

## BODTKER GRANT AWARDED

A Bodtker Grant was given to Dr. Bjarne S. Bendtsen during the recent DAHS meeting in Blair, Nebraska. He is a Danish historian currently working on a book about Danish American soldiers in the US Army during World War I. His study brought him to the United States in October for research at the Danish American Archive and Library in Blair; the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa; and the archive at Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa. In addition, his studies also included work at the National Archives in St. Louis and the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City.

Once his book is completed, he will write an article for The Bridge making it available to all DAHS members. He also hopes to find additional funding for an English translation of the book. The Danish American Heritage Society is pleased to be able to help support Dr. Bendtsen and his project with a Bodtker Grant.

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## DAHS CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE SAVE THE DATE!

The next DAHS Conference will be held in Seattle, Washington, from Wednesday, May 5th through Saturday, May 9th, 2021. The 2021 Conference will be held in conjunction with the SASS (Society for Advancement of Scandanavian Study) Conference. 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. A "Save the Date" postcard will be sent to DAHS members in the near future. Look for the postcard and mark your calendars for another interest-filled conference.





L-R: Linda Steffensen, Sheri Muller, Ed Bladt, Christie Gehringer, Lynette Rasmussen, Dave Johnson, Joel Mortensen, John Mark Nielsen, Julianne Haahr

## DAHS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors met October 3, 2019, at the Danish American Archive and Library in Blair, Nebraska. Topics discussed included the DAHS Website, a Cooperative Strategic Planning Workshop, the next DAHS Conference to be held in Seattle, the awarding of the Bodtker Grant, and updates from the DAHS Sister Organizations. The next board meeting will be held on April 27, 2020, at the Danish Archive North East (DANE) in Edison, New Jersey.

Visiting The Tower of the Four Winds in Blair's Black Elk—Neihardt Park showed the Board an interesting side to what can be found in Blair. Near the former Dana College campus, Rev. F.W. Thomsen—

Professor of Art at Dana College from 1942-1975—was the driving force behind the creation. Influenced by reading Black Elk Speaks in Dana's Liberal Arts Reading Program in 1967-1968 and by visits with the author, Nebraska Poet Laureate John G. Neihardt, Thomsen created a body of art work inspired by the visions of the Lakota Holy Man Black Elk. The Tower of the Four Winds was dedicated in 1987. After years of exposure to the elements the mosaic on the Tower had deteriorated, but thanks to a generous donation from an Omaha foundation, the mosaic has been recently restored. A ceremony was held this October to rededicate the Tower and honor Rev. Thomsen, Black Elk, John G. Neihardt, and the donations of many in the Blair and Omaha communities.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

Board members from the Danish American Archive and Library, Danish Immigrant Archive at Grand View University, and Museum of Danish America met October 1-2, 2019, to discuss strategic planning and to learn more about one another. Two members from each group met with DAHS President John Mark Nielsen at all three of the organizations. Each organization explained its operations and collections so that there would be greater understanding of the role each plays in saving and preserving Danish American heritage. The DAHS will help to fund this project as members of each organization will continue to meet and share ideas.

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## THE BRIDGE

Work is underway on the next issue of The Bridge. Editor Julie Allen, working on a sabbatical in Germany, is busy getting issue 42-1 ready for publication. This issue will also include 42-2 and be a double issue as it includes an English translation by Kristi Planck Johnson of Kjeld Abell's 1936 play, *Eva aftjener sin Barnepligt* (Eve! Eve! Eve Serves Her Time as a Child). The Bridge is always looking for articles, both scholarly and personal, and encourages members to submit articles at any time. If interested in submitting an article, contact Julie Allen at [julie\\_allen@byu.edu](mailto:julie_allen@byu.edu).

## RENEWAL POSTCARD MISTAKE!

Recently, you may have received a renewal reminder in the form of a green postcard from Joel Mortensen, our treasurer. This card was in error. We have discovered that the wrong mailing list was sent to the company in Ames, IA that handles our printing and mailing. If you received this reminder and have already renewed your membership, we are deeply sorry. DAHS Board members value all our members and are very embarrassed by this mistake.