets. Then, using her now well honed negotiating skills, she arranged for the Archive to purchase the necessary filing cabinets from All Makes at a remarkably low price.

Secondly, Ruth takes care of purchasing archival supplies—everything from archival pens (replete with acid-free ink) to upright magazine boxes for the rapidly expanding Danish Brotherhood collection to special plastic bags used to store, but not damage, periodicals. She was in charge of purchasing as Dana's library director, and that polished skill remains an advantage in the Archive.

Third, Ruth is in charge of the sale of Lur Publications books. In the past two decades DAAL has published approximately fifteen books under the Lur banner. These books can be purchased either through Amazon or directly from the Archive. Even though no advertising is currently done, orders for these books continue to arrive. In 2011 sales amounted to nearly \$2000. *Boats in the Night* remains the Archive's best seller, but other volumes continue to find an audience. Last week five copies of *Under the Cloud* were purchased in a single day. Ruth's long-standing involvement with Lur means that she is familiar with copyright issues as well. Such knowledge is vital if the Archive is to avoid jeopardizing its tax exempt status.

Ruth's wanderings have led to her involvement with the work of the Archive for over forty years—from the days in the late '60's when the Archive began its rapid expansion to the recent relocation to downtown Blair. May her wanderings long continue, yet remain close to DAAL.

**Why Care About the  
Danish American Library  
and Archive?**

**Myrv Christopherson**  
Senior Advisor for Advancement  
[mchristo1@hotmail.com](mailto:mchristo1@hotmail.com)  
(563) 382-1939



“Why should anybody care about whether the story of a specific ethnic group survives and is told to the next generation?” Why care what Danish immigrants and their offspring brought to America -- their life experience, vital contributions, cultural traditions, writings, religious beliefs and practices, and the like? Because what they brought and did here is an essential ingredient in what makes this country special. Thankfully, many agree. How about you?

America is unique in its diversity, and the Danish American Archive and Library is dedicated to providing the means to discover how people of Danish extraction and their institutions and practices contributed to the richness of this nation. Learn how they served as pastors, teachers, business and industrial leaders, farmers, craftsmen, and in other vocations. Learn, also, how their colleges, seminaries, and social organizations helped shape and strengthen individuals and communities.

If you prize the Danish heritage and/or value how Danes have helped to shape this nation, I invite you to join me in assuring that the letters, records, diaries, photos, school, college, church, and business papers, and so much more, are preserved, translated, catalogued and made available for interested individuals and scholars. What you may not know is that the Danish American Archive and Library (DAAL) located on the main street of Blair, Nebraska offers one of the finest archival collections of any immigrant group. I believe It should be prized and supported!

Five ways to help:

- Donate archival materials or encourage others to donate letters, records, books, photos, diaries, records, news clippings, and other materials which help tell the story of Danish American individuals and organizations.
- Make annual, even monthly gifts. For example, join the \$50 or \$100 per month club – so that the archival collections will be cared for and made available to users for generations to come. Gifts of appreciated stock are welcome, too.
- Make a provision in your estate plan to leave a specific amount or a percentage of your estate to DAAL. Include a statement in your will, e.g. “I give \_\_\_\_\_(specific amount or property, percentage or residue) to the Danish American Archive and Library located in Blair, Nebraska, a tax-exempt organization. (TAX ID 27-3486925)” Or, consider making DAAL a beneficiary of an insurance policy you own.
- Volunteer your time, if you are able, to help record, translate, or in other ways care for and support the Archive and its collections.
- Visit the archive and invite others to do the same. You’ll be pleasantly surprised to discover what a treasure this growing collection is.

**DAAL Hosts *The  
Danish Pioneer* Exhibit**

*Continued from page 1*

Due to a prominent article that appeared in the *Omaha World-Herald* about the exhibit and ongoing efforts to digitize *The Danish Pioneer* and other Danish American newspapers, several individuals have visited or contacted the Archive. Approximately 860 people have seen the display in Blair, Chicago and Elk Horn, and many more are expected to visit the exhibit at Dannebrog, Nebraska, June 1-4, St. Paul, Nebraska, June 9-17, and Minden, Nebraska, June 18-30. Discussions are ongoing to make the exhibit available to additional venues in the near future.

