

# The Voice:



*Sharing the story of historic Danevang— past, present, and future.*

FALL 2018

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ◆ Dec. 8  
2 PM—4 PM  
Santa Lucia  
Celebration at  
the Museum
- Jan. 12  
10 AM  
Board of Direc-  
tors' meeting
- ◆ Feb. 10  
Danish National  
Gymnastics  
demonstration  
in El Campo
- Feb. 16  
10 AM General  
Membership  
Meeting

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## One Year Later - Rebuilt & Stronger

Just over a year ago we were absorbing the impact of Hurricane Harvey. One year later we have moved on and are happy to celebrate renewal and restoration. It has been a long process and in some respects a difficult road.

First we assessed the damage to the Museum and the community. Our museum, fortunately, did not sustain devastating damage, but enough that it set back our goals and plans for future projects. The Board had set aside approximately \$10,000 for new air conditioners which were anticipated in the next few years. This allowed us to have a small

financial cushion with which to work. The Museum insurance does not cover the type of damage that occurred to our vault and storage room. We searched for contractors who would take on the project and give us bids. Everyone was so busy and only a couple were interested in the size and scope of our project. Eventually, the bid for the vault/storage repair and sealing was accepted from Paul Soechting. The project necessitated the installation of a new AC unit for the vault and that bid was awarded to David Cannell. The total cost was \$10,000 for this phase of the re-

newal.

The new AC unit is especially interesting as it is ductless and does not need an interior drain. It is much more efficient than our old one which should give us a few dollars relief and will give us better protection for the collections.

What is in our vault, you may ask. All items such as personal notes, documents, pictures, deeds, clothing, miscellaneous items that include china and clothing. Items in the vault may be used for research by going through our research procedures. If interested, please contact Suzan  
*Continued on pg. 3*



# This and That



## The Danish Heritage Museum

enjoy a lunch and tour, please call.

These tours are a major contributor to our bottom line so we intend to

carry on as long as we can. Each cookie tour takes about 3 hours and a lunch tour takes about 4 hours. Call Suzan if you can help.

Membership Dues - You will receive your annual membership letter soon. Dues are to be mailed no later than on December 31. Membership packets will be in the mail by November 10. This year we are fortunate to have an anonymous donor who will match any donation dollar for dollar until we reach the goal of \$5000.

Considering our recent expenses, we surely can use the additional gifts. Thank you so much to this donor and to you for supporting the Museum and its programs.

As part of the packet you are asked how you want to receive the newsletter. We encourage you to consider receiving the newsletter by email which means you see it in color. Dues are \$20 per person.

Member is Published - We are happy to salute Ann Schaar who recently completed sharing a long journey of faith. Her story of finding and embracing her faith is written in *He Knows My Name*. Ann frequently volunteers as our tour guide at the church when our lunch tour visitors visit the landmark.

***“This year we are fortunate to have an anonymous donor who will match any donation dollar for dollar until we reach the goal of \$5000.”***

### Hurrah! Our handicapped door works!

Months ago we received a generous donation of a new door opener for our handicapped visitors. It has taken over a year to finally find someone who would install the equipment. Finally, as part of the overall renovation it has been completed. Thanks to Dornak Security.

Lunch and Coffee Tours – We are seeking tours for this coming spring. If you have a group of 20-40 people who would

## Interested in Serving?

Qualifications: Member of the Danish Heritage Preservation Society, a friendly smile, a genuine interest in Danevang’s heritage and a willingness to serve

Hours: Four meetings a year and a few additional days as your schedule allows to help as a docent and/or with lunch tours

Compensation: The heartfelt thanks of our members and especially the Board.

What is this spectacular job? Why a member of the Board of Directors of the Danish Heritage Preservation Society of course. Each year in February, at the annual general membership meeting, Board members are elected. There is at least one vacancy this year. The job really is fun and generally requires only that you be willing to make decisions, attend three or four Board meetings a year and offer to act as docent

or help with a special event at least once every six months. Of course, if you are available more often, we will welcome you.

Many thanks to all who have served and are serving now. Their enthusiasm, vision and attention to the needs of the Society continue to move us forward. Contact Ralph Petersen at [repc@wcec-wb.net](mailto:repc@wcec-wb.net) for more information.



Renovated Vault with new air conditioning unit and shelving..

## Stronger - Continued

All items brought to the Museum which are accepted for adding to the permanent collection are given a number and entered into the Past Perfect program of our acquisitions. This program is a wonderful help to not only identify individual items, but categorizes them into groups. For example, if the researcher is looking for information on specific families, that can be done. Or perhaps we need to know if we have anything about a particular event, with the proper keywords, that too can be retrieved. There are over 1500 items entered into our database, most pictures and some documents have been posted to the University of North Texas' Portal to Texas History. This gives easy digitalized access people throughout the country, or even worldwide, to our collection.

was paramount to keeping our artifacts safe.

