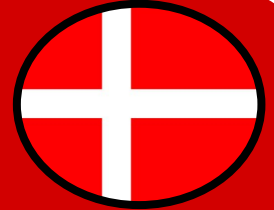


# The Voice:



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

SPECIAL EDITION - WINTER/SPRING 2019-2020

THE MUSEUM HAS BEEN CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC SINCE MID-MARCH. WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE IT WILL REOPEN ON JUNE 2. PLEASE ADHERE TO ALL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.

We appreciate your continued support.

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## St. Lucia - a Celebration of Light

Once again, Patty Jensen and her helpers created a Christmas wonderland to celebrate Santa Lucia at the Danish Heritage Museum on December 7. Patty starts several weeks in advance by helping Suzan, our museum director, decorate for the season. It is always awesome. Thank you, Patty and Suzan.

The tradition of St. Lucia is observed in many Scandinavian homes where the oldest daughter delivers sweets to her family on December 13. We try to gather on the Saturday closest to the December 13.

This year's Santa Lucia was special for Patty because Brianna Jensen is her granddaughter. She is the daughter of Stephanie and Brian Jensen of Danevang, granddaughter of Patty Jensen of Danevang and the late Curtis Jensen, granddaughter of Bobby Roye of El Campo and

Anita Roye of East Bernard and the great-granddaughter of Billie Roye of El Campo.

Brianna is an eighth grader at El Campo Middle School where she is active in many sports, especially softball and volleyball. Additionally, she is a member of several clubs including National Honor Society and student council.

Following the traditional reading of the St. Lucia story, songs were sung

along with the traditional walk around the Christmas tree, Santa arrived, and crafts were made by the children. Danish refreshments were served.

A special thanks to Patty's helpers: Cynthia Priesmeyer, who provided refreshments, Sherry Green, Stephanie Jensen, Sandra Petersen, Suzan Berndt, Julia Jensen and Bubba Baker. **We hope to see you there in 2020!**



Brianna Jensen, Santa Claus and Patty Jensen

# Danevang 125 continues - the Church



**St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church**



**Danevang Lutheran Church**

*Photographs from University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>, crediting the Danish Heritage Preservation Society*

Words from the Past—  
*Written by P.J. Agerskov-Petersen in 1908*

### **"The Congregation**

The people who moved to Danevang were nearly all church-people; and they came down here with the idea that here it should become a good place to live both as Christians and as men: here should be lived a truly human and Christian life! — That also became evident when the church congregation was organized in the summer of 1895, and all enrolled as members. H.P. Hermansen became the first presiding officer. The name of the congregation is 'Ansgar's Danish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation,' and it is part of 'The Danish Church of America.' In the beginning the congregation had no minister, but never-

theless held church meetings each Sunday in the homes of M. Andersen, L.J. Lykke, and Petersen Thomson. At these meetings a sermon was read, there was singing and conversation. The people were glad to be together and were, so to say, like one large family. Granted that the life of early settlers has quite a lot of 'shady aspects,' it also has its bright ones, especially this, that people share each others' sorrows and joys much more than when more prosperous conditions arrive. Some of the first feeling of intimacy and of standing-together disappears gradually. ....

In August '95 L. Henningsen and family came down here to take up the calling as minister. ...After having been here nearly three years, they went back up North.

Went back up North.....(A new resident minister came) the Rev. R.J. Christensen. He came direct from Denmark to the annual convention of 'The Danish Church.,' where he was ordained. "

Mr. Petersen continues on that in October 1908, the cornerstone for the church was laid. "It included a bouquet of rice and cotton plants, one "Krone" and one "Ti Øre, a review of the history of the congregation and the written text of the short sermon, which Rev. S.H. Madsen delivered at this occasion." The building was consecrated on March 28, 1909. Many trials and tribulations have been withstood by the congregation, including the hurricane of 1945, rather God has protected and blessed them throughout.

**YOU ARE  
INVITED TO  
JOIN IN THE  
CELEBRATION  
OF 125 YEARS  
IN OUR  
COMMUNITY  
AT THE  
REGULAR  
SUNDAY  
SERVICE,  
JUNE 7 AT  
10:00 am  
ALL ARE  
WELCOME**

# Annual Meeting & Board Elections

On February 15, the Annual Meeting of the Danish Heritage Preservation Society was held. A nice attendance was on hand to hear the updates of society business and vote on members of the Board. Sandra Petersen announced that while she would fulfill her term on the Board, she would not be running for another term as president. She expressed her thankfulness for the opportunity to serve the organization as its president or nine years but felt it was time for new ideas and new energy. She thanked all who have served on the Board during her tenure and expressed particular thanks to Suzan for her support and help throughout the years.

