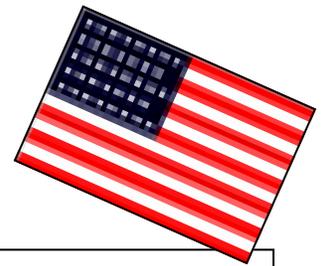


JOTTINGS



A publication of the Danish American Archive and Library

Jan. – May 2017

VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE FOR THE DAAL

Question: What do a 9-year-old elementary school girl from Georgia and a 92-year-old retired pastor and college professor from Nebraska have in common? **Answer:** Both have volunteered at the Danish American Archive and Library in 2017.

During our Spring Volunteer Week in April, the DAAL's 92-year-old Executive Director Emeritus John W. Nielsen was working here along with 9-year-old Ren Meldrum who came here with four generations of her family.



Four generations of Jody Sorensen's family stand in front of the portrait of their ancestor A.M. Andersen who was one of the founders of Trinity Seminary and Dana College.

The Danish American Archive and Library (DAAL) is unique in that we are not sponsored or supported by any other organization. Most archives receive funding from a parent institution and are able to hire full-time paid staff. That isn't the case for the DAAL. Our funding comes solely from the donations we receive from our supporters. We have two part-time paid staff members who continually put in effort over and above their hours and job descriptions, and the rest of the work is done by volunteers. And although we don't have 9-year-old volunteers here on a regular basis, we do have a corps of volunteers from a wide range of ages and backgrounds who come in to work anywhere from one to five days a week.

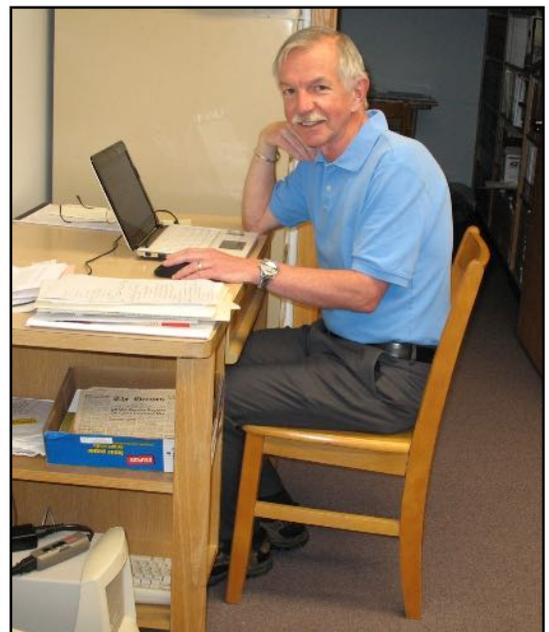
Many of these volunteers have been donating their time to the archive since Dody Johnson, who was then living in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and who now lives in Blair, organized the first volunteer weeks in 1991 when the DAAL was still located at Dana College. Currently we schedule three volunteer weeks per year—spring, summer and fall—and people come from all over the country at their own expense to work. In 2016 we had 64 volunteers from 6 different states who donated 5,700 hours of work. So far in 2017, we have had 41 volunteers from 7 different states donating 2,100 hours.

At a rough count we have twelve regular volunteers in their 80s or 90s, seven in their 70s, and most encouragingly, ten in their 50s and 60s. It is these younger volunteers that are our hope for the future of the DAAL. Added to these numbers is a special volunteer week we had in April. One of our longest-serving volunteers, Joan (Jody) Sorensen, brought eight volunteers comprising four generations of her family from Georgia, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Texas for our Spring Volunteer Week. These eight volunteers ranged in age from 89 all the way down to Ren, age 9, and collectively they

completed a massive amount of work in all areas of the archive.

The remarkable thing about all of our volunteers is the amount of talent they bring to us. Most held highly responsible positions in a wide variety of fields before they retired. Volunteers take care of everything from basic archival work, to library management, to internet technology to marketing and advertising. Add to that the fact that many of them are our most generous financial donors.

