



Lise Kildegaard



Anders Sand



Carol Svendsen

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Four new members participated in their first DAHS board meeting recently.

They are Lise Kildegaard (at-large) of Decorah, Iowa; Matthew Plowman (Grand View University) of Des Moines, Iowa; Anders Sand (at-large) of Miami, Florida; and Carol Svendsen (Danish American Library and Archive) of Denver, Colorado.

Kildegaard is an English professor at Luther College. Her Danish heritage reaches back to her eight great-grandparents who joined the immigrant wave of the 1870s. She is translating the quirky, lyrical short stories of Danish author Louis Jensen.

Plowman is a history professor at Grand View. He was a student and instructor at Dana College and served in the history department at Waldorf College. He is a former board member of the Danish American Archive and Library.

Sand is a global regional executive for Oracle Corp. He grew up in a Danish immigrant community west of Audubon, Iowa. His paternal grandparents were Danish immigrants. He is a former board member of the Museum of Danish America.

Svendsen is a retired associate vice president at Metropolitan State University of Denver. She is a board member of DAAL and is a former board member of the Museum of Danish America. All of her great-grandparents were Danish emigrants.

The volunteer board consists of 12 members. Danish American Archive and Library, Grand View University and Museum of Danish America each appoints two members to the board. The board appoints six at-large members. Members serve at their own expense and receive no remuneration for their service. They may serve two consecutive three-year terms.

The board met April 25 via Zoom.

*Not Pictured Matthew Plowman*



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FOR MORE ABOUT DAHS

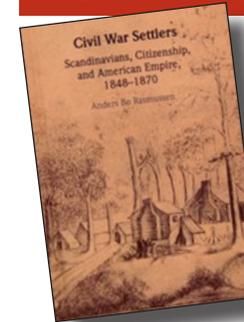
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[www.danishheritage.org](http://www.danishheritage.org)



## SPRING 2023 | BULLETIN

### FIRST BEST BOOK PRIZE



The recipient of the inaugural Danish American Heritage Society Book Award for outstanding scholarship in Danish and Danish American topics is Anders Bo Rasmussen.

Rasmussen, associate professor of American history at University of Southern Denmark, won for his "Civil War Settlers: Scandinavians, Citizenship, and American Empire, 1848-1870." Cambridge University Press published the book in 2022.

Rasmussen plans to attend the DAHS conference in Elk Horn to receive the \$2,500 prize. His book was one of six submissions reviewed by prize committee members Julie Allen, John Mark Nielsen and Nete Schmidt.

The award will be presented every other year for a non-fiction academic book written in English on a Danish or Danish American topic. Submissions should be original works that significantly advance scholarship and thinking in the field either by opening new lines of inquiry or by consolidating existing ones at a high level of accomplishment. There is no other award in the United States for books about Danish and Danish American culture.

### THE BRIDGE

The next five issues of The Bridge, the DAHS journal typically published twice a year, are in various stages of production and planning, says editor Julie Allen.

An issue devoted to community building was expected to be mailed in May. The next journal in line will have an origin-stories theme. It will include an article on combining traditional and DNA-based genealogy. It is

*Continued on inside panels*

# ECOLOGIES AND ETHNICITY

DAHS CONFERENCE JUNE 22-24, 2023

## ELK HORN BOUND

The next DAHS member conference is only weeks away and it's not too late to register.

The event will be held June 22-24 at the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa. It coincides with the museum's 40th anniversary celebration and its annual Sankt Hans Aften festivities.

Full conference registration is \$175, which includes opening dinner and keynote address, coffee breaks, Friday lunch and dinner, Saturday lunch, and all conference sessions. Single-day registrations are available for Thursday (\$50), Friday (\$100) and Saturday (\$75). The museum's anniversary celebration dinner Saturday evening is a separate \$40 fee.

Registration deadline is May 31. Register online at [www.danishheritage.org](http://www.danishheritage.org) or by mailing a registration form.

Discounted hotel rates are available in nearby Avoca, Atlantic, Audubon and Manning between \$100 and \$150 per night. Please make reservations by May 15. Mention the DAHS conference to receive the reduced rate.

The conference theme is "Ecologies and Ethnicity." Among the three-day highlights:

- Opening dinner and keynote presentation by Morten Kabell, Copenhagen's former mayor of mobility, climate and urban development. He was instrumental in polishing the city's global brand as a cycling city. Kabell will be speaking on issues of environmental sustainability.
- Talks featuring experts on western Iowa and European land use, prairie restoration, Jens Jensen's legacy in landscape architecture, Elk Horn-area history, and other topics.
- Tour, dinner and entertainment at the Manning Hausbarn Heritage Park, a complex featuring an authentic 1660s house/barn from Slesvig-Holsten.
- Prairie walks, gallery talks, behind-the-scenes museum and Genealogy Center tours, musicians, authors, film screenings and group singing, plus kringle breaks and an æbleskiver breakfast.

- The museum's Sankt Hans Aften events include the traditional midsummer bonfire on the rim of the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park, live music, open galleries, lawn games, s'mores and snobrød at the council ring, lawn games and more.

This will be DAHS's seventh conference. The previous one was a one-day online event during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. The most recent in-person conference was in Schaumburg, Illinois, in 2017.

## DOLLARS FOR STUDENTS

Grants are available for current or recently graduated college students to attend the Danish American Heritage Society conference in Elk Horn, Iowa, this June.

The DAHS board set aside \$1,000 for \$250 grants to help defray lodging and travel expenses for four students to attend the event. The conference registration fee, which includes most meals, will be waived for grant recipients.

To apply, or for more information, contact board president John Mark Nielsen at [jmnielsen@abbnebraska.com](mailto:jmnielsen@abbnebraska.com) or treasurer Tova Brandt at [tbrandt@danishmuseum.org](mailto:tbrandt@danishmuseum.org).

When applying, students should provide their name, address, telephone number, email address and the name of their college or university. This information will be used to notify them on receipt of the grant and register them for the conference. A \$250 check will be given to recipients on arrival in Elk Horn.

Details about the conference schedule and area hotels can be found at the DAHS website: [www.danishheritage.org](http://www.danishheritage.org).

**THE BRIDGE** | *Continued from front panel*  
expected to be mailed this summer. Content for an issue targeted for the end of the year was evolving.

Allen said the first official issue next year could include an article by a Bodtker Grant recipient with related Kierkegaard materials. She hopes the second 2024

## ROUNDUP

- John Mark Nielsen, board president, met with Grand View University's new president, Dr. Rachele Keck, via Zoom and thanked her for the school's continued support of DAHS. "I believe we can all look forward to leadership at GVU that is interested in and sensitive to the Danish-American experience," Nielsen said. Grand View was founded by members of the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1896. Its archives houses an extensive Danish immigrant collection.
- DAHS has contracted with the Museum of Danish America to provide bookkeeping services as a paid service based on an hourly compensation.
- There are 270 active DAHS members.
- The DAHS board plans to meet somewhere in the Midwest this fall to facilitate an in-person session. The board's spring 2024 meeting will be held April 5 in conjunction with the Rebuild National Park Society annual gathering in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Covington, Kentucky, scheduled April 2-10. The board meets twice annually.

## BODTKER GRANT

The DAHS board approved a \$5,000 Bodtker Grant request from Eva Christensen to fund her research into Mads Hansen and his influence on Danish folk music.

Christensen, of Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, is a great-great-granddaughter of Hansen. A peasant farmer who lived from 1834 to 1880, Hansen wrote lyrics for 15 songs in a Danish folk song book regularly published since 1894.

Christensen said her goal is to spur interest in Hansen and the folk song tradition in a context of Denmark's ranking as one of the world's happiest countries. She will provide an article to *The Bridge* wrapping up her findings.



volume will be devoted to Danish Mormon women's stories.

Also in planning is an issue devoted to Solvang, California, often dubbed "The Danish Capital of America."