Executive Director’s Report  
(From the Oct. 2012 Annual Meeting)

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.

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 Gehringer 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 of service.
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. Please visit us and become a “friend.”

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.

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.
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.
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 Benis, Madagascar
- Ema Berthelsen, Albert Lea, MN
- Arlene Bisson, Muskegon, MI
- Ann Boos, Washington, DC
- Lu Vasby Brown, Blair, NE
- Nancy Cansen, Ashland, OH
- Christ Lutheran Church, Vienna, WV
- Dale & Laurel Christensen, Dannebrog, NE
- Milton Crum, Helena, MT
- Danish Immigrant Museum, Elk Horn, IA
- Lois & Mark Eagleton, 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 Kirschennmann, Waverly, IA
Svend Koch, Cedar Falls, IA
Marty Koeboed, 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 Megruen, Blair, NE
Ruth Mengers, Alliance, OH
Lloyd & Muriel Neve, Blair, NE
Clayton Nielsens, Elk Horn, IA
John & Elizabeth Nielsens, Blair, NE
LeVern & Marilyn Nielsens, Racine, WI
Terri Nielsens, 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, Bradford, CT
Donald & Marjorie Wahlgren, Gowrie, IA
Jane Wilson, Farragut, IA
Paul Wolf, Elmhurst, IL
Dorothy Wright, Blair, NE

ARCHIVE REPORT  September-December 2012

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!
FINANCIAL REPORT
September-December 2012

Memorials:
A.M. Andersen
Mike & Karen Brodie (Richardson, TX)
Herbert Anderson
Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
Bill & Elva Bellows
Ruth Connell (Pasadena, CA)
Natalie Carlsten
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
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Glade Kamtz
Don & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)
Bill King
Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA) endowment
Bill & Toni Lawson (Green Bay, WI)
Bee Krantz
Agnetta Gaines (Omaha, NE)
Dorothy Larsen
Alvina Hjortsvang (Council Bluffs, IA)
Margaret E. Larsen
Liz Larsen (Cupertino, CA)
Olaf & Lillie Bondo Larsen
Ruth Randall Benson
Paul Larsen
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Helen Nelson
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Don & Eleanor Schou (Albert Lea, MN)
Deb & John Wood (Oklahoma City, OK)
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Eunice Neve
Becky Bryant (West Des Moines, IA)
Lois Carter (Blanchard, LA)
Wade Frink (Fremont, NE)
Timothy & Rosann Getts (Hillsboro, OR)
Lori Jones (Texarkana, TX)
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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)
Myrvine & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
David & Laurel Covell & family
(North Olmstead, OH)
Cumberland Island N.S. Employees Association
(St Marys, GA)
Davis & Shirley Darlington (Bennington, NE)
Melissa & Benjamin Douglas (Oakdale, MN)
Charles Doigde (Hopkins, MN)
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Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)
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Ruth Holz (Racine, WI)
Anita Hussey (Arlington, NC)
Carl & Julie Huettemann (West Lafayette, IN)
Audrey Jensen (Sioux Falls, SD)
Ray & Julie Jensen (Aquila, 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)
Norma Stone at birthday
Lanie Stone (Blair, NE)
Sue Thomsen
Marlyn Meyer (Everly, IA)
Ordell Witte
Virgil Witte (Northfield, MN)

Honoraria:
Archive Volunteers
Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
Myrvine & Anne Christopherson
Howard & Ruth Braren (Rock Island, IL)
Gary Hansen’s 60th 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 (Bronnbach, CT)