Why do these people choose to donate their time and talents to the DAAL? Dr. Timothy Jensen, who has served on our board of directors since we became incorporated and who was the archive's president from 2008 to 2012, says it best. *After many years as a college professor and even more as a systems analyst for a phone company, I was ready to begin again. Another career could have taken the form of quietly aging on the living room couch, but then I discovered—or rediscovered—Denmark. Three days after my "retirement" in 2006 I entered the world of Danish America and have yet to leave. I've become entranced by the stories of immigrant life, by the immigrants' determination to begin again and again, and by the ability to find celebration and joy both in the midst of the darkness of difficulty and the sunshine of success. I fear that these Danish American stories can all too easily be lost and their experiences forgotten, so I do what I can to preserve them. The Danish American stories are those of a particular people, but they are also participants in the stories of all peoples. Working in the DAAL gives me new eyes for America and for Denmark, a tiny archipelago on the northern edge of Europe, and a place of endless variety. As Danish scientist and poet Hein expresses it, "Denmark seen from foreign land looks but like a grain of sand. Denmark as we Danes conceive it is so big you won't believe it."* ■



Dr. Timothy Jensen is just one of the outstanding volunteers making a difference for the DAAL.

FROM THE DANA ROOM

LAURITZ MELCHIOR'S LEGACY AT DANA COLLEGE

By Ann Harms George

Articles in the two previous "Jottings" (available in the digital archive, danishamericanarchive.net) discussed the ties between Danish-born heroic tenor Lauritz Melchior and Dana College. This last installment on the relationship concerns his legacy, which began, after his death in 1973, with the dedication in 1975 of the Melchior Memorial Room in the college library, an event described in the Sept.-Dec. 2016 issue.

After its October 10-12, 1975, dedication, those visiting the Lauritz Melchior Memorial Room included, on May 20, 1976, Queen Margrethe II and Prince Henrik of Denmark. As a child, Queen Margrethe had heard Melchior sing for her parents, and she had asked to see the Memorial Room as part of her campus visit. Visiting fans also included a husband and wife who had been supernumeraries ("supers") in on-stage crowd scenes in operas in which Melchior sang.

A visitor in late May, 1986, was more than a fan. Shirlee Emmons, an associate professor at Boston University and a private vocal coach and opera singer, was seeking information on Melchior for an authorized biography that would become "Tristanissimo."

Emmons had known Melchior and had performed with him: After he retired from the Metropolitan Opera in 1950, he was able to give more time to one of his interests, which was to help promising young singers. He auditioned many hopefuls and selected Emmons and five others to tour with him in the early 1950s on what became the popular "Lauritz Melchior Show." She later appeared with Melchior on other occasions as well. (Emmons writes about these experiences in "Tristanissimo.")

At the end of her seven days of research at Dana, Emmons said in an interview in the local newspaper, "The amount of information available here is wonderful. It's filling in a lot of gaps in Lauritz's life." In "Tristanissimo," in acknowledging her sources, she describes the Melchior Room's "over 50 scrapbooks . . . containing special interest material and all publicity items dating between 1918 and 1973."

The critically praised biography was published by Schirmer Books, a division of Macmillan, Inc., in 1990 to coincide with the centennial of Melchior's birth. A reviewer in *The Wall Street Journal* described it as "a perfectly splendid biography, candid, informed, amusing . . ."

Then on October 13, 1990, Emmons and Ib Melchior, Lauritz's son, who had selected Dana as the destination for the Melchior memorabilia and who had participated in the dedication, returned to the campus for a program titled "Tristanissimo: in Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Lauritz Melchior." In it, the son reminisced about his father, and the biographer spoke on "Melchior: The Man and His Music." At intervals during Emmons's talk, Mark Rehnstrom, who had studied voice with Emmons, sang selections from Melchior's repertoire, ranging from opera to show tunes.

