

Serving the
Danish Sisterhood of America
Since 1947

Danish Sisterhood News

August 2024



In this issue: * Scholarship Winners * Danish Seaman's Church *
* Heartland District Convention Approaching * Danish Sisterhood Items to Purchase*



President's Corner



Greetings to all of you,

Happy Summer! When you read this, we will be on the tail end of summer. I write this column about 6 weeks before you read it. That is the timeframe for publishing, printing, and mailing the newsletter. It is always hard for me to know what greeting and information to use that far ahead of when you read it. It seems strange on June 30th to say, "I hope you had a great summer, when it isn't even July 4th yet, but...when you are reading this, it is mid-August. So, if I seem out of sync with this column, I apologize."

This will be a short column. The board did not meet in June. The usual meeting date was midsummer, and my lodge was meeting at our home for a bonfire and pontoon ride on the lake that night. We do, however, continue to communicate by email, so if you have something you want to reach out to us with, we are here for you.

One of the things we have worked on refining over the last few months is the *Lifetime Achievement Award*. This award was instituted 10 years ago, to be given every year. Many years there has been no recipient. It is a wonderful way to recognize hard working, dedicated, long time members. You will find the application for this award in this newsletter. The usual application deadline is May 1st, but we have extended it to October 1st this year. We hope to have some applications by that time.

On another note, about the same award, we are looking for someone from the East Coast area and a person from the West Coast area to help look at the applications and select the recipient. If you are willing to help us, please contact me at: 612-290-1374, or president@danishsisterhood.com. Thanks.

As always, the National Board is here for you. Please reach out to us for what you need.

~~Nealna Gylling, DSS President

Danish Sisterhood News

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Honorary Member Her Majesty
Queen Margrethe II of Denmark

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Dear Sisters and Mister Sisters:

My sincere hope is that this summer has been a wonderful time for you! It has been a joy to see and hear about Danish Sisterhood lodge events throughout this summertime all across the USA.

Scholarship winners were announced in last month's issue of Danish Sisterhood News, and are announced in this month's issue, also. Below are the names of this year's winners:

Elizabeth Garde Scholarship was awarded to **Josiah Dudenhofer**.

Mildred Sorensen Scholarship was awarded to **Jade Chouinard**.

Olga Christensen Scholarship was awarded to **Jacob Chouinard**.

Betty Hansen Scholarships were awarded to: **Delaney Duel, Isabel Plasek, Bethany Jarvis, Aliyah Vallejo, Danika Stewart, Luke Mortensen**.

Many congratulations to all of our scholarship winners! And, many congratulations to all of the Sisters and Mister Sisters who contribute stories and pictures to our monthly newsletters! Please continue to share stories and photos from your lodge events. We appreciate hearing and seeing what you do!
~~Charlene Jensen, Editor | editor@danishsisterhood.com

Velkommen



Charlene M. Jensen,
Editor

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PHOTO LEFT:
Brynlee Anderson (Lodge 102) age 6 enjoying an article on Danish Folklore in the June newsletter. Brynlee is the daughter of Jeff and Tricia (Rudisill) Anderson of Lodge 102.

Photography by John Rudisill.

ON THE COVER: This photo was submitted by Annette Lind. This photo reveals the inside of the current Danish Seaman's Church (Den Danske Sømandskirke) in Brooklyn, New York. Note the ship hanging from the ceiling, just like churches in Denmark.

The tradition of hanging ship replicas in Danish churches has two origins. Firstly, it dates back to ancient times when miniature ships were offered as votive offerings to ensure safe voyages. In the Christian era, retired seamen continued the tradition by carving and rigging ship replicas, which found a fitting place in parish churches. Secondly, the metaphor of the church as a ship has symbolic connections. The main sanctuary of churches is called the "nave," derived from the Latin word "navis," meaning ship.

It is time to start preparing for the holidays! Are you ready to learn how to make Danish Glogg (Gløgg)? It's a hot Christmas drink served with almonds and raisins.

INGREDIENTS

1 cup (236 ml) water
2 oranges, sliced
1/2 cup (100 grams) brown sugar
1 bottle red wine

Spices:

2 cinnamon sticks
2 bay leaves
2 star anise
10 cloves
10 cardamom pods
1/2 teaspoon whole black peppercorns
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

Serving:

6 tablespoons blanched almonds (1 tablespoon per glass), chopped
3 tablespoons raisins (1/2 tablespoon per glass)



INSTRUCTIONS

Wash the oranges and slice them.

