

BODTKER GRANTS RE-IMAGINED

The DAHS board modified how it describes its Bodtker Grants to specify that it offers the awards of up to \$5,000 for research, publication assistance and translation. The board also approved awarding up to \$1,500 for funding the development and distribution of appropriate book marketing materials.

2021 CONFERENCE

The virtual “Traditions and Transitions: Ways of Being Danish” conference went smoothly and was a success, organizers say. The June 5 online conference replaced the usual in-person event originally scheduled for May 2021 in Seattle, a victim of the pandemic.

Eighty-four people viewed the conference live; there were 295 registered conference attendees; 110 people logged in to view the content later.

The conference was DAHS’s sixth since 2002. It was held in conjunction with the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study.

COMING IN 2023

The next DAHS member conference will be held in conjunction with the Museum of Danish America’s 40th anniversary celebration in Elk Horn, Iowa, on June 24, 2023. The date also coincides with the museum’s annual Sankt Hans Aften festivities.



5550 NE 22nd Street
Des Moines, IA 50313

FOR MORE ABOUT DAHS

Please visit our website at

www.danishheritage.org



DAHS BOARD UPDATE

The board approved nominations for two new members and welcomed back another at its Oct. 22, 2021, meeting at the Danish American Center in Minneapolis. It was the volunteer board's first in-person meeting since 2019 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sune Frederiksen (Berea, Kentucky) was nominated to replace Ed Bladt (Lumberton, New Jersey), who stepped down after serving a three-year term.

Nete Schmidt (Madison, Wisconsin) was nominated as an at-large representative. She replaces Julianne Haahr (also of Madison), who served two terms.

John Mark Nielsen (Blair, Nebraska) returned to the board as a representative of the Danish American Archive and Library. He replaces Christie Jensen Gehringer (Omaha, Nebraska), who had been on the board since 2014.

Lynette Rasmussen (Des Moines, Iowa) stepped down as president and volunteered to serve as treasurer and focus on fully integrating DAHS membership and cash accounts into the organization's new software platform.

Nielsen was elected president. Former treasurer Joel Mortensen (Minneapolis) replaced David

Johnson (Council Bluffs, Iowa), as vice president. Sheri Muller (Roland, Iowa) continues as secretary.

The board has 12 members. The Museum of Danish America, the Danish American Archive and Library, and Grand View University are each represented by two people. There are six at-large members. DAHS has 275 dues-paying members.

MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Sune Frederiksen was born in Skanderborg, Denmark, and grew up in Brønderslev. He left a tenured position at Ålborg Business College to start a new life with his American wife in rural Kentucky in 1995. He graduated from Hjørring Teachers College and Denmark's Vocational and Trade Educational Program in Copenhagen. He studied international relations at the University of Ålborg. He is a self-employed business owner with a focus on real estate. He also owned an eclectic cafe and gallery in Berea for 10 years. Frederiksen is active in cultural and sports activities, including a local folk arts organization, a nationally known contra dance weekend and a Celtic festival. He is a former board member and vice president of the Rebuild National Park Society and is Kentucky chapter president.

John Mark Nielsen served on the DAHS board for 21 years before stepping away in 2020. The Danish American Archive and Library sent him back as one of its representatives. He is executive director emeritus of the Museum of Danish America, where he retired in 2017. He was a charter member of the museum board and served as executive director for 13 years.

Nete Schmidt was born in Århus and lived in many places around Denmark. She received her degrees in English and Danish from the University of Copenhagen and taught at Bjerringbro Junior

College and the University of Århus. She came to the Scandinavian Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a visiting lecturer in 1998. She recently retired from the university as a faculty associate in the German, Nordic and Slavic department. She taught Danish and Scandinavian literature courses. Her book, "Beginner's Danish," was published in 2007. She is married to an Oregon native and has five children. She is moderator of the Seattle-based Northwest Danish Association's online National Danish Book Club, and translates books from Danish to English.

THE BRIDGE

The next printing of The Bridge in early 2022 will be a double issue with articles about a variety of Danish immigrant communities around the world established during the late 19th and early- to mid-20th centuries, says editor Julie K. Allen.

BEST BOOK PRIZE

DAHS is establishing a biennial Best Book Prize for English-language publications on Danish-related topics. The inaugural \$2,500 prize is expected to be awarded in 2023, open to books published in 2020 and 2021. Board member Julie K. Allen, who has advocated for the prize, says there is no award in the United States for books about Danish and Danish-American culture. The DAHS board will establish deadlines and parameters for submissions.

BODTKER GRANT AWARDED

Ronald J. Ringer of St. Cloud, Minnesota, received a Bodtker Grant of \$2,500 to assist with writing a history of St. Cloud State University's former Denmark study abroad program. He will use the grant for translations. Ringer is a St. Cloud State communication studies professor.