Two years before that centennial celebration, on March 5, 1988, Dana hosted its first Lauritz Melchior Memorial Competition for area high school voice students. The competition, which honored Melchior's commitment to helping young singers, was organized by members of the music department. The college offered three scholarships totaling \$12,000, and a panel of five judges critiqued each student's performance.

The competitions also featured guest artists who performed and conducted clinics for the young singers. The artist-clinician for the first competition was bass-baritone William Warfield, who was especially known for his roles in the stage production of "Porgy and Bess" and the movie, "Show Boat."

More recently, as explained in the Melchior article in the Sept.-Dec. 2016 *Jottings*, a few days before Dana closed in July 2010, Dr. John Mark Nielsen, who was then executive director of the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa, arranged with Ib Melchior to move the contents of the Melchior Memorial Room to the museum for safekeeping. Nielsen and Melchior subsequently signed an agreement for the artifacts the museum wished to keep. Then in 2015 the museum transferred the music-related materials to Blair, where they're now under the protection of the DAAL. (The materials include the scrapbooks Shirlee Emmons used in her research; they have been digitized and are available in the DAAL's digital archive.)

Michael Hennick, DAAL library assistant, in describing the growth of the collection in the previous *Jottings*, noted that the DAAL's Melchior holdings "suddenly went from six feet of shelf space to more than sixty!" ■

[Melchior's scrapbooks contain posters and advertisements such as those shown here, and a wealth of clippings and other memorabilia. To see the entire group of scanned scrapbooks, go to [danishamericanarchive.com/links/Lauritz Melchior Scrapbooks](http://danishamericanarchive.com/links/Lauritz_Melchior_Scrapbooks).]



NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT DANA COLLEGE

[*Editor's Note: This article by Editor Katie Rohman appeared in the May 15 issue of the Washington County Pilot-Tribune and Enterprise.*]

Developer Frank Krejci is still the owner of the former Dana College campus, Angels Share, Inc. founder Ed Shada confirmed last week.

Shada, a Council Bluffs, Iowa, resident and vice president at Great Western Bank, announced his \$92 million plan for the Frank and Jane Krejci Learning and Life Community (KLC) in Blair on March 6.

The KLC co-namesake has announced he will be donating the campus and an agricultural parcel along state Highway 91, behind the campus, to Angels Share.

Shada's organization is planning 150 residential units for behavioral health, post-foster care youth and senior citizens on the campus.

The KLC's main tenant will be Grace University, a private college in Omaha scheduled to relocate to Blair in May 2018. Grace signed a letter of intent with Angels Share on March 6. As proposed, it will occupy all or parts of several buildings.

Another tenant is Blair's Good Shepherd Lutheran Community, which plans to build long-term, skilled nursing "small houses." Digg Site Productions, a movie production company in Fremont, Nebraska, will relocate to various areas of the campus, including Borup Coliseum and half of the suite-style apartments. Christ Lutheran Church of Blair is tentatively expected to locate its first permanent home at the KLC.

Angels Share will serve as a nonprofit umbrella for the campus, which will be donated by Krejci, who has owned the property since July 19, 2013. Donations to Angels Share are being directed to the nonprofit Blair Area Community Foundation as Angels Share works to obtain its nonprofit status.

Krejci, an Elkhorn, Nebraska, resident and prominent Omaha area developer, purchased the campus for \$3.49 million. Midland University

leased the property until its fundraising efforts fizzled and it terminated its lease on March 31, 2016.

Krejci got a "bargain" on the 150-acre property. In 2013, it was valued at \$5.7 million — \$2.2 million more than what he paid.

County assessor's records show that in 2016, the campus's value dropped 40.5 percent to \$3.4 million. Several buildings devalued by around 50 percent, like Pioneer Memorial and the Durham Center and Trinity Chapel. Damage from a major hailstorm in 2014, coupled with several serious cases of vandalism and lack of maintenance, are the main factors in the decreased valuation....