**General Fund:**
Marilyn & Ernest (Greek) Abanotes (Blair, NE)
Lloyd & Ann Bansen (Yamhill, OR)
R.L. Barley (Springfield, MO)
Dennis Bartan (Kirkwood, MO)
Kevin & Lori Bayne (Omaha, NE)
Grace Beck (Omaha, NE)
Ema Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
Blair Area Community Foundation (Blair, NE)
Cargill
Carla Andersen
Julie Warden
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Ann Boos (Washington, DC)
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Ingrid Christensen (Brookline, MA)
John & Janis Christensen (Omaha, NE)
Glen & Margaret Christofferson (Redwood City, CA)
Myrvin & Anne Christoperson (Decorah, IA)
Bob & Joan Coffey (Menomonee Falls, WI)
Gary & Marge Danielson (Bemidji, MN)
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1 (Omaha, NE)
Danish Vennelykst Park (Omaha, NE)
Conny Derry (Omaha, NE)
Anne-Marie Douglas (Chicago, IL)
Ann Clark Epley (Omaha, NE)
Doug & Cindy Erikson (Grants Pass, OR)
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JoAnn & Roger Hohenese (Blair, NE)
Ralf & Inga Hofeldt (Urbana, IL)
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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 Johnson (Huntington Beach, CA)
Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)
David & Michelle Johnson (Lawrence, KS)
Niel Johnson (Independence, MO)
Paul & Liz Johnson (Fremont, NE)
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Don & Joyce Jorgensen (Ripon, WI)
Herk & Carol Jorgensen (Green Lake, WI)
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Lis Jorgensen (Burnsville, MN)
Richard & Delores Jorgensen (Poy Sippi, WI)
Michael & Jeanette Jurkovich (Fresno, CA)
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Hans Larsen (Fremont, NE)
Johannes Laurens (Rockville Centre, NY)
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Carolyn Nielsen (St Clair Shores, MI)
Cheryl Nielsen (Harlan, IA)
W. Clayton Nielsen (Solvang, CA)
Eliott Nielsen (Minend, NE)
LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen (Racine, WI)
Folmer & Vera Nyby (Michigan City, IN)
Duane & Lillian Olsan (Portland, OR)
Arycse Olsen (Missouri Valley, IA)
Jim & Sue Olsen (Blair, NE)
Roger & Dorothy Olson (Blair, NE)
Duane & Anna Pederson (Ames, IA)
A. Richard & Beverly Petersen (Sioux Falls, SD)
Dorothy & Jan Petersen (Puyallup, WA)
Eric Petersen (Mission, KS)
Ruth Peterson (Portland, OR)
Hannah Powell (Middlebury, VT)
Arvin Quist (Oak Ridge, TN)
Sandra Rasmussen (Des Moines, IA)
Tom Richardson (Fond du Lac, WI)
Charlie & Julie Rohtling (Blair, NE)
Mary Ruden (Littleton, CO)
Irene Schmidt (Auburn, IA)
Steven Schou (Dickinson, ND)
Jens & Eileen Simonsen (Oakdale, NE)
Ole Sonnichsen (Kolding, Denmark)
Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)
Margaret Sorensen (Grand Island, NE)
Ron & Nancy Sorensen (Blair, NE)
Arill Stockdale (Ames, IA)
Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)
Martha Stone (Boston, MA)
Verda Swanson (Des Moines, IA)
Larry Syndergaard (Kalamazoo, MI)
Gene & Nancy TeSelle (Tekamah, NE)
Mary Tenen (Talmage, NE)
Paul Thisted (Evergreen, CO)
Mary Ann Todd (Omaha, NE)
Myra Tostenson (Pine River, WI)
Willis Tomsen (Tulsa, OK)
Charlotte Travis (San Antonio, TX)
Arlen & Asta Tweed (Ankeny, IA)
Phil Vasby (Blair, NE)
Don & Marjorie Wahlgren (Gowrie, IA)
Mary Weckmuller (Blair, NE)
Paula Wolf (Elmhurst, IL)
Bob Woodworth (Omaha, NE)

