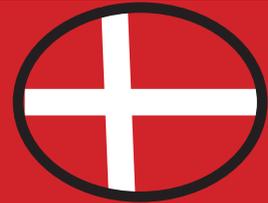


The Voice:



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

FALL / WINTER 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS



DANEVANG HARVEST FESTIVAL originally set for Saturday, October 23, 2021, has been postponed until next October because of Covid-19.

•**November 28 (Sunday noon).**
Set up Christmas trees at Danevang Lutheran Church -- pizza for helpers!

•**December 18 (Saturday 6 p.m.)**
Children's program and dancing around the Christmas tree at Danevang Lutheran Church

•**January 15 (Saturday 10 a.m.)**
DHPS Board of Directors meeting

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President's Report

by Michael Hansen

Like many of you, I thought that by this time we would be seeing the COVID pandemic in our rear-view mirror. So much for optimism. I was looking forward to encouraging you to make the drive to enjoy the inaugural Danevang Harvest Festival. Our Board made the difficult decision to cancel the event again this year. I will say, "See you next year" and hope that statement gets to come true.

Since the Harvest Festival was to be our big fundraiser, we must ask you – the faithful membership of the Danish Heritage Preservation Society – to help us again by not only renewing your membership for 2021, but by giving an extra donation if you can. We have lined up some generous underwriters that have committed to match your donations dollar-for-dollar (to date, up to a total of \$6,500) so in effect, your donation will get doubled.

Please see the list of our major sponsors on p. 6. We definitely appreciate the support they

provide as well as the support we receive from our membership.

Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic impacts our opportunities to host events that allow us to raise funds, but doesn't give us a break on our expenses. We still need to run our A/C-Heating units to protect the museum displays. The infamous soil composition in this area caused us to once again re-level the Pioneer House.

Membership renewal letters will be sent soon. I encourage you to share the forms with your extended family so they may also become supporting members of DHPS and our museum. You may also want to consider purchasing memberships for children, grandchildren and/or nieces and nephews.

On an upbeat note, we are hosting some lunch tours – albeit less frequently and smaller groups. We so enjoy serving our traditional "Danish Country Lunch" to our guests and then have them enjoy the



many displays in the museum. We are seeing more local groups such as the El Campo Memorial Hospital Senior TREK group and the Wharton County Electric Coop board of directors. In a few days, we will host the Senior Adult Activities group from the 1st Baptist Church of El Campo. For many of these locals, it is the first time to actually visit the museum. We also hosted a family reunion group. Let us know if you are part of a group that would like to enjoy one of our lunch tours.

Let me close with saying again that YOU are the "Society" in the DHPS. We greatly appreciate your interest and support and without you, there would be no reason for DHPS to exist. We look forward to seeing and visiting with you.

Making Danish Meatballs

Board members and friends met on August 11 in Danevang to make *Frikadellar* (Danish meatballs) to freeze for future Museum tours and other events. It took almost five hours for 12 people to make some 1600 meatballs.



Clockwise from top left: Cynthia Priesmeyer and Ronnie Wind chopped many bags of onions, while Michael Hansen and Sandra Petersen took on the job of deep-frying the meatballs. Cynthia procured and prepped all the ingredients before the workday. *(right)* Jay Kristiansen mixed ingredients and formed meatballs (along with Cheryl Lucas, Suzan Berndt, Denise Flagg, Wanda Kidwell and her great grandson, Brayden DeLeon, Paul Jensen, and Kathi Jensen). *(bottom right)* Brayden DeLeon (who turned 10 a few days after this picture was taken) was a big help, gathering ingredients and breaking eggs. *(bottom left)* Current DHPS president Michael Hansen presented an engraved James Avery necklace to past president Sandra Petersen to thank her for her years of service.

Elaine & Irv Wind

Meet Two of Our Favorite Danevang Natives

Elaine Hansen was almost 14 when she was named to Danevang's 1947 May Fete court. She wasn't particularly interested in boys, but she needed an escort for the festivities. Her mother suggested she ask one of the Wind boys who lived nearby (there were five of them). She invited Lester first, but he already had a date, so she asked his brother Irvin.

Irv accepted, and that year, they were crowned the Queen and King of May Fete.

This fall, they celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. (Shirley) Elaine Hansen and (Lars) Irvin Wind were married in Danevang Lutheran Church on November 11, 1951.



May Fete Danevang, TX
 Queen: Elaine Hansen King: Irvin Wind
 Front Row: Children: Jane Andersen, Erling Thaysen, Jeanne Swendsen
 Back Row Standing: Dolores Hansen, Elaine Hansen (Queen), Irvin Wind (King) & Martin Strarup
 Boys Standing: Roger Andersen, Ray Allenson, Carl Hansen, Jr., Vernon Swendsen, Lawrence Harton, Jack Hansen, Bobby Marlow, Kenneth Andersen & Carl Lester Wind
 Girls Sitting: Dagmar Thyssen, Helen Marlow, Shirley Strarup, Louise Hansen, Irene Hansen, Isabel Nielsen, Barbara Strarup, Lilly Jensen & Ellnora Hansen

Olaf Hansen and Lillian Hoffman. Her paternal grandparents settled in Danevang in 1894 (Niels Hansen and Emma Nielsen). Irv's family

After that first date, they saw each other off and on — she went to his senior prom. But they were two years apart in school, and — despite the fact that their families lived within a few miles of each other — they didn't attend the same schools. Irv's home was zoned to Matagorda County, so except for his first two years, he went to school in Markham, while Elaine attended Danevang and El Campo Schools.

Both had grandparents who were pioneering Danish immigrants to the community. Irvin is the son of Lars Larsen Wind and Dora Harton; his paternal grandparents, Iver Wind and Signe Larsen, settled in Danevang in 1895. Elaine's parents were

spoke Danish at home until his oldest brother started school, when they decided they should start speaking English. Both Irv and Elaine did their share of picking cotton as youngsters; she earned money for new clothes by doing farm chores.

When Irv graduated from high school (with only 12 in his class), he enrolled at Texas College of Arts and Industries in Kingsville to study engineering (now Texas A&M Kingsville). With the draft looming, he joined the Air Force after two years at A&I and was stationed at Randolph Air Force Base.

He and Elaine corresponded, but both were busy with their own pursuits. After she graduated from El Campo High School, she completed



Elaine & Irvin Wind

continued from page 3

business school in Houston and then worked in downtown El Campo.

In June 1951, Irv's mother saw Elaine walking downtown and told her that Irv was coming home on leave. Elaine invited him to her upcoming birthday party; he couldn't make the party, but he made a date for another time.

Early in July, they went dancing at the Pavilion in Palacios. Elaine smiles as she remembers the moon shining on the water when they walked out on the pier ... by September, Irv had given her a ring, and they married a few months later.

When Irv finished his Air Force tour, they returned to Kingsville where he completed his degree in electrical engineering. By that time, they had had two sons — Michael and Randall. Daughter Diane was born a few years later. Michael and his wife, Lee, live in Cedar Park, Randall and his wife, Susan, in LaGrange, and Diane and her husband, Billy, live in Houston. Most of their seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren live in the Houston and Austin areas.

Irv's first job with Sperry moved them to Salt Lake City for a year; then they lived in Lou-

isiana for a time, and later spent four years in Marshall, Texas, where Irv worked for Thiokol, manufacturer of solid fuel rocket motors.

In 1964, Irv began working at NASA, soon becoming head of the section testing pyrotechnic (explosive) devices, which included up to eight other engineers. He worked on the Mercury program as well as Gemini and Apollo. They lived in League City for 32 years, and all three children graduated from Clear Creek High School.

As the children left the nest, Elaine, along with two friends, started one of the area's first re-sale shops, which they operated for 15 years.

With credit for his Air Force service, Irv retired young. They moved back to Danevang and enjoyed traveling, including two trips to Denmark (1990 and 1995). On one trip, Elaine said their group stayed for a month and never had to rent a hotel room — they were hosted by relatives. Elaine remembers watching the older Danes doing gymnastics on Sunday afternoons.

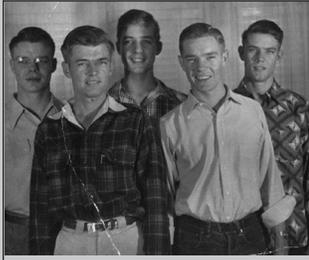
With both sons living in Taylor, Irv and Elaine moved there for a few years. But when their sons' careers took them elsewhere, the Winds

moved back to El Campo, where they still live.

Their imprint on the DHPS Museum is everywhere. Elaine started the first gift shop, and with Marilyn Henderson, the Museum's kitchen. She designed the menu for the Danish dinner that is still served today, and the first Frikadeller (Danish meatballs) were made in their home. Irvin built the display case for the Museum's collection of Danish Christmas plates, as well as a cabinet for the weather station display and several other items. They have donated many items, including a beautiful light fixture that Elaine's grandmother brought from Denmark. And their faces are familiar at practically every event. They serve meals and provide tours for many of the Museum's visiting groups.

Their families gather every other year in the Community Hall for a Christmas Eve reunion, which includes a tradition they both grew up with — children dancing around the tree.

If you see Irv and Elaine Wind, please give them each a hearty ***mange tak*** for their many contributions to preserving Danevang's Danish heritage.



The Wind brothers. (left to right.) back row: Harold, Ellis, Lester. front: Alfred, Irvin



Elaine (center) was named Wharton County Farm Queen in 1949.

Laurie Petersen Martin named to Board

Please welcome **Laurie Petersen Martin** to the DHPS Board of Directors. Her parents, Lawrence & Gloria Petersen, were longtime Danevang residents. She and her husband Jimmy recently returned to the area after living in Germany for 28 years.

After graduating from El Campo High School, Laurie majored in nursing at the University of Texas (first in Austin and then in Arlington). When her husband was in the seminary in Ft. Worth, she worked at All Saints Hospital. His first pastorates were in East Texas (Harleton and Quitman). Jimmy then accepted the pastorate at a church outside Ramstein Air Force Base in southwest Germany. Their three daughters — Angela, Leah, and Karis — were 9, 6 and 5 when they moved to Germany; all attended German schools.

After living in Kaiserslauten for almost 10 years, the Martin family moved in 2003 to Frankfurt when Jimmy became the General Secretary of a group of more than 65 English-speaking churches in 25 countries in Europe, Africa, the

Middle East, and Central and South America.

They traveled extensively, organizing and attending conferences, conducting training, and visiting member churches. Jimmy retired in December 2020, and the couple built a home in El Campo.

One daughter lives in California and is married to a minister; the other two live in Texas (Plano and Arlington.) All are married with children; the Martins are blessed with six grandsons and two granddaughters.

Laurie's sister, Pamela Petersen Pope, is treasurer of the DHPS board. Their brother, Kyle, lives in Chicago. Their dad, a highly respected leader in the Danevang farming community, passed away in January 2005, and their mother, Gloria, now lives in El Campo.

Laurie has already made significant contributions to the DHPS. Her youngest daughter Karis Narofsky designed the logo for our Harvest Festival, and Laurie set up the Society's new Instagram account.



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danishUNDERSCOREheritageUNDERSCOREpreservation

(no capitals & no spaces)

Sponsors 2020

Double Platinum (\$5,000 and above)

Carolyn Mitchell
 Bridget Jensen
 Ralph Petersen
 Sandra Petersen

Platinum (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Pam (Petersen) & Paul Pope
 Irvin and Elaine Wind

Gold (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Michael Hansen
 Paul & Kathi Jensen

Silver (\$500 to \$999)

Dale Atchetee
 Duby Baxter
 Cerny Brothers Farm
 Gloria Petersen

Silver, continued

Wenglar Services, Inc.
 Wharton County Electric Cooperative

Bronze (\$250 to \$499)

Harlo and Rhonda Atchetee
 Ekstrom Enterprises
 First Financial Bank
 J4 Fencing and Services
 Jay Kristiansen
 KAB Farms / Precision Planting – Keith Bram
 Elisabeth and Kai Nirell
 Cynthia Priesmeyer
 Rice Farmers Co-op / Mr. Tire
 Gerald and Carol Richards
 Marilyn and Phill Richman
 South Texas Land LP
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Donations May 1, 2021 to October 1, 2021

To the general fund...