The storeroom upgrades were completed in conjunction with the vault repairs. For several years, items not in our collections had been stored in the vault, using space and causing confusion. With the upgrades in the storeroom, we have been able to separate out that which should not be in the vault. Finally we have a place for everything.

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It is essential that we care for our history in the proper way. In order to achieve this each photo or document is numbered, entered into the data base and then placed in protective envelopes or boxes. By keeping items in our vault, they are kept at a constant temperature and the humidity is controlled. So, you can see, having the vault repaired as soon as possible after Harvey



Storeroom after repair



St. Lucia wears a crown of candles.

## St. Lucia Celebration

Get an early start on the Christmas holidays by attending and participating in the joyous celebration of St. Lucia Day on December 8 at the Museum. The festivities will include the story of St. Lucia, patron saint of light, a procession of

children, dancing around the Christmas tree, refreshments, singing, crafts and a visit from Santa.

Our Santa Lucia this year will be Julia Jensen, daughter of Carl & Tanya Jensen and granddaughter of Patty. The fun begins at 2 P.M. and will last until 4

No reservations are required.

If you would like more information about our St. Lucia Celebration, please contact Patty Jensen at 543-3009 or Suzan.



## The Pioneer House - Why We Care



Sears, Roebuck & Co. advertisement

The Pioneer House was one of the earliest homes in our community. It was ordered from Sears, Roebuck, & Co. and was shipped to El Campo by train making the remaining miles to Danevang by wagon. The original house cost \$750. The house was first the home of Hans Peter and Maren Jorgensen Jensen. The family record in the Bible located in the house attests to Hans Peter's birth in Kundby, Denmark in 1854 and Maren's birth in Brabeck, Denmark, in 1859. After arrival in this country, the couple married in Cedar Falls, Iowa, moved to New Hartford, Iowa, then to Newell, Iowa, and finally to Danevang.

Six children, Jorgen, Lena, Elizabeth, Viggo, Pete, Harold, and Ted, were raised in the home. Three other children had died in Iowa. Hans Peter farmed for many years, was a harness maker and became the mailman who, every day, all year,

despite the weather, drove his wagon over the dirt (sometimes muddy) road between Danevang and El Campo. He also served as a "gofer" for families in the community who needed supplies. His salary was \$500 per year.

Others who owned and lived in the home included Elizabeth Jensen and Viggo Juhl. It remained in the Juhl family and was finally sold by the Juhl daughters to the HD. Madsen Interest. They donated the house to the Danish Heritage Preservation Society and the house was moved to the Museum site in 1993.

The original construction is very interesting. All of the walls and ceilings are of grooved boards called Bead Board. Interior partitions are single thickness boards grooved on both sides. It was learned during the restoration that the structure was unusual in that exterior

uninsulated walls, complete with the grooved bead were installed all the way to the roof before second floor and interior partitions were added. This allowed the raising of exterior walls as complete panels before starting the interior fill in.

The fact that the lumber supplier sent the wrong material for the exterior sheathing enhances the house's sturdiness. The exterior is sheathed in the same 1 1/8" material that is used for the flooring throughout the house.

Hurricanes of 1900, 1909, 1939, 1945, 1963 and more recent ones, including Alicia, Rita, Katrina and Harvey have done little damage to the house.

Nevertheless, to keep it up has cost the organization dearly. In the past seven years we have spent almost \$20,000 for painting, repairs, leveling and general maintenance. We are honored to call it ours.

# Donations June 2 - October 31

## In Remembrance - to the General Fund

Carolyn Mitchell      In memory of Dagmar Ricketts  
Ralph Petersen      In memory of Verner & Louise Petersen (for the Pioneer House)

## In Remembrance - to the Endowment Fund

Doug Thyssen      In memory of Dagmar Ricketts  
Randy & Pam Bena      In memory of Dagmar Ricketts  
Faye Valsin      In memory of Dagmar Ricketts  
Dorothy Waldman      In memory of Myrtle and Annette Waldman  
Patricia Rodes      In memory of Ray Allenson

## Wreaths Across America

Should you wish to participate in this program to honor our departed veterans at Christmas, please contact Glenell Wenglar at [wenglar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wenglar@sbcglobal.net) or call 979-543-0374. Deadline to order is November 28.

## Our Thanks to Those Who Serve Us

**James Petersen** - Many of us take for granted things that we see and expect as routine such as a freshly mown lawn or general repairs around the Museum and the surrounding area. We have had a secret weapon against the grass, his name is James Petersen. For years James has taken upon himself to keep our mower and other equipment in tip top shape. No one asks him to check, but he is diligent in his oversight of the equipment. He informs Suzan when things need to be re-

placed and finds a way to take the equipment to the Coop for repair or have the blades sharpened. James was responsible for rehab of the outhouse beside the Museum and also for the lovely chairs on the porch of the Pioneer House. Thank you, James. We do appreciate you.