...Shada said that Krejci's donation of the campus to Angels Share is not contingent on any fundraising goal the organization meets.

"If I don't have the money, I'm not going to take it from him," Shada said.

He said the first \$10 million seems to be Angels Share's biggest hurdle. Some potential donors, he claims, have said they may chip in at least that amount if the \$10 million benchmark is reached.

"There's been a lot of good conversations with a lot of good people," Shada said.

In the meantime, Shada has met with Dana alumni about volunteering to help at the campus. He was targeting a weekend, weather permitting, to turn on heat and water in buildings and move out furniture.

"We'll need people to go through and mark down, this is working and this isn't working," he said.

After that, there will be a "big cleanup," Shada said.

"Then we can make a determination of what it's actually going to cost to get Grace in," he said. They will also need to figure out where Christ Lutheran will go, pending its membership's vote. ■



Argo Hall as it appeared in May 2016. It sustained damage from the 2014 hailstorm, plus the further deterioration of standing vacant for seven years.

ONGOING REPAIRS

McKinnis, Inc. of Blair has been hard at work making repairs to the Dana College buildings since the crippling hailstorm of 2014. The campus was then being leased by Midland University of Fremont, Nebraska, who hired McKinnis to make minimal repairs using just part of the allotted insurance funds.

When Midland allowed their lease to lapse, responsibility for the maintenance of the buildings reverted to campus owner Frank Krejci. According to McKinnis Project Manager Bobby McKinnis, Mr. Krejci authorized the use of the entire insurance budget to repair as much of the campus as possible.

So far McKinnis has made the following repairs:

- Replaced the roofs of the Durham Campus Center, Holling Hall, Borup Coliseum, Mickelsen Hall, Blair Hall, the C.A. Dana-Life Library, Madsen Fine Arts Center, C.A. Dana Hall of Science, and the Gardner-Hawks building
- Guttered Blair Hall to remediate a serious mold problem and replaced the windows
- Replaced the windows in the library and Pioneer Memorial

"Mr. Krejci deserves a lot of credit for everything he has done for the Dana College campus," says McKinnis. "He has gone over and above what he really needed to do."

Work will be complete as soon as all the broken windows are replaced in Pioneer Memorial and Blair Hall. ■



**Ed Shada |
Katie Rohman**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Danish American Archive and Library would not exist without its dedicated volunteer base. Thank you all so much for being part of that! In 2016 we had 64 volunteers (12 of them new) donating over 5,700 hours of work. And, now we have an amazing start on 2017 after having 14 out-of-town volunteers working diligently at our Spring Volunteer Week in April. Also in 2016 we served 337 visitors and users from 29 states, Canada, Denmark and Germany.

For each of the past seven years, we have finished financially in the black. Initially, we saved any surplus to cover the next year's budget and to build up our endowment. This year, we have tapped into the surplus for some wonderful changes.

We are moving from a "make do" mentality to finding ways to enhance our efficiency while looking better at the same time. We have used our designated donations and other funds to purchase chairs, tables, computers and software. We felt like we were having Christmas in March! We rearranged our furniture to make our space more welcoming and efficient. Thanks go out to Sandra Wigdahl and Marty Koefoed for purchasing the computers and setting up the work stations. We also added Danish and American flags to our sign on the front of the building to increase our visibility.

Most importantly we are using some of our funds to pay down our mortgage. We have reduced a \$120,000 mortgage to just \$50,000 in less than two years.

With building ownership comes the responsibility for upkeep. This involves monitoring the humidity in order to protect our precious materials and books, plus other routine maintenance such as having the fire alarm and extinguishers tested and hiring an exterminator. At the DAAL, we love bookworms, but only the human kind.