Carolyn Mitchell
 Wharton County Electric Coop
 Steven and Amanda Scales

In support of the Danevang Harvest Festival

Bridget Jensen

*Memorials...***In memory of Virgil Harton**

Edward and Barbara Smith
 Carole & Jimmie L. Harton
 Darlene Miksik
 Bonnie Halkett

In memory of Alma Haynes

Corinna Harton
 Jim W. and Jennifer Harton
 Laverne Harton

In memory of Eugene Vincent Rasmussen

Sandra Sommerfrucht

In memory of Bill Hansen

Ruth Seboldt
 Amy Viets-Cooper

In memory of Verner and Louise Petersen, and Lawrence Petersen

Ralph Petersen

Irene Bram 12/5/29 - 9/19/21

Irene Bram was preceded in death by her parents, William E. and Dora Langdon Massoletti; husband, Elve Bram; and sister, Minne Fay Fitzgerald. She is survived by her children, William "Willie" Bram and wife Julia of New Mexico; Dollie King of Colorado; Kimmie R. Bram and wife Shelly of Portland, TX; and Scott Bram and wife Kainee of Corpus Christi. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and brother Archie Massoletti and wife Betty of Point Comfort.

Irene retired from Sears after 23 years and was an active member of the DAV, VFW, and American La-

dies Auxiliaries for many years. She loved spending time with her family, dancing, and playing games, especially dominoes. She will be greatly missed.

Internment was at Garden of Memories Cemetery. Pallbearers were Allen King, Clint Bram, Ryan Bram, Trent Svadlenak, Kade Bubela, and Waylan Bram. Honorary pallbearers were Bodie Bram, Trevor Settle, Phillip King, A.J. King, Miles Bailess, Ethan Gamez, Owen Accardi, and Dakota Bubela. Memorial donations may be made to Christ Lutheran Church in El Campo. Condolences for the family may be left at www.triskafuneralhome.com.

Alma Harton Haynes 7/4/25 - 5/16/21

Alma Signe Harton Haynes was born in Danevang to Laurits and Abelone Harton, both Danish. Her education began in a small school in Danevang where she learned to speak English. She graduated from high school in El Campo and began nursing training. She married Relmond Haynes on June 1, 1946. They lived in Austin for many years, celebrating 60 years together.

Alma was employed by the Texas Employment Commission (now Texas Workforce Commission) for more than two decades. She loved to read and travel, and enjoyed visiting with and entertaining

family and friends.

She is survived by sons Gaylan (Bonnie Pevy) Haynes and Gordon Haynes; grandchildren Gordon Haynes Jr., Charles N. Smith IV, and Michelle B. Smith, and many great grandchildren. Her generous acceptance of stepchildren and grandchildren showed her love for extended family.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Relmond Edward Haynes; parents, Laurits E. R. Harton and Abelone Larsen Wind Harton; her brothers, Verner Harton, Lawrence Harton, and Ernie Harton, and her daughter-in-law, Margo Vines Haynes

Glenn Treadwell 10/29/49 - 8/1/21

Glenn Albert Treadwell, New Braunfels, was born in El Campo to the late Lanus Albert and Clara Brodsgaard Treadwell. He was a 1968 graduate of El Campo High School and a member of the 1967 Ricebirds state finalist football team. He was awarded a football scholarship to Baylor University. Glenn was a farmer and rancher in his early years, and later owned a commercial long-haul trucking business.

He enjoyed spending time with his family, visiting the Gulf Coast, and being surrounded by close friends.

He is survived by his four children and four grandchildren: son Heith and Anna Treadwell of

Pflugerville; daughters Rachael Treadwell and Lisa Hause of Austin, Whitney Treadwell of Morales, and Megan and Derek Luchak of New Braunfels. Grandchildren are Porter Treadwell, Brailey Luchak, Ivy Jo Luchak, Octavia Luchak. He is also survived by his brother Bruce Treadwell of El Campo.

Glenn was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Kathryn Treadwell, and his brother Lanus Treadwell.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that you please make a donation in their father's memory to the Parkinson's Foundation s to improve care and advance research toward finding a cure.

The Danish Heritage Preservation Society
P.O. Box 368
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979-578-0808

The Danish Heritage Preservation Society

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Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays

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