**Dana College Alumni Information**

Several Dana College alumni have mentioned that they miss the column *Destiny’s Deep Sea* from *The Dana Review* that listed deceased alumni by graduation year. Since our newsletter is aimed at a broader Danish American audience, we don’t have the space or the resources to provide this information in *The Jottings*. However, we are happy to pass along any such information we receive to the Dana College Alumni Association so they can list it in their newsletter. Many of the donations we receive are in memory of deceased Dana alumni, so the donations page of *The Jottings* is another resource for this information.

**Birthday news**

Dagmar Vasby, subject of the Lur book *Under the Cloud*, turned 105 in February.

Inga Larsen, who has been a volunteer since the first volunteer week in 1991, will turn 100 on July 24. Her contributions to the Archive include translations in the Lur book *Danes in America: Danish Lutheranism from 1860 to 1908*.

Family and friends attended a reception at the Archive in honor of longtime volunteer Ann George’s 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 7. Ann has been invaluable in sorting and documenting the Dana College collection, first in the basement of the Dana Library, and now in a dedicated room at our current location. The Dana collection may be the largest we have, containing thousands photos, press releases, faculty and board of regents records and much, much more. Ann continues to serve as a resource not only for Dana College history, but for Archive history in general as well.

**VOLUNTEERS:** 3,537 hours by 43 volunteers from Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, and Texas.

**VISITORS:** 112 visitors from Florida, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Texas, Wisconsin and Denmark.