**Irvin Wind**- We also say thank you to Irvin Wind as he has decided to retire from his duties on the Board. He has served this organization from the very beginning as an officer and member of the Board for several years and has made numerous handcrafted items for our displays. His eye for what needs to

be done is outstanding. Fortunately, he will be around and is willing to help out in many ways. For several years, he has been the primary guide to those who visit the church when we have tours. His knowledge of the history of the community is invaluable to us and we will continue to seek his guidance. His calm voice and gentle demeanor have been welcomed especially when we have guests from Denmark. He even can speak a little Danish! His commitment to the community and the organization is to be applauded. Thanks Irvin for all you do.

## The Danish Flag - A Gift

A few weeks ago relatives from Denmark came to visit Michael Hansen and they brought with them a very special gift, a

*Danneborg* flag made in Denmark. It was hoisted into place by his guests and has been blowing in the wind ever since. They were so generous that they gave us a

spare. Heidi Kodal Hansen is related to Ane Sofie Ingvarsdén (one of the early settlers of Danevang) We do appreciate this gift.

The Danish flag dates back to the Crusades or perhaps even earlier. A red and white coat of arms was depicted in the *Geire Armorial*, dated 1340-1370. According to Wikipedia this is the “earliest known undisputed color rendering of the Dannebrog. Valdemar IV of Denmark also included a white cross on a field of red on his seal. The earliest renderings show the

flag as a square but modern day flags are made to specific standards regulated by the government. There is no official red but the “private company *Dansk Standard* has defined the specific red color since 2005.”

It is interesting to note that this same flag was “used as a war flag by the Holy Roman Empire.” The legends surrounding the origin of the flag include at least two proclaiming in the time of dire need during battle, the flag fell from the sky assuring victory.



The Hansen Family

## Pioneer Days - Hot dogs & Fun

Just ask Cynthia Priesmeyer about making Danish hot dogs and she will entertain you with the many ways to make the perfect remoulade sauce for the dogs. Yes! There really are such things and they include a long wiener made of beef and pork, a bun (recipes are available but we chose to buy buns), homemade remoulade sauce, Danish pickled cucumbers, fried onions, chopped onions and ketchup. Very tasty indeed!

Cynthia was supported by crews during the day putting together the hot dogs, pouring iced tea, coffee, water or lemonade, putting together Meal Deals and encouraging folks to visit our museum. Cynthia and the crew did a marvelous job—too many to list but thanks to all who took time out to share our story with the friends in El Campo. This was a trial run for our booth in San Antonio in June at the Folk Festival.



## Obituaries

**Irene S. Flagg** - was born on July 30, 1931 in Danevang to the late Johanes and Agnes Ingvarlsen Hansen. She passed away on October 9, 2018.

She is survived by her son, the Rev. Wayne Flagg of Weimar; daughter, Denise Flagg of El Campo; sisters, Louise Bobbitt of El Campo, Elnora Schliesser of Madison, Miss., Cecelia Feblau of Bremond; brother, Wilbert Hansen of Danevang, special family, Larry, June, Ty and Erica Mitschke of Spring and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Neal Flagg and brother, Jacken Hansen.

Visitation was held at Christ Lutheran Church in El Campo with the funeral service immediately following.

Pastor C. Wayne Clement officiating. A private burial was scheduled.

**Ray Allenson** - passed away at the age of 85 in New Braunfels, Texas. He was the youngest son of John and Ella Kristine (Hansen) Allenson. He was born and grew up in Danevang.

He excelled at school, graduating as valedictorian from El Campo High School and then went on to graduate from Texas A&I in Kingsville with a double major in mathematics and chemistry. He was graduated summa cum laude with highest honors,

He was employed by Rocketdyne's solid propellant manufacturing, later he was a member at the Los Alamos National Laboratory where he was responsible for designing nuclear weapons.

He also worked with NASA developing software for the Apollo program

He is survived by his wife of 6 years, Sarah (Wagner) Allenson ; children , Duby Baxter (Loran) of Alaska and David Allenson (Mary) and granddaughters, Sarah and Kristy Allenson,

He was preceded in death by his first wife of 48 years, Hazel (Roades) and his second wife of 10 years, Juanita (Fister) and two brothers, Leo and Clifford.

A grave side memorial service and celebration of life was held in El Campo on Saturday, November 10 at Oaklawn Memorial Park Cemetery in El Campo. '

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Ray's name may be made to Danevang Heritage Museum..

*May God Bring You Peace, Comfort and Joy in the Coming Season.*

*Share That Joy with Others*

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Museum Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Closed Mondays and Holidays

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