The organization approved the remaining Board members for another three years. Ralph Petersen and Lydia Dicks resigned with one year left on their terms. The Board will appoint mem-

bers to fulfill those terms.

The treasurer's report was accept. It showed that while we are in the black, we continue to be very marginal. We have designated funds to cover some anticipated major expenses.

Upcoming activities include three tours in February, 3 in April and one in May. (It should be noted that the ones in April and May were cancelled because of the pandemic.) The meeting was followed by lunch provided by Cynthia Priesmeyer and several other Board members.

The Board met in the afternoon after the General meeting. The main business was the election of officers and filling vacant positions. The following officers were elected:

Pres. Michael Hansen  
V.Pres.- Ronnie Wind  
Sec.- Kathi Jensen  
Tres.- Pam Pope  
Filling vacant positions

are Kathi Jensen and Jim Harton. Our thanks to all of you who have agreed to serve.

The Board has decided that the organization will sponsor an all-day event in October, tentatively October 22, the Danevang Harvest Festival. It will be patterned after our anniversary celebration with activities and a meal. Details will be forthcoming, but also we will need everyone working hard to see that not only our community but all our neighbors far and near are encouraged to participate. More information will be sent to you soon.

Hope you are all well.

Stay safe.

**THE MUSEUM WILL  
ROPEN JUNE 2.**



*"The following officers were elected:  
President: Michael Hansen  
Vice President: Ronnie Wind  
Secretary: Kathi Jensen  
Treasure: Pam Pope..."*

# Obituaries

**Lawrence Eric Harton** was born on February 4, 1932 in Danevang. To Laurits Eric Lilgaard Rasmussen Harton and Abelona Wind Harton. He passed away on November 19, 2019 at the age of 87. He was preceded in death by his parents, first wife Bonnie and brothers, Verner and Ernest. Lawrence grew up in Danevang where he lived on the family cotton farm. From this experience he was instilled with a work ethic and love of family. He was very proud of his Danish heritage and Danevang.

In 1951, Lawrence joined the Navy during the Korean War; his brothers also served. Upon returning after his service, he met and married Bonnie Lundy. Their life was spent mainly in Indiana. window. They traveled and enjoyed life.

When he retired they chose Sun City Center, Florida where they enjoyed musical and comedy shows and golf. When

Bonnie passed away, Lawrence returned to his roots. He met and married Carolyn Alford and planned to share a life of travel and leisure. Unfortunately, that was not to be.

Lawrence is survived by his second wife Carolyn and his sister, Alma Harton Haynes.

**Ella Halamicsek** was born in Danevang on January 20, 1921 to Walter and Anna Lykke Nielsen

Her last eight years were spent in the Meridian Assisted Living Community where she enjoyed games and visits with others.

She is survived by her children, Karen Mickelson, Frances Crawford, Dawn Wagner (Mike); eight grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

Ella was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Frank Halamicsek; son-in-law, Harold Mickelson; grandson, Sean Wagner; three sisters and two brothers.

Services were held at Triska Funeral Home.

Memorial donations may be made to Altus Hospice.

**Helena Lauritsen** was born on September 17, 1922 to Helvig and Laura Lauritzen Berndt. She passed away on December 17, 2019. She was a homemaker and artist. She was a founding member of the Danish Heritage Historical Society for which she served as historian for any years. She was a member of the Danevang Lutheran Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; first husband, John Brodsgaard; second husband, Leonard Lauritsen; brother Andrew Berndt; sisters, Marie Thaysen Bram, Ingeborg Atchetee, Meta Peninger Jensen and Anne Gardel.

Service for Helena was held at the Danevang Lutheran Church on December 20, 2019. Memorial donations may be made to the Danevang Lutheran Church, the Danish Heritage Preservation Society and the Danevang Lutheran Cemetery.

## Obituaries Continued

**Marilyn Ann Morgan Chappell** was born in Crowley, LA on October 12, 1931 to Cyrus and Edna Gaines Morgan. She passed away on January 17, 2020.

She was a rural homemaker in Danevang for nearly 60 years. An avid reader she enjoyed British melodramas, homemaking and watching the cardinals from her kitchen window. She loved to work in her garden and share the many vegetables she raised. She was a member of the Danish Heritage Museum and the Daneman Lutheran Church. She was always willing to support the Annual Fish Fry at the church by baking cranberry oatmeal cookies.

Survivors include daughters, Terry Lynn Rib (Eugene) and Natalie Hansen; sons, Charles (Valarie) and Morgan (Debbie); thirteen grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren.