We continue to partner with other organizations to have our facility used

by students and researchers. In April Tim and Sharon Jensen gave a class to Midland University students. This has resulted in at least one of the students applying to work as an intern. If Grace University moves to the Dana College campus from Omaha, which is currently being planned, we have pinpointed several ways that we can work with them. In April we hosted Grace University CEO Bill Bauhard and Ed Shada, the head of Angels Share, an umbrella organization planning to renovate the Dana Campus. Mr. Shada indicated that we may have a chance to retrieve more Danish-oriented books and Dana College documents if his plans succeed. As of the end of March, the last of the 1,000 books retrieved from the Dana College library last year were catalogued and put into our library collection.

We continue to get new collections and are looking forward to receiving a genealogy of the Bondo family from the Boomer Township/Neola, Iowa area. This collection consists of approximately 60 binders of information that will tie into at least a dozen of our other collections. Five boxes of books from the Frederick Jensen collection will be the next big addition to our library. And we have seven new boxes to add to the vast Ed and Shirley Hansen collection.

During April Volunteer Week our volunteers not only brought excellent treats to enjoy with coffee each day, but also accomplished an unprecedented amount of work. They:

- Organized files in individual collections
- Indexed magazine collections
- Translated letters and other documents such as sermons
- Completed an initial sort of Dana College materials that had not yet been touched
- Organized and summarized the collection of Henry O. Thompson,

who served in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War

- Brought obituary files up do date
- Merged materials in binders and culled out duplicates
- Transferred as yet untouched materials to acid-free boxes
- Sleeved and organized the collection of phonograph records
- Alphabetized and filed letters in the John W. Nielsen collection
- Boxed up scanned copies of Dana College press releases
- Reorganized the books published by Lur Publications.

This list very briefly describes some of the work the volunteers did, but actually they did much more. For example, several of the volunteers took the initiative and did things like creating digital methods for organizing materials that will be useful to us going forward. Although the list is sketchy, I think it shows the wide variety of the work these wonderful volunteers did. Never in my experience has so much been accomplished in one week. What a thrill to be part of an organization with such dedicated volunteers, not only for this one week, but throughout the year. ■



*Executive Director
Jill Hennick*



A new, efficient work space thanks to your generous donations.

COMPUTERS AND TABLES AND CHAIRS, OH MY!

Regular volunteers at the DAAL are thrilled with the new equipment and furniture we have been able to purchase, thanks to the generosity of our donors. Much of what we have been working with we brought with us from Dana College, and it was pretty old even then. Four new work stations are now operational with new computers and software. Eighteen new chairs replace our old wooden chairs and plastic lawn chairs, and four new matching tables replace the mismatched old ones. The result is a welcoming, professional and efficient space. ■

VOLUNTEERS: 2,100 hours by 41 volunteers from Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

VISITORS: 42 visitors from California, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, New York, South Dakota, Denmark and Finland.

USERS: 47 users from California, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, South Carolina, Canada, Denmark, Finland and email.

ACQUISITIONS

The following are the donations of materials we have received from January through April. The Archive could not continue to document the history of Danish Americans without these wonderful materials including complete family collections, photos, books, periodicals, music and obituaries.

Materials:

Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Larry & Lois Bornemeier (Danbury, CT)
 Becky Bryant (West Des Moines, IA)
 Danish Federation (Ontario, Canada)
 K. Engelsen (Minneapolis, MN)
 Fern Faaborg (Ankeny, IA)
 Esther Grindberg (Circle Pines, MN)
 Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)
 Nancy Hansen (Fullerton, NE)
 Marcia Hennick (Rincon, GA)
 Christian M. Hermansen (Nishinomiya, Japan)
 Arvin Hernes (Blair, NE)
 Don Hoffman (Missouri Valley, IA)
 Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt (Urbandale, IA)
 Elaine Bondo Hoyer (Blair, NE)
 Geraldine Jasan (Northfield, MN)
 Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)
 Arne & Meryl Jessen (Woodbury, MN)
 Dody Johnson (Blair, NE)
 Paul & Liz Johnson (Fremont, NE)
 Jim & Linda Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
 Rich & Pat Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
 Frank Korshoj (Herman, NE)
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Betty Megrue (Blair, NE)
 Muriel Neve (Blair, NE)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Ruth Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)
 Don & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)
 T. Richard Petersen (Herman, NE)
 Ruth Rasmussen (Blair, NE)
 Sharon Rozanski (Omaha, NE)
 Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)
 Ralph & Nina Spear (Burlington, NC)
 Mary Wahlgren (Fort Dodge, IA)
 Le Roy & Sandra Wigdahl (Blair, NE)
 John & Deb Wood (Oklahoma City, OK)