**Endowment:**
Doris Hansen Bengtson
Earl Bengtson (Lincolnshire, IL)
**General**
Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)
Irvine Jensen, Jr. (Sioux City, IA)
Duncan & Kathryn Meldrum (Mertztown, PA)
**Rev C.I. “Jerry” Lund**
The Green Kitty Cat Fund of the Lutheran Community Foundation (Maryann Lund)
**Rev. Aster & Ruth Neve**
Myrvin & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
**Grants:**
Blair Area Community Foundation (Blair, NE)

**50/100:**
John & Ginny Beck (Colorado Springs, CO)
Ruth Randall Benson (Apple Valley, MN)
Ema Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
Becky Bryant (West Des Moines, IA)
Borge M. Christensen (Rochester, MN)
Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
Norman Freeman (Fremont, NE)
Christie Gehringer (Omaha, NE)
Neil & Arlene Grover (Staples, MN)
Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)
Roger & Marilyn Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)
Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
Elaine & Mark Hoyer (Blair, NE)
John Hibbing & Anne Nielsen (Lincoln, NE)
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John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen (Racine, WI)
Lisa Nielsen (St Marys, GA)
Ruth Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)
Donald & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)
Karl Petersen & Joan Pearson (Bainbridge Island, WA)
Pete & Shirley Petersen (Canyon, TX)
James Peterson (Richfield, MN)
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Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)
Joan Sorensen (Ankeny, IA)
Martha Staby (Loveland, CO)
Elaine Steenblock (Ames, IA)
Brent & Karen Stover (Bainbridge Island, WA)

The donations listed are only those from September - December 2012. Those received in 2013 will be listed in the next Jottings.
ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Founder Level
$2,000+
The Archive was thrilled to receive a donation of $20,000 for our endowment from Earl Bengtson ofLincolnshire, IL in memory of his wife, Deloris.

Ema Berthelsen, Albert Lea, MN
Myrv & Anne Christopherson, Decorah, IA
Alf & Lili Gregerson, Ridgefield, WA
Frederick Hansen, Wichita, KS
Roger & Marilyn Hanson, Cedar Falls, IA
Esther Jensen, Santa Maria, CA
Dody Johnson, Iowa City, IA
Don & Joyce Jorgensen, Ripon, WI
Phil & Florence Larsen, Blair, NE
Maryann Lund, Mukilteo, WA
David Neve, Des Moines, IA
John & Elizabeth Nielsen, Blair, NE
Lisa Nielsen, St. Marys, GA
Folmer & Very Nyby, Michigan City, IN
Joan Sorensen, Richardson, TX
Phil Vasby, Cambridge, WI

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Blair Area Community Foundation
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Ingrid Christiansen, Brookline, MA
Paul Christiansen, Mesa, AZ
Dorothy Devasare, Sanibel, FL
Peter Flinkh, Alexandria, VA
Ethan & Pat Hansen, Atascadero, CA
Hugh & Jane Hunt, Blair, NE
Tim & Sharon Jensen, Blair, NE
Richard & Delores Jorgensen, Poy Sippi, WI
Charles & Janet Kahn, Gulf Breeze, FL
Jerry Kirkegaard, Denver, CO
Luther & Doris Kloth, Wauwatosa, WI
Duncan & Kathryn Meldrum, Mertztown, PA
Marilyn Meyer, Everly, IA
Shirley Moore, Blair, NE
NE Humanities Council, Lincoln, NE
LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen, Racine, WI
Larry & Palma Plume, Evergreen, CO
Sandra Rasmussen, Des Moines, IA
Bill & Margaret Rodenkurb, Centerville, OH
Sandra & LeRoy Wigdahl, Blair, NE