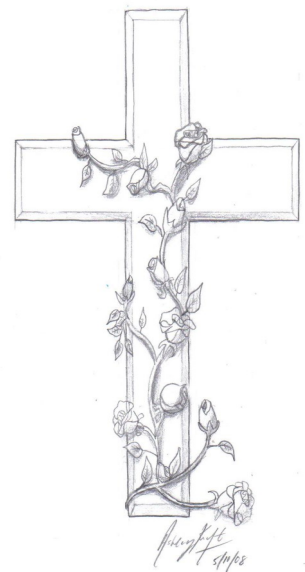
She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Terry Leonard Chappell; daughter, Martha; son, Brian; sister, Martha Hoffpauir and brother, David Morgan.

A memorial service was held Thursday, January 23 at the Danevang Lutheran Church.

Memorial donations may be made to the Danevang Lutheran Church, the Danish Heritage Museum or the Wharton County Library-El Campo Branch.

**Karyln M. Andersen** was born to Joseph and Myrtle Maierle, January 5, 1931. She passed away on October 20, 2019. A natural caregiver she graduated from nursing school and became an emergency room nurse in Arizona where she trained the first paramedic team. She was a seamstress, painter, cook and hunter. She was loved by her large family and was willing to help solve any problem. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Andy; sons Bob (Karen) and

Rick (Stacie), daughter Kris (Tim), four grandchildren, two great grandchildren, two sisters (Jerene and Marcia) and extended family.





# Donations October 20, 2019 - March 15, 2020

## Non-specified Donations to the General Fund

Virginia (Ginny) Blood	Amanda & Steven Scales
Elisabeth & Kai Nirell	Rev. & Mrs. Stephen Kelly
Ole Galsgaard	Dennis & Crystal Wind
Jim & Vicki Ekstrom	Leroy & Billie Jean Bram
Jack & Darlene Christiansen	Thomas DuBose
Denise Flagg	Geraldine Wuthrich
Curtis & Frances Reece	G.W. Franzen
Stephen Schmelling	Kim & Gary Gardell
Gary Raybon Charitable Fund	Richard & Teresa Ramsey
Myrna Hansen	Ann Strarup
Pamela & Paul Pope	Duby & Loran Baxter
Carl & Frances Steffensen	Soren Teilmann
Gary Petersen	James Nielsen
Wharton County Electric Coop	Corie Pope
Sandra Petersen	Patricia Blair

## Donations to the General Fund in Remembrance

Sandra Petersen	In memory of Elwin Petersen
Sheila Herrington	In memory of Ingeborg Atchetee
Dorothy Waldman	In memory of Beverly & Larry Burmi
Carolyn Westerholm	In memory of Kermit Westerholm
Paul & Kathi Jensen	In memory of Alfred & Earle Jensen
Julie (Hermansen) & Jim Turner	In memory of Ruth & Billy (Enor L.) Hermansen
Brent & Walla Ocker	In memory of Al Jensen
Kevin & Cori Bram Koudela	In memory of Otto & Henrietta Bram
Irvin & Elaine Wind	In memory of Lawrence Harton
Bowen David Rose	In memory of Laura Larsen Rose
Harlo & Rhonda Atchetee	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
Donna Simmer	In memory of Rev. Ronald & Delores Jespersen
Gerald or Carol Richards	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
Lawrence Jensen	In memory of Merle, Lana Jo Jensen
Paul Jensen	In memory of Axel & Gudrun Jensen
Adele Salazar	In memory of Mary Andersen
Roger & Betty Andersen	In memory of Hans, Anna Andersen, Doris, & E Grau. Karyl Andersen
Hans Clinton & Marie Jensen	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
Jim & Carole L. Harton	In memory of Helena Lauritsen