Mark Hoyer
 Gary & Barbara Repair (Omaha, NE)
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 Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)
 Kurt Lauritz Jensen
 Chris Gehringer (Omaha, NE)
 Carol Jorgensen
 Herb Jorgensen (Green Lake, WI)
 Roger & Marilyn Nichols (Tucson, AZ)
 Hillary Kaldahl
 Ron & Kathie Nielsen (White Bear Lake, MN)
 Jeri Kubicek
 Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)
 Sister Mary McAuley
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Monte Mead
 Gene & Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)
 Gene Megrue
 Betty Megrue (Blair, NE)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Alton & Becky Neve
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 Patti Nielsen (Blair, NE)
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 Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Blair, NE)
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Rick Plugge
 Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Gerda Skov Sorensen
 Allan Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)
 Hans G. Sorensen
 Linda Sorensen Grandage

Mary Weckmuller's 90th birthday
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)

**The Green Kitty Cat Fund of InFaith Community Foundation was established in memory of Rev. C. I. "Jerry" Lund by Maryann Lund & family.*

General Fund:

All donations are placed in the General Fund unless otherwise specified. Those who give through the 50/100 Club are listed in each issue of Jottings.

Stephanie Adams (Blair, NE)
 Anonymous
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Blair Area Community Foundation (Blair, NE)
 David & Pat Brown (Burlington, WI)
 Phil & Marilyn Christensen (Sparks, NV)
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1 (Omaha, NE)
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #16 (Minden, NE)
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #84 (Lincoln, NE)
 Charles Hansen (Mt Prospect, IL)
 David Hendee (Omaha, NE)
 Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt (Urbandale, IA)
 Ken & Bonnie Jensen (Albert Lea, MN)
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 Lynda Jeppesen (Oak Park, IL)
 Paul & Liz Johnson (Fremont, NE)
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 Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)
 Karen Taylor (Springville, IA)
 Sonja Walker (Minneapolis, MN)
 LeRoy & Sandra Wigdahl (Blair, NE)

Building Fund:

Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
 Luther & Doris Kloth (Wauwatosa, WI)
 Marty & Linda Koefoed (Missouri Valley, IA)

Danish Flag Sign:

Omaha Community Foundation (Omaha, NE)

Digitizing:

John Mark & Dawn Nielsen (Blair, NE)

Furniture & Computers:

Sherry Forrest (Omaha, NE)
 Chris Gehringer (Omaha, NE) in memory of the
 Earl S. Jensen family
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
 Ruth Rasmussen (Blair, NE)
 Charlie & Julie Rohlfing (Blair, NE)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Memorials

Edward A. Hansen
 Lee Anne Lack (Montrose, MN)
 Shirley Bondo Hansen
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Mel & Mary Hendrix (Minneapolis, MN)
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Don & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)
 Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)

Honoraria:

Tim & Sharon Jensen
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Kathy Meldrum
 Laura Meldrum & David Shepard (Musella, GA)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen's anniversary
 David Nielsen (Winfield, KS)
 Faithful DAAL volunteers
 The Green Kitty Cat Fund of InFaith Community Foundation*
 Dr. Carol Weckmuller
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)

FINANCIAL REPORT (cont.)