In a large pot, add water, orange slices, spices, and brown sugar.

Bring to a boil and let simmer for 10 minutes with a lid on. Remove from heat and let the mixture process for about 2 hours.

Discard all spices and orange slices and add the bottle of red wine.

Optional: You can save the cinnamon sticks and orange slices as decoration when serving the gløgg in the glasses.

Heat up the gløgg to 170 degrees Fahrenheit (80 degrees Celcius), so the alcohol doesn't evaporate.

Add 1 tablespoon of chopped blanched almonds and 1/2 tablespoon raisins to each glass and pour in the gløgg. Serve immediately.

DSS Angel Status Members

This status belongs to those members that wish to gift their funeral benefit back to the Sisterhood. We believe this is a generous and significant gift and wish to honor them. If you are interested in becoming an Angel member, please request a beneficiary change form from your lodge secretary or the National Secretary.

Member/Lodge #

Viola Wilson 166
Joann Scott 168
Karin Plagens 188
Sandra Nelson 188
Carole Hodges 22
Andrea Welling Leih 15
Elizabeth Haar 12
Dorothy Petersen 126
Glenda Madrid 177
Nancy Mayland 125
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Kristine Huss 15
Seena Drapala 142
Janelle Willis 102
Janice Schneider 15
Vicki Bousquet 90
Bente Bob 185
Martha Nielsen 149
Ulla Pereira 300
Margaret Omodt 21

Member/Lodge #

Carol Smith 149
Meredith Sorensen 187
Marie Jaeger 177
Christina Sallee 81
Melissa Sallee 81
Marie Fairbanks 165
Constance Schneider 90
Susan Fisher 102
Lou Ann Jensen 15
Hanne Skaarup 125
Else Lassiter 177
Pamela Ruben 15
Ruth Brigden 126
Margaret Wetzel 165
Verina Farrell 177
Lorraine Buchanan 86
Debra Spatz 15
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Linda Holz 102
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DANISH SEAMAN'S CHURCH, LODGE #15—by Annette Lind

At the June Zoom meeting of the Dronning Margrethe Lodge in Milwaukee, we had a fabulous program on the Danish Seaman's Church (Den Danske Sømandskirke) in Brooklyn, New York. The program was given by Julie Sløk, the Pastor of the church. Pastor Sløk and her husband and children came to the United States from Denmark and she has been the Chaplain since 2009. She studied seven years in Copenhagen, receiving a degree in Theology. For several years she worked at *The World Bank* on projects related to women's issues in East Asia.

Pastor Sløk said she loved her job with *The World Bank*. But, with three children, traveling for a month at a time made life difficult. She missed her children. When her husband got a job in New York City, Pastor Sløk applied to become an Assistant Pastor at the Danish Seamen's Church. When the Pastor stepped down, Pastor Sløk was given the job.

The Danish Seaman's Church was founded in 1878 by Rasmus Andersen. Andersen was one of two-hundred-plus Danish men who were sent to North America by the Furtherance of the Proclamation of the Gospel Among Danes in America. Initially Andersen had problems finding a congregation. It was suggested he learn English; he enrolled at the Norwegian-Danish Conference Seminary in Marshall, Wisconsin. While on Christmas break, he went to Waupaca Wisconsin and found a congregation. He was ordained in 1872 and stayed in Waupaca for six years. He was a founder of the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

His next congregation took him to the New York/New Jersey area. Pastor Sløk said Andersen saw that those Danes who suffered most were the seafarers. When in port for the three weeks between sailing, there was little to do except to go to bars. Andersen founded the Danish Seaman's Church, a place for the sailors to get mail, read Danish books and newspapers and take trips outside the harbor area with a group.

The first service at the church had only two people in attendance: a tailor and one of the most well-known Danes in the U.S. at that time, Jacob Riis. Riis was born in Ribe, Denmark in 1849. He emigrated from Denmark to the United States and became a journalist, social reformer and documentary photographer. He used his photographs taken in the tenements of New York City to write a book and expose the plight of the poor. Riis gave \$5,000.00 to help support the new Danish Seaman's Church.

Pastors from the church would go to visit the sailors on their ships, bringing food and taking them on outings to help conquer the boredom of a life at sea. In 1886 two brick residences on Ninth Street in Brooklyn (193 Ninth Street) were set up to be the church. Pastor Sløk said if you go past the old buildings today it will remind you of an old Danish Church.

In 1957, the church moved to 102 Willow Street in Brooklyn Heights. The church functions within the National Church of Denmark who pays the salary of Pastor Sløk. Church services and all church business, including a newsletter, are in Danish. In 1973, the City of New York purchased Howland Hook Marine Terminal, and subsequently, the Port Authority leased the terminal from the city in 1985. After significant redevelopment, including \$4 million for dredging, the Port Authority reopened Howland Hook in 1996. This changed the dynamic of the church moving the port further away. Seafarers still occasionally come when they are in port and occasionally Pastor Sløk is called to visit a ship. Ships docking in New York/New Jersey are usually in the harbor no more than six hours.

These days the congregation is made up mostly of Danes living here in the United States for work. The average age of those attending the services is between 25 and 50, with only a few over the age of 50, except for the Church Council. As a result of this change, the church caters more to the current congregation with mother's groups and children's play groups.

Every year on the weekend before Thanksgiving, the church holds a huge Danish Christmas Fair for two days. Danes, and anyone else interested, can find all things related to celebrating Christmas in the Danish style. All are welcome. Danish Gløgg is made by Pastor Julie Sløk. She starts the process of producing 40 gallons of the Danish drink in October with the steeping of the spices. Those involved with the event will bake 2,000 æbelskiver. It is a joyous event; proceeds from sales help fund the church. Other Danish Seamen's Churches can be found around the world. It was wonderful to learn about this church in Brooklyn. Hopefully, someday you will be able to visit, especially at the time of the Christmas Fair.

THE HEARTLAND DISTRICT CONVENTION

**You are Invited to the
Heartland District Convention
October 4-5, 2024
Brainerd, Minnesota**

Schedule:

Friday, October 4 –

Visit Skovsøen Language Camp
Aebleskiver Supper
Hardanger Fiddle Concert

Saturday, October 5 –

Sisterhood & Brotherhood Meetings
Activities in the area
Dinner Cruise on Beautiful Gull Lake
Initiation of officers and conclusion of convention



All the above for only \$110. It's a great deal!!! We hope to see you!

For more information contact:

Nealna Gylling at 612-390-1374 or Nealna.gylling@gmail.com

Dottie Bisted at 218-851-8764 or dottie.bisted@gmail.com

WHAT IS ONE THING THAT DENMARK IS FAMOUS FOR?

Denmark is known for its exquisite architecture. Modern public buildings like the Black Diamond library in Copenhagen are iconic works of architectural art.

Denmark's residential builds are just as incredible. One famous building in Denmark is the Isbjerget (The Iceberg) in Aarhus. What looks like a spiky iceberg is actually an apartment complex. This structure was funded by the Danish Pension Fund.

Another famous residential build in Denmark is The Wave, called Bølgen in Danish. It is a shoreline residential apartment block that is actually in the shape of a wave. It was designed by Henning Larsen Architects. Bølgen is in southeast Jutland on the fjord peninsula's edge.

PHOTO TO THE RIGHT: Bølgen is a very distinctive residential building that consists of five tile-clad, rolling 'waves', each reaching nine stories and offering 20 individual apartments.



Youth Birthdays — August 2024



| Name | Lodge | Age |
|-----------------|-------|-----|
| Emma Rae Fisher | 102 | 7 |

In Memoriam
For August 2024 NEWSLETTER

| NAME | Cert # | Lodge # | Location | Birth Date | Birth Place | Initiated | Died | Benefit |
|------------------|--------|---------|-------------|------------|---------------|-----------|----------|---------|
| Edith Hellyer | 1238 | 4 | Chicago, IL | 4.22.32 | Chicago, IL | 8.24.03 | May 2024 | 0 |
| M. Arlene Morrow | 25390 | 21 | Denver, CO | 11.24.32 | Weld County | 3.22.01 | 5.25.24 | 250. |
| Lois Ringo | 90438 | 300 | Tivoli | 5.26.21 | Irvington, NE | 9.3.13 | 2.24.24 | 0 |

MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION for August 2024

| LODGE | NEW MEMBER | SPONSOR |
|-------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 186 | Mike (Myron) Stