

DAHS CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE SAVE THE DATE!

“Traditions and Transitions: Ways of Being Danish” is the focus of the May 5-9, 2021, DAHS international conference to be held in Seattle, Washington. Taking place at the Renaissance Seattle Hotel, the conference will be held in conjunction with the 11th annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS). SASS is an academic organization founded in 1910 to promote knowledge of Nordic countries, their languages, their history, literature, culture, and people. This co-conference will allow members of both organizations to attend sessions held by either DAHS and/or SASS offering more areas of interest to participants.

Though cultures may seem to be fixed, they are always in transition, navigating between tried and true traditions and new opportunities and innovations. Cultural heritage is the product of many generations' attempts to hold on to practices and beliefs that give meaning to their identity while dealing with the changes and challenges that they inevitably encounter.

The DAHS invites our members and friends to participate in our next international conference. We hope Traditions and Transitions will provide ample scope for exploring the identities and experiences of Danes and Danish Americans past and present. Mark your calendars now; get ready to help define “Danishness.” We look forward to sharing ideas with you in Seattle in 2021.

DAVID HENDEE – NEW DAHS BOARD MEMBER

Representing the Museum of Danish America (MoDA), David Hendee is the newest member of the DAHS board, beginning his term at the April 27th meeting of the organization. David retired two years ago after a 44-year career as a newspaper journalist in Nebraska, most of that spent working for the Omaha World Herald. David's award-winning career took him to the White House, the Iowa caucuses, Alaska, rural Mississippi, the submarine USS Nebraska, and the DMZ in South Korea. The grandson and great-grandson of Danish immigrants in western Nebraska, he grew up in Sidney, Nebraska, and graduated from Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska. A review of his book about his Danish ancestors appeared in The Bridge in the 1980's; and David and his great-grandfather, Julius Nielsen, were featured in a three-part Danish TV documentary broadcast in 2017.



DAHS NEWSLETTER

danish american heritage society



JOINT BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP

Consisting of DAHS members from DAAL, MoDA, and the Danish Immigrant Archive at Grand View University (DIA-GVU), the Joint Planning Group is working together on the goal of achieving a common cataloging platform for archival materials held by the three institutions. Under the direction of DAHS President, John Mark Nielsen, who facilitates the organization, the group first met in October of 2019. Meeting again in January 20, 2020, each member of the group shared how a virtual visitor researching information would use each member's site to obtain the information they required. The group currently is working together to develop outcomes that benefit and enhance the work of all three institutions, how each might increase compatibility/accessibility to online holdings, and should all three institutions be brought onto a common platform. Unfortunately some of this work is on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions; the group will continue its work when the crisis is no longer a major threat.

Members of the Strategic Planning Group include: Dr. Gary Madsen, President of the Board, DAAL; Dr. William "Bill" Nelsen, Board member, DAAL; Karen Sorensen Brodie, Board member, GVU; Dr. Carl Moses, Provost, GVU; David Hendee, MoDA; and Carol Svendsen, Board member, MoDA.

COVID-19 BRINGS CHANGE TO DAHS AND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Due to COVID-19 the DAHS Spring board meeting, which was scheduled to be held in New Jersey, was held via teleconference using Zoom. All board members were present and contact was made with the DAHS web designer, Jennifer Thoeners, in Norway, as well as with board member, Julie Allen, on sabbatical in Germany. The board was able to complete its agenda and hopes to meet in Minneapolis in the fall.

Both the Danish American Archive and Library (DAAL) and the Museum of Danish America (MoDA) are closed due to the virus. When to reopen and steps necessary for a successful transition are being discussed. Grand View University (GVU), as with other colleges and

schools, also cancelled in-person classes; consequently, the Danish Immigrant Archives (DIA-GVU), which is located on the campus, is also closed. The Rebuild Society has rescheduled this year's conference in Phoenix to March of 2021. The 74th Annual Folk Meeting at the Danebod Folk School in Tyler, Minnesota, was also cancelled. Instead, the meeting will offer a "Zoom-style" abbreviated virtual folk meeting August 19-21 with five different presentations and some activities. Further information and a registration link is available at danebodfolkmeeting.org. The Danebod Folk School campus is also closed for the summer including the traditional family camps.

THE BRIDGE – WHAT TO EXPECT

Every DAHS member received a double issue of The Bridge for 2019 at the beginning of this year. Now the next issue is in its final stages to be delivered in the near future. The first 2020 issue (43:1) focuses on "Defining Danishness." Two of the articles are Bodtker-grant supported while three of the articles in the issue include Danish language usage among immigrants in the US, the Slesvig plebiscite in 1920, and the Circle Pines Center. An intern at the Danish American Archive and Library wrote a report and a poem about Danish church ships that is also part of the issue. The issue will include a "Save the Date" card and information about the 2021 conference to be held in Seattle May 5-9, 2021. Update: Previous copies of The Bridge have been digitized. Go to Scholarsarchive@BYU.edu/TheBridge to access it on line. Members also have access to more recent issues of The Bridge for the last 2 years before they are made available to the public.