Endowment:

DELORIS HANSEN BENGTON FUND
REV. C.I. "JERRY" LUND FUND
REV. ASTER & RUTH NEVE FAMILY FUND
DAGMAR VASBY FUND
GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND
Dody Johnson (Blair, NE)
In memory of Shirley Bondo Hansen
In memory of Jeri Kubicek
In memory of Marce Lund
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)

2017 Thrivent Choice Gifts:

Alice Hanson (Oregon, WI)
Janice Heath (Hardin, MT)
Susan Hettinger (Westminster, CO)
Alvina Hjortsvang (Council Bluffs, IA)
Dody Johnson (Blair, NE)
Lee Anne Lack (Montrose, MN)
William Lawson (Green Bay, WI)
Shirley Lincoln (Lincoln, CA)

50/100 Club:

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's Level give at least \$2,000 per year. An added benefit of being part of the 50/100 club is receiving one donation acknowledgement 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.

50/100 FOUNDER LEVEL

Luther & Doris Kloth (Wauwatosa, WI)
Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)

50/100 GENERAL

Ruth Randall Benson (Apple Valley, MN)
Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
Mark & Erika Bondo (Freehold, NJ)
Becky Bryant (West Des Moines, IA)
Borge M. Christensen (Rochester, MN)
Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
Norman Freund (Fremont, NE)
Neil & Arlene Grover (Staples, MN)
Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)
Roger Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)
Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
Elaine Hoyer (Blair, NE)
Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)
David & Michele Johnson (Council Bluffs, IA)
Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)
Julianne Johnson & Judy Pollock (Columbus, OH)
Chuck & Joyce Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
Gene & Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)
Vordyn Nelson (Luther, MI)
Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
John Mark & Dawn Nielsen (Blair, NE)
Lisa Nielsen (Fairfield, PA)
Ruth Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)

Donald & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)
Karl Petersen & Joan Pearson (Bainbridge Island, WA)
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James Peterson (Richfield, MN)
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Scott & Colleen Rasmussen (Omaha, NE)
Bill & Margaret Rodenburg (Centerville, OH)
Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)
Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)
Doug & Jane Wilson (Farragut, IA)
John & Deb Wood (Oklahoma City, OK)
Sandra Wunder (Greeley, CO)

Legacy Builders:

These donors have named DAAL in their estates (* indicates deceased). If you are not on this list but should be, please contact Jill Hennick at 402-426-7910.

Erna Berthelsen
Judy Brehm
Myrv & Anne Christopherson
Kathryn (Olsen) & Milbern Goetz
Roger J. Hanson
Michael and Jill Hennick
Arnold & Marianne Jensen
Russell P.* and Esther A. Jensen
Tim & Sharon Jensen
Julianne Johnson and Judy Pollock
Oscar* & Dody Johnson
Paul & Liz Johnson
Lorene Larsen
Phil & Florence Larsen
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 ■

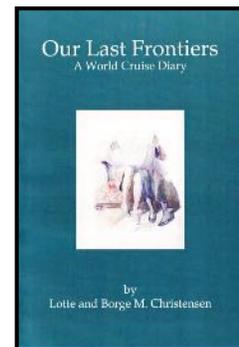
AROUND THE ARCHIVE

- ◆ Frank Korshoj of Blair, who served for four years in the Nebraska legislature, donated a collection of materials that chronicle his time as a Nebraska State senator. This is a very detailed account of how the Nebraska Unicameral worked during the years he served there.
- ◆ In March and April the DAAL received visits from Ed Shada, who is heading up the Angels Share effort to acquire the Dana College campus, and Bill Bauhard, CEO of Grace University a Christian school currently located in Omaha. In both cases, we conducted a tour of the DAAL to show who we are and what we do. Then we sat down to discuss how we can work together in the future. Mr. Shada indicated that he will work with us to retrieve more Danish related books and Dana College historical materials. And we found many ways

we can work with Grace University, such as hosting interns and presenting classes on archival research.