**USERS:** 43 users from Arizona, Iowa, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Carolina, and Wisconsin.

## ACQUISITIONS:

1. Children's reader, 8 song books, sheet music. (Donor: Dorthea Larsen Adaskin, British Columbia, Canada).
2. Email about Cyclone Giovanna. (Pat Bentsen, Madagascar).
3. Funeral Folder for Esther Tews Kirk, 4 obituaries, 2 newspaper articles. (Donor: Erna Berthelsen, Albert Lea, MN).
4. Clippings on Queen Margrethe and her visit to Dana 1976. (Donor: Wanda Blomker, Blair, NE).
5. Lulu Auger obituary & article. (Donor: Ann Boos, Washington, DC).
6. Church anniversary publications, Lawrence Bundgaard and Axel Bundgaard memementos. (Donor: Ann Bundgaard, Burnsville, MN).
7. 2 photos of Sophus Neble. (Donor: Jeremy Caniglia, Omaha, NE).
8. Picture, obituary, wedding announcement of Christen P Christensen. (Donor: Joanne Carlson, Omaha, NE).
9. Obituary and information about Esther Holm Machacynski. (Donor: Rolf Buschardt Christensen, Ontario, Canada).
10. 23 books and 12 magazines. (Donors: John & Birgitte Christianson, Minneapolis, MN).
11. Myrvin Christopherson's dissertation, Bruce Wincentsen memoir. (Donors: Myrv & Anne Christopherson, Decorah IA).
12. 2 photos, sheet music, 32 Danish records. (Donor: The Danish Immigrant Museum, Elk Horn, IA).
13. Issues of *Stjernen*. (Donor: Dannebrog Booster Club, Dannebrog, NE).
14. Agneta Nielsen's hymnals. (Donor: Iris Doolittle, Madison, NE).
15. Letters, clippings, obituaries, notebooks, photos, family trees and genealogy. (Donor: Lois Eagleton, Umpqua, OR).
16. 1743 book by Johan Arndt. (Donor: John Ferrell, Sausalito, CA).
17. Centennial histories of Blair. (Donors: Ellen & Bob Fisher, Fox Lake, WI).
18. Danish Bible. (Donor: Mitzi Fox, Albion, NE).
19. 7 postcards of the Danish royal family. (Donor: Christie Gehringer, Omaha, NE).
20. 5 obituaries. (Donor: Esther Girndberg, Circle Pines, MN).
21. Soren and Anne Stine Jensen family history. (Donor: Shirley Gutschow, Blair, NE).
22. Family history of the Christian and Katherine Hansen Family of Brayton, Iowa. (Author and donor: Frederick J. Hansen, Wichita, KS).
23. Funeral folders for Rev Norlan Hanson. (Donors: Verlan & Helga Hanson, Blair, NE).
24. Clipping and obituaries. (Donors: Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt, Urbandale, IA).
25. Church Constitution from Turkey Valley Township, South Dakota. (Donor: Grace Jensen Holm, Racine, WI).
26. Microfilm copies of *Den Danske Pioneer*. (Donor: Nira Horeis, Lafayette, CA).
27. Family histories of N.P. and C.X. Hansen and the Toxvaerd family. (Donors: Richard & JoAnn Hultberg, Omaha, NE).
28. Photo of Mr & Mrs Ralph Fredericksen, genealogical information on the Sophus Neble family. (Donor: Joann Jarvis, Omaha, NE).
29. Materials from St Peter's church in Northfield, photographs, brochures, cookbook, obituaries, Christmas cards, postcards, programs, funeral folders. (Donor: Geraldine Jasan, Northfield, MN).
30. Periodicals, Immanuel Lutheran bulletins, clippings. (Donors: Tim & Sharon Jensen, Blair, NE).
31. Gladys Hansen obituary. (Donor: Ada Jeppesen, Blair, NE).
32. Ruth Jeppesen funeral folder, book, Dana materials. (Donor: Lynda Jeppesen, Oak Park, IL).
33. Constitution and bylaws for the Danish Brotherhood, 2 books. (Donor: Karen Jessen, Waterloo, IA).
34. 3 obituaries. (Donor: Dody Johnson, Iowa City, IA).
35. Material on artist Karl Larsen, photographs, *The Artistry of Else H. Pedersen* by Ralph Pedersen. (Donor: Alice M. Jorgensen, Ferndale, MI).
36. 41 newspaper clippings, 2 obituaries, funeral folder, newsletter, journal. (Donors: Richard & Pat Jorgensen, Blair, NE).
37. Olive-leaf cards with Danish verses, language study, 4 books. (Donor: Dorothy Jensen Kingsmore, Colorado Springs, CO).
38. Picture of Bethesda Lutheran memorial stone. (Donor: JoAnn Jordahl Kleber, Northfield, MN).
39. Dana materials, clippings. (Donor, Patricia Kubie, Blair, NE).
40. Albert Leo Larsen & family materials, DBIA Lodge #36 materials. (Donor: Nancy B. Larsen, Ashland, OH).
41. Clippings, cookbook, photos, emails, translation of Abelone Larsen's diary. (Donors: Phil & Florence Larsen, Blair, NE).
42. Ordell Witte obituary. (Donors: Susan & Larry Legore, Algoma, IA).
43. Devotions by Rev Verner Carlsen. (Donors: Margaret & Frank Madsen, Milwaukee, WI).
44. Funeral folder for Janice Madsen Grindle. (Donors: Gary & Diane Madsen, Verona, WI).
45. Language tapes, email printouts. (Donor: George Madsen, Omaha, NE).
46. 12 obituaries. (Donor: Frances McGee, San Leandro, CA).
47. Records from Gethsemane Lutheran, Oyens, Iowa. (Donors: Linda & Dean Mohning, Remsen, IA).
48. 3 clippings, 10 obituaries, funeral folder, 6 books, periodical. (Donors: John W & Elizabeth Nielsen, Blair, NE).
49. 23 obituaries, clippings, anniversary booklets, funeral folder, 1960 convention materials. (Donors: LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen, Racine, WI).
50. Letter, 18 pictures of Spring Valley Lutheran Church, South Dakota. (Donor: Phyllis Nielsen, Yankton, SD).
51. Sheet music. (Donors: Robert & Karma Nilsen, Salinas, CA).
52. 12 obituaries. (Donor: Ruth Nyegaard, Eugene, OR).
53. DBIA Lodge #161 materials. (Donor: Loetta Pedersen, Superior, NE).
54. Alma Petersen obituaries. (Donor: Donna Jean Petersen, San Francisco, CA).
55. Myrtle Philipsen obituary. (Donor: Richard Philipsen, Hydesville, CA).
56. Ernest Nelsen obituary, children's readers, book, paper on Nazi occupation. (Donor: Palma Plume, Evergreen, CO).
57. 10 obituaries, clipping. (Donors: Eleanor & Don Schou, Albert Lea, MN).
58. Dr. Westergaard obituary. (Donor: Jody Sorensen, Richardson, TX).
59. Dana materials. (Donor: Larrie Stone, Blair, NE).
60. 12 obituaries, articles. (Donor: Martha Stone, Boston, MA).
61. Ordell Witte obituary. (Donor: Myrna Tostenson, Pine River, WI).
62. 1948 Danian. (Donor: Marian Ward, Blair, NE).
63. Einer Strand diary, medal. (Donor: Paula Wolf, Elmhurst, IL).
64. Book on Jack Lenor Larsen. (Donor: Deb Wood, Oklahoma City, OK).