$500-$999
Dennis Barten, Saint Louis, MO
Becky Bryant, West Des Moines, IA
Borge M. Christensen, Rochester, MN
John & Janis Christensen, Omaha, NE
Norman Freund, Fremont, NE
Christie Gehringer, Omaha, NE
Joyce & Jerry Gilbert, Eugene, OR
Arlene & Neil Grover, Staples, MN
Verlan & Helga Hanson, Blair, NE
Michael & Jill Hennick, Blair, NE
Anne & John Hibbing, Lincoln, NE
Mark & Elaine Hoyer, Blair, NE
Irving Jensen, Jr., Sioux City, IA
Ada Jeppesen, Blair, NE
Liz Larsen, Cupertino, CA
Bill & Toni Lawson, Green Bay, WI
Gene & Nancy Lindblad, Blair, NE
Earl Nelson, Mt Pleasant, WI
Andrea Neve, Minneapolis, MN

david nielsen, winfield, KS
John Mark & Dawn Nielsen, Blair, NE
Ruth Nyegaard, Eugene, OR
Don & Audrey Pedersen, Pea Ridge, AR
Karl & Joan Pearson Petersen, Bainbridge Island, WA
Pete & Shirley Petersen, Canyon, TX
Gerald & Tamara Quirk, Savannah, GA
Dorothy & Erling Schultz, Box Elder, SD
Sandra Sonderup, Blair, NE
Martha Staby, Loveland, CO
Elaine Stenbog, Ames, IA
Don & Marjorie Wahlgren, Gowrie, IA
Deborah & John Wood, Oklahoma City, OK
Sandra Wunder, Omaha, NE

$250-$499
Don Freberg, Prairie Village, KS
Robert Hemmingson, Ferguson Falls, MN
Carl & Julie Huettetman, West Lafayette, IN
Clement & Phyllis Hunter, Oregon City, OR
Paul & Liz Johnson, Fremont, NE
Lori Jones, Texarkana, TX
Herb & Carol Jorgensen, Green Lake, WI
Jean Clark Kaldahl, Port Townsend, WA
Johannes Laursen, Rockville Centre, NY
Loyd & Marie Neve, Omaha, NE
Dorothy & Jon Petersen, Puyallup, WA
Pete & Beverly Petersen, Sioux City, IA
Munya Tostenson, Pine River, WI
Glenn & Lola Wiese, River Falls, WI
Doug & Jane Wilson, Farragut, IA
Paula Wolf, Elmhurst, IL
Dorothy Wright, Blair, NE

$100-$249
Marilyn & “Greek” Abarioites, Blair, NE
Mark & Jody Amland, Stillwater, MN
Lloyd & Ann Bansen, Yarnhill, OR
Arvid Bolleson, Tustin, CA
Mark & Erika Bondo, Freehold, NJ
Ann Boos, Washington, DC
Howard & Ruth Braren, Rock Island, IL
Judy Brehm, Blair, NE
James & Annette Brown, Mishicot, WI
Rebecca Pugh Brown, Ipswich, MA
Roy & Betty Carstensen, Fremont, NE
Christ Lutheran Church, Vienna, WV
John & Myra Christensen, Fortuna, CA
Phil & Marilyn Christensen, Sparks, NV
Vaughn & Clare Christensen, Blair, NE
Glen & Margaret Christoffersen, Redwood City, CA
Bob & Joan Coffey, Menomonie Falls, WI
Daniel Connell, Jr., Centennial, CO
Ruth Connell, Pasadena, CA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1, Omaha, NE
Danne Venneylest Park, Omaha, NE
Barbara Dupuis, Racine, WI
Anne Clark Eppley, Omaha, NE
Bernard & Marilyn Erling, St Peter, MN
Ken & Mary Ann Fehr, Racine, WI
Lyle & Dorothy Feisel, St Michaels, MD
Ron & Gene Flansburg, Tequesta, FL
Agnete Gaines, Omaha, NE
Eugene & Becky Gruse, Arlington, NE
John & Esther Grindberg, Blaine, MN
John & Letha Grutzik, Buena Park, CA
Shirley Hansen, Edina, MN
Alice Hanson, Oregon, WI
Arvin Hermes, Blair, NE
Alvina Hjortsvang, Council Bluffs, IA
Isabel Hoehg, Atlantic, IA
JoAnn Hohensee, Blair, NE