- ◆ Speaking of archival research classes, Tim and Sharon Jensen presented their second Introduction to Archives class to 14 Midland University students in May. This is the second workshop the Jensens have presented to a history class of Professor Teresa Houser. This class focused on who Danes and Danish immigrants are, and was improved by the fact that we had more computers for participants to use. We also garnered a new intern from Midland, Courtney Gendreau, who starts June 1.
- ◆ If you know of a high school senior who is interested in going to a Scandinavian folk school, please let them know that a \$5,000 scholarship is available through the Scandinavian Seminar. For more information go to scandinavianseminar.org and click on Legacy Grants.
- ◆ Save the Date. The Danish American Heritage Society has their next conference scheduled for October 5-7 in Schaumburg, Illinois, which is a suburb of Chicago. The conference theme is "Danish American Fusion: A Blending of Cultures."
- ◆ If you are planning a move or will be temporarily away, please send us your change of address. It costs us triple the postage to send out the newsletter when we don't have the correct address. ■

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MORE VISIBILITY FOR THE ARCHIVE



Even though the DAAL is in a prominent location on the main street of Blair, many people still don’t notice that we are here. Several people have suggested that we need to display Danish and American flags in front of the building to attract more attention, but there is no practical way we can fly actual flags. So we have added graphics of Danish and American flags to the front of the building in the same format as the existing sign. This not only attracts the eye, but also shows more of what we are all about.

Although we have covered the cost of all our improvements from our budget reserves, we are reaching out to our supporters to raise the \$4,000 needed for this addition to our sign as well as the cost for the new tables and chairs featured in the article on Page 4. Mogens Bay, CEO of Valmont Industries in Valley, Nebraska, generously donated \$2,000 for the sign, and we hope someone will be able to provide the remaining \$2,000. Would you like to help? You could purchase one chair for \$70, one table for \$125 or any designated contribution toward the cost our improvements. We will give you recognition for your contribution in the next issue of our newsletter, which is coming out at the end of September, and on our Facebook page. And of course we will send you the proper tax documentation for a contribution to our registered non-profit organization. ■

1738 Washington Street
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

IN THE STACKS

FOUR OLD FILMS

By Michael Hennick, Library Assistant

When the DAAL moved out of the Dana College library in the Summer of 2010, four old and fragile reels of 16mm film came along. They were safely tucked away on the audio-visual shelves at our new location to await attention. Finally this spring we had the films transferred to DVD by Chris Mommsen of Blair, whose company CAMVideo specializes in such delicate work. The results were gratifying. The oldest film is a three minute, black and white home movie of the April 1939 visit of Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Ingrid of Denmark to Dana. The highlight is the Prince planting a tree on campus.

The second film, also a 16mm, but in color and running for approximately twenty minutes, depicts the construction of the Pioneer Memorial building on the Dana campus. This structure was built to be a new library and administration building, and was completed by the fall of 1948. The film also includes scenes from that year's Dana Homecoming celebration, namely the parade through downtown Blair and the football game.

The third film is a twenty minute 16mm color promotional film for Dana College and Trinity Seminary directed and photographed by Robert W. Bersch in 1949. This is a fine production that gives us a portrait of Dana at that time. Included are shots of the buildings, grounds, students, classroom sessions, dedication of Pioneer Memorial, Homecoming, the city of Blair and many familiar faces to those who know the Dana of that era.

The fourth film is a 16mm color and sound promotional production for the Dana College Centennial Fund. Put out in Dana's centennial year, 1984, and running for fifteen minutes, this film is a presentation of the campus, the faces and the words of students, administrators and professors. The goal is to showcase the "Dana Difference" in the hope of raising funds for construction, renovation and operational expenses. Much like the film from 1949 this one gives us a fine portrait of Dana in the early 1980's.

These four old films are another example of the many unique items at the DAAL that are being preserved for the future and can be found nowhere else. Transferring from film to DVD makes these images available for viewing by the people of our time. Making our collection accessible in the digital age will continue to be one of our major goals here at the Danish American Archive and Library. ■



Crown Prince Frederik plants a tree while President Siersbeck holds it.