## Memorials:

Deloris Bengtson  
 Bernard & Marilyn Erling (St Peter, MN)  
 Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)

Amos Christiansen  
 Paul Christiansen (Mesa, AZ)

Knud Dyby  
 Marine Consultants (Seattle, WA)

Cathy Hansen  
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)  
 Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)  
 Jill & Michael Hennick (Blair, NE)  
 Dody Johnson (Cedar Falls, IA)  
 Marilyn Meyer (Everly, IA)  
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Larry & Palma Plume (Evergreen, CO)

Rev Norlan Hanson  
 Bonnie & Donald Bates (Oregon, WI)  
 Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)  
 Dody Johnson (Cedar Falls, IA)  
 Norrairie Kvammen (Oregon, WI)  
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
 Maryann Lund (Mukilteo, WA)  
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Rhoda Schjodt (Blair, NE)  
 William & Shirley Schultz (Fitchburg, WI)

Persis Pedersen Hanson  
 Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)

Leroy Iseminger  
 Arvin Hernes (Blair, NE)

Herb Jeppesen  
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)

Ruth Jeppesen  
 Ada Jeppesen (Blair, NE)  
 Mildred Anderson (Park Ridge, IL)  
 Carol Doyle (Downers Grove, IL)  
 Karen Ferguson (Glen Ellyn, IL)  
 Donna Fraizer (Joliet, IL)  
 Judy Calvey Glazebrook (Chicago, IL)  
 Martin & Nancy Keniley (Plainfield, IL)  
 Ana Llorens (Chicago, IL)  
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Wayne & Judith Pier (Chicago, IL)  
 Ellenora Plugge (Blair, NE)  
 Gerald & Susan Olson (Oak Park, IL)  
 George & Sharon Rozanski (Omaha, NE)  
 Jacqueline Steigerwald (Park Ridge, IL)  
 John & Margaret Walsh (River Grove, IL)  
 John & Deb Wood (Oklahoma City, OK)  
 Joseph & Elizabeth Woodlock (Downer's Grove, IL)

Rev Paul C Johnsen  
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)  
 Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)  
 Richard & Delores Jorgensen (Poy Sippi, WI)  
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)

Virginia Jorgensen  
 LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen (Racine, WI)

Bee Krantz  
 Jack & Opal Jensen (Arlington, NE)  
 Robert & Marilyn Hansen (Yankton, SD)

Doug Lemon  
 Larry & Maureen Bock (Elkhorn, NE)  
 Arvin Hernes (Blair, NE)  
 Gene & Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)  
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Jim & Sue Olsen (Blair, NE)  
 Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)

Beulah Nielsen  
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen (Racine, WI)

Alton & Becky Neve  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)

Rev Aster Neve  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)

Dr & Mrs Paul Neve  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)

Paul Neve's birthday  
 Lori Jones (Texarkana, TX)

Rev Reid Neve  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)

Alma Petersen  
 Donna Jean Petersen (San Francisco, CA)  
 Pete & Beverly Petersen (Sioux Falls, SD)

Carol Petersen  
 Don & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)

Ruth Hansen Petersen  
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)

Ed & Coral Jean Sorenson  
 Geraldine Jasan (Northfield, MN)

Nina Juul Sorensen  
 Don & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)

Ordell Witte  
 Larry & Susan Legore (Algona, IA)

Harold Wright  
 Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)  
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)  
 Al & Marjorie Johnson (Blair, NE)  
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Patti Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Phil Pagel & Lorraine Jensen (Blair, NE)  
 Jody Sorensen (Richardson, TX)  
 Dorothy Wright (Blair, NE)

**Honoraria:**  
 Birthdays John Mark Nielsen, Mike Hibbing,  
 Elinor Hibbing & David Solevad  
 David Nielsen (Winfield, KS)  
 Ann George's 80th birthday  
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Charlie & Julie Rohlfing (Blair, NE)  
 Ruth Rasmussen (Omaha, NE)  
 John W & Elizabeth (Solevad) Nielsen  
 Anne Boos (Washington, DC)  
 Ken & Bonnie Jensen (Albert Lea, MN)  
 Margaret Sorensen (Grand Island, NE)  
 St Peter's Danish Day Festival (Northfield, MN)  
 Martha Stone (Boston, MA)  
 Paula Wolf (Elmhurst, IL)  
 LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen's 55th anniversary  
 LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen (Racine, WI)