Ralf & Inga Hofeldt, Urbandale, IA
Ron & Rikki Hulsebus, Phoenix, AZ
Lynette Hunt, Blair, NE
James & Marge Iversen, Decorah, IA
Jean Jaspers-Naegle, Columbus, NE
Audrey Jensen, Sioux Falls, SD
Ken & Bonnie Jensen, Albert Lea, MN
Lynda Jepesness, Oak Park, IL
Joyce Johnsen, Huntington Beach, CA
David & Michelle Johnson, Lawrence, KS
Julianne Johnson, Columbus, OH
Niel Johnson, Independence, MO
Alice M. Jorgensen, Ferndale, MI
Chuck & Joyce Jorgensen, Blair, NE
Jim & Linda Jorgensen, Blair, NE
Michael & Jeannette Jurkovich, Fresno, CA
Herbert & Karen Knudsen, Ogallala, NE
Bob & Joan Krogh, Blair, NE
Clark & Christine Larsen, Columbus, OH
Cliff & Lucy Larson, Edina, MN
Larry & Judith Larson, Racine, WI
Jerry & Shirley Lincoln, Lincoln, CA
Frances McGee, San Leandro, CA
Deb McWhirter, Allison, IA
Paula Montgomery Baltimore, MD
Donna Morton, La Habra, CA
Bodil & Jorn Muller, Hillsboro, OR
John Neitzel, Seattle, WA
William & Margaret Nelson, St Peter, MN
Alice & Leon Neve, Saint Paul, MN
Ruth Neve, Edina, MN
Marilyn & Roger Nichols, Tucson, AZ
Carolyn Nielsen, St Clair Shores, MI
Lynn & Mary Nielsen, Cedar Falls, IA
W. Clayton Nielsen, Solvang, CA
Jim & Sue Olsen, Blair, NE
Duane & Anna Pedersen, Ames, IA
Lily Pedersen, Rockville, MD
Donna Jean Petersen, San Francisco, CA
Ruth Peterson, Portland, OR
Arvin & Joan Quist, Oak Ridge, TN
Scott & Colleen Rasmussen, Omaha, NE
Charles & Marilyn Roum, Vernon, WA
George & Sharon Rozanski, Omaha, NE
Mary Ruden, Littleton, CO
Irene Schmidt, Audubon, IA
Jens & Eileen Simonsen, Oakdale, NE
Ole Sonnichsen, Kolding, Denmark
Duane & Lee Spong, Johns Island, SC
Artiss Stockdale, Ames, IA
Larrin Stone, Blair, NE
Mary E. Tetten, Talmadge, NE
Paul Thisted, Evergreen, CO
Finn Thomsen, Aalborg, Denmark
Willis Tomson, Tulsa, OK
Charlotte Travis, San Antonio, TX
Lynn Troskow, Chincoteaque Island, VA
Sonja Walker, Minneapolis, MN
Mary Weckmuller, Blair, NE
Virgil Witte, Northfield, MN

$50-$100
Bill & Betsy Anderson, Blair, NE
R.L. Bartley, Springfield, MO
Lori & Kevin Bayne, Omaha, NE
Lydia & Peter Beckman, Bainbridge Island, WA
Ila Berry, Willoughby, OH
David and Betty Bidstrup, Racine, WI
Lois Carter, Blanchard, LA
David & Laurel Covell, North Olmstead, OH
Cumberland Island N.S. Employees Assn., St. Marys, GA
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-endowment fund revenue, which has a balance of $109,907.55. In summary, this consisted of $22,942.86 salary expense, $18,204.94 development expense, $91,332.84 routine expenses, and $33,481.96 profits.

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. _______

Signature ________________________________________________________________

Name________________________________________ Spouse ______________________

Mailing Address _______________________________________________________

City________________________ State________ Zip________

Phone________________________ Email______________________________

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.