## Donations to the General Fund in Remembrance (continued)

Karen Nelsen & Nicolaas	In memory of Gil, & Suzy Nelsen, Hans J & Emilie Nelsen
Caren & Larry Cobb	In memory of Annie, Emma, Elsie, Carrie & Laura Larsen
Gerald & Myrna Christensen	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
Linda Shelton	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
Country Living Rentals	In memory of Joyce & Tony
	Danna
Alan & Karen Hall Harton	In memory of Bill & Esther Harton
Virginia & Jimmy Barosh	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
Carolyn S. Mitchell	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
Paul & Bobbie Brodsgaard	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
Norman Thaysen	In memory of Carl & Marie Thaysen
Harold Christensen	In memory of Asta Nygaard
Kevin & Cori Bram Koudela	In memory of Otto & Henrietta Bram
Irvin & Elaine Wind	In memory of Lawrence Harton
Kerry & Mary Koehler	In memory of Carolyn & Kermit Westerholm
Blayne & Pamela Hansen -	In memory of Lyle Hansen Harton
Myrna Hansen	In memory of Michael Brodsgaard
Harry & Marcia Westerholm	In memory of Herluf, Max, Kermit, Harvey & Leo Westerholm
Marilyn & Phill Richman	In memory of Thaysen Richman
Glenell & Douglas Wenglar	In memory of Elwin Petersen
Valerie Leger	In memory of Ingaborg Atchetee
Kristin Lewis	In memory of Doris Andersen Gray
Laura Mergenhagen	In memory of Sam & Kristine Brodsgaard
Carolyn S. Mitchell	In memory of Michael Brodsgaard
Rita & Walt Mergenhagen	In memory of J.E. & Agnes Sones
Jeanne & James Sralla	In memory of Dengsie & Zella Hansen
Dennis Hansen	In memory of Melvin & Marjorie Hansen, and Otto & Agnes Hansen
Barbara Trotter	In memory of Harold E. Wolf family
Sarah & Mark Hajovsky	In memory of Verner Harton
Martha Gau	In memory of Al Jensen
Laverne Harton	In memory of the Lawrence Harton
Jay Kristiansen	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
Ed Trapp	In memory of Pearly Juhl Cepello
Beverly Burmeier	In memory of Annette & Myrtle Waldman
Myrna Hansen	In memory of Marilyn Chappell

# Donations Continued

## In Remembrance (continued)

Sandra Petersen	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
Kenneth Andersen	In memory of Karyl Andersen
Gerald & Myrna Christensen	In memory of Marieane & Andy Christensen
Chris & Carol Barbee	In memory of Jack & Lois Hansen, Wilbert Hansen, Neal & Irene Flagg
Dale Atchetee	In memory of all the deceased Descendants of H.J. Berndt
Ronald Petersen	In memory of Eddie & Hilda Petersen and Wilbert Hansen
Daryl Swaby	In memory of Rosemary Christensen
Carolyn Mitchell	In memory of Leonard & Helena Lauritsen & Michael Brodsgaard
Irvin & Elaine Wind	In memory of Lars & Dora Wind & Olaf & Lillian Hansen

## Donations to the Endowment Fund In Remembrance

Kenneth & Anita Christensen	In memory of O.V. & Elsie Christensen
Kevin & Cori Koudelia	In memory of Otto & Henrietta Bram
Patricia Bruecher	In memory of Pauline & Andrew Bert
Kristine Lewis	In memory of Mads, Maren & Bertha Andersen
Duaine Ivey & Karen Hembree	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
Kathy Christensen Fagan	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
Elna (Jensen) Sheetz	In memory of Al Jensen
Cathy & David Dybala	In memory of O.V. & Elsie Christensen
Gary & Sherry Green	In Kind in honor of Patty Jensen for Santa Lucia
Jim W. & Jennifer Harton	In memory of Lawrence Harton
Dale Atchetee	In honor of all Living descendants of H.J. Berndt
Dr. Carl & Linda Andersen	In memory of Carl Madsinius Anderson

## Donations to the Endowment Fund In Remembrance (continued)

Gerald & Carol Richards	In memory of Doris Andersen Gray
Patricia Anderson	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
Myrna Hansen	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
James E. Petersen	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
Jim L. & Carole L. Harton	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
John & Eileen Huber	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
Irvin & Elaine Wind	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
William & Jane Hanna	In memory of Helena Lauritsen
Mary Ann Wind	In memory of Lawrence Harton
Alan & Karen Harton	In memory of Bill & Esther Harton
Cathy & David Dybala	In memory of O.V. & Elsie Christensen

## Non-specified Donations to the Endowment Fund

Rev. & Mrs. Stephen Kelly  
Elisabeth & Kai G. Nirell  
Gary Petersen

## Miscellaneous Donations

Sandra Petersen	In Kind for tours
Jay Kristiansen	In Kind for in memory of Michael Brodsgaard
Glenell & Douglas Wenglar	In Honor of Sandra Petersen

Thank You for Your Generosity

The Danish Heritage Preservation Society  
P.O. Box 368  
Danevang, Texas 77432  
979-578-0808

**The Danish Heritage Preservation Society  
Board of Directors**

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**Ronnie Wind ..... Vice President**  
**Kathi Jensen ..... Secretary**  
**Pamela Pope ..... Treasurer**  
**Jim Harton ..... Member**  
**Cheryl Lucas ..... Member**  
**Sandra Petersen ..... Member**  
**Sharon Mayhall ..... Member**  
**Harold Christensen ..... Member**  
**Jay Kristiansen ..... Member**  
**Cynthia Priesmeyer ..... Member**  
**Keith Bram ..... Member**  
**Natalie Hansen ..... Member**

Museum Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 1:00-4:00 p.m.  
Closed Sundays, Mondays and Holidays  
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