Lisa Neilsen (St Marys, GA)  
 LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen's birthdays  
 Dale & Ruth Mortensen (North Olmstead, OH)  
 Lisa Nielsen (St Marys, GA)  
 Don Pedersen's 74th birthday  
 Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)

## General Fund:

Bill & Betsy Anderson (Blair, NE)  
 R.L. Bartley (Springfield, MO)  
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)  
 Lois Brinkmeier (Blue Mounds, WI)  
 Rebecca Pugh Brown (Ipswich, MA)  
 Roy & Betty Carstensen (Fremont, NE)  
 Phil & Marilyn Christensen (Sparks, NV)  
 Ingrid Christiansen (Brookline, MA)  
 Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
 Robert Creekmore (Old Fort, NC)  
 Iris Doolittle (Madison, NE)  
 Bernard & Marilyn Erling (St Peter, MN)  
 John & Letha Grutzik (Buena Park, CA)  
 Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)  
 Gerry Hansen (Fremont, NE)  
 Janice Hansen (Minnetonka, MN)  
 Shirley Hansen (Edina, MN)  
 Roger & Marilyn Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)  
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)  
 Robert Hemmingson (Fergus Falls, MN)  
 Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt (Urbandale, IA)  
 Paul & Liz Johnson (Fremont, NE)  
 David Iversen (Minot, ND)  
 James & Marge Iversen (Decorah, IA)  
 Jean Clark Kaldahl (Port Townsend, WA)  
 Bob & Joan Krogh (Blair, NE)  
 Inga Larsen (Bremerton, WA)  
 Janet Larsen (Fresno, CA)  
 Ezra Larsen (Boulder, CO)  
 Frances McGee (San Leandro, CA)  
 Leroy & Carmen Merritt (Lincoln, NE)  
 Paula Montgomery (Baltimore, MD)  
 LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen (Racine, WI)  
 W. Clayton Nielsen (Elk Horn, IA)  
 Ralph Olson (Albert Lea, MN)  
 Lilly & Paul Pedersen (Rockville, MD)  
 A.J. "Pete" Petersen (Kennewick, WA)  
 Eric Petersen (Mission, KS)  
 Dorothy & Erling Schultz (Box Elder, SD)  
 Robert & Susan Simpson (Castle Rock, CO)  
 David & Ellen Solevad (Pioneer, CA)  
 Jody Sorensen (Richardson, TX)  
 Duane & Lee Spong (Johns Island, SC)  
 Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)  
 Marion Svendsen (Cedar Falls, IA)  
 Karen Taylor (Springville, IA)  
 Mary Teten (Talmadge, NE)  
 Myrna Tostenson (Pine River, WI)  
 Anna Vetter (Winter Springs, FL)  
 Don & Marjorie Wahlgren (Gowrie, IA)  
 Sonja Walker (Minneapolis, MN)  
 Glen & Lola Wiese (River Falls, WI)  
 Paula Wolf (Elmhurst, IL)

*continued on page 6*

## Financial Report

Continued from page 5

### Grants:

Nebraska Humanities Council

### Furniture:

Mryv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)

Esther Jensen (Santa Maria, CA)

Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)

Shirley Moore (Blair, NE)

### 50/100:

John & Ginny Beck (Colorado Springs, CO)

Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)

Becky Bryant (West Des Moines, IA)

Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)

Norman Freund (Fremont, NE)

Christie Gehringer (Omaha, NE)

Neil & Arlene Grover (Staples, MN)

Roger & Marilyn Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)

Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)

John Hibbing & Anne Nielsen (Lincoln, NE)

Elaine & Mark Hoyer (Blair, NE)

Clement & Phyllis Hunter (Oregon City, OR)

Geraldine Jasan (Northfield, MN)

Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)

Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)

Luther & Doris Kloth (Wauwatosa, WI)

Gene & Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)

Gary & Diane Madsen (Verona, WI)

Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)

David Nielsen (Winfield, KS)

John Mark & Dawn Nielsen (Blair, NE)

John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)

LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen (Racine, WI)

Ruth Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)

Donald & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)

Pete & Shirley Petersen (Canyon, TX)

Palma & Larry Plume (Evergreen, CO)

Scott & Colleen Rasmussen (Omaha, NE)

Bill & Margaret Rodenburg (Centerville, OH)

Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)

Joan Sorensen (Ankeny, IA)

Elaine Steenblock (Ames, IA)

Doug & Jane Wilson (Farragut, IA)

John & Deb Wood (Oklahoma City, OK)

Sandra Wunder (Omaha, NE)

**The 50/100 club is a list of donors who have committed to giving at least \$50 per month to help defray monthly expenses. Our goal is 100 people committed to this cause, which will enable us to meet most of our recurring monthly expenses.**

The donations listed are only those from January-April 2012. Those received in May will be listed in the next *Jottings*.

We have not included payments for items of value (translations, research, copies, books) in the above list.

## Executive Director Report



Jill Hennick

I have heard that some people who don't live close enough to the Archive to volunteer on a weekly basis don't feel like they are much help to the Archive. Not true! While our weekly volunteers are crucial to the operation, everyone can contribute in some way.

Having just completed our annual informational tax return for the IRS, I am struck by some of the statistics from 2011.

203 Lur Publications books were sold. If you would like a brochure showing the books we have for sale, please ask.

Our *Jottings* newsletter went to 997 households in 45 states, the District of Columbia, Canada and Denmark. We will add Utah in 2012. The other states we are missing are Delaware, Mississippi, Rhode Island and West Virginia. **If you have a temporary address change** for part of the year, please let us know since the *Jottings* does not get forwarded by the post office. **Would you prefer to get the newsletter by email?** Please let us know.

**We had 484 visitors and researchers from 30 states, Denmark, Japan, Germany and Spain in 2011.** Research requests have been varied. People often use the papers of Einer Vig to research genealogy. Two people also hope to use archive material to write books. Two of our big successes were the Kringle Mingle event during the Dana Alumni and Friends Homecoming and the Grand Opening events in October 2011. During that time, we showed the Danish Immigrant Museum's traveling exhibit *Church Basements and Children's Homes*.

To be a voting member of the Archive, you need to have donated material, time or money in the past two years. We received 157 groups of materials from 21 states, Canada, and Denmark.

**73 volunteers from 9 states worked 6,122 hours!** 24 of our volunteers were new in 2011. Their work ranged from baking cookies for the open houses to joining us for a volunteer week to becoming part of our weekly group. If you are in the area and wish to volunteer even though it is not a volunteer week, please let us know. We do have some people who work from home. Most of that work is translating, although some of it is on our obituary project. One thing you could do now is comb your local papers for obituaries. It takes some reading to look at maiden names, married names and parent's names. Even if a person isn't born of Danish of descent, once they marry a Dane, we claim them! Another thing to remember is that not all Danish names end in "sen"; Koefoed, Kahldahl and Svendgaard come to mind as examples. If you do work at home, please be sure to report your hours.

289 households and organizations from 32 states, Canada and Denmark donated money. **We have received our 501c3 status and can take charitable donations directly**, either by cash, check or credit card. We raised over \$100,000 in 2011 and had a net income of over \$18,000. Ninety-one percent of our support is from individuals giving less than 2% of our total revenue, so regardless of amount, each and every donation matters.

We signed a Community Partnership agreement with the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) in 2011. Currently, we are working towards providing internship opportunities for students from UNO and from Grandview University in Des Moines, Iowa.

The picture many people have of an archive is dark and secluded. The Danish American Archive and Library is an active and vibrant organization. Through your donations of time, materials and money, you are building your archive into a nationally and internationally known repository of Danish American history. Thank you for your support.

# The Danish Lutheran Publishing House of Blair, Nebraska

The Danish Lutheran Publishing House has been gone for over half a century. Yet for sixty-seven years, the LPH, as it was informally known, was a prolific and pervasive presence in the world of Danish American Lutherans. It was founded in 1893 at the convention of the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church Association in Racine, Wisconsin.

Financial difficulties loomed large in the early years. Since organized financial support was minimal, the LPH at the outset had no choice but to borrow the necessary capital. This resulted in an initial debt of \$2,500, which progressively grew to a daunting \$36,000. A subscription campaign by the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1917 wiped out that debt and set the LPH on the road to financial stability.

The LPH initially occupied space on the first and third floors of Trinity Seminary. In the mid-1890's it rented quarters in downtown Blair. In 1898 the LPH had sufficient resources to purchase land and buildings near Front & 17<sup>th</sup> for \$3,600. Additions were made in 1927 and 1947, and fires in 1909 and 1953 forced further changes, but 17<sup>th</sup> & Front remained the LPH's permanent home.

During its first two decades the LPH focused exclusively on materials in the Danish language. Its first English language publication, *The Little Lutheran*, appeared in 1915. Hymnbooks, Sunday School materials, Luther's catechism, and church periodicals all appeared first as exclusively Danish publications, but gradually they



were all replaced, or at least paralleled, by English counterparts. One notable exception to the English-only trend was *Luthersk Ugeblad* ("Lutheran Weekly Paper") which, even though its readership steadily diminished, continued to be published alongside the *Ansgar Lutheran* right up to the close of the Lutheran Publishing House in 1960. The otherwise relentless preference for English led to the decision in 1943 to drop the word Danish from the name and become simply the Lutheran Publishing House.

This name, "Lutheran Publishing House," would seem a trifle grand. However, from the beginning it had a vision that extended well beyond that of a marginal sectarian press. Up until 1920 it published *Danskeren* ("The Dane"), a weekly newspaper that brought news of Denmark and the world into the homes of Danish immigrants. The LPH published a variety of hymnbooks for both of the Lutheran synods founded by Danish Americans. It was also the publisher of the *Rural Lutheran*, a monthly periodical that was the joint product of several Lutheran groups.

The variety of publications that the LPH produced is astonishing. Hymnbooks were

fashioned for both formal and informal settings, as with the Danish *Psalmebog for Kirke og Hjem* and its English successor *Hymnal for Church and Home*. Christmas, always a central Danish holiday, was marked with three publications, *Christmas Chimes*, *Child's Christmas Chimes*, and *Dansk Almanak* (later *Dansk Nytaar*). The *Ansgar Lutheran* was first published in 1927, and then carefully and persistently nurtured, despite considerable opposition to receiving church news in English. Conversely, the LPH supported periodicals in Danish even when interest in Danish was flagging. The *Dansk Ungdomsblad i Amerika* ("Danish Youth in America") periodical was begun in 1924 and lasted but three years.

The Danish American Archive and Library is fortunate to have an extensive collection of LPH publications—novels, memoirs, devotional materials, periodicals, hymnbooks, synodical yearbooks, Danish grammars, and much more. However, since all the LPH records were destroyed in the 1953 fire, it is impossible to know if the Archive's collection is complete.

Not only does the Archive house a large number of LPH publications, it also contains several collections that aid in understanding these materials and the publishing house that produced them. These include the 68 boxes of the collection of P.C. Jensen, (the long serving editor of the *Luthersk Ugeblad*), the collection of former synodical president N.C. Carlsen, and a collection dealing specifically with the Lutheran Publishing House itself.



## Would you like to help?

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

## Albert Lea, Minnesota, Well Represented at Volunteer Week



Dody Johnson, Erna Berthelsen and John W. Nielsen  
April, 2012

While Erna Petersen Berthelsen was the only volunteer who traveled from Albert Lea, Minnesota, this spring, two other volunteers also consider Albert Lea home. Dody Jensen Johnson and John W. Nielsen both grew up in Albert Lea.

The Deppe Jensen family and the John Nielsen family were already good friends when in 1937 they welcomed the P.A. Petersen family to Trinity Lutheran

Church in Albert Lea. The three families became very close.

Their children, including Dody, John W. and Erna attended Luther League together. Some of the Luther League activities they were involved in were acting in two plays that John W. wrote, producing a newsletter for WWII servicemen, and attending the 1944 National Convention at Dana College.

It was while Dody listened to John W. talk about the Archive at a United Evangelical Lutheran Church reunion that she came up with the idea of traveling to Blair periodically to help with the archive work. In 1991, she organized the first spring volunteer week. While Dody has done various work over the years during Archive weeks, recruiting more volunteers has to be one of the most important.

Naturally, it was Dody who encouraged her friend Erna to use her talent to translate for the Archive. Dody's husband Oscar and Erna's husband Bob were also active participants during volunteer weeks where John W.'s wife Elizabeth was a gracious hostess. Elizabeth continues to volunteer.

The friendship roots run deep. While they can reminisce together about past family memories, their time together at the Archive has given them a chance to enrich their friendship at this later stage of their lives.

Now, all three friends have successfully encouraged some of their children and grandchildren to be interested in their Danish heritage and the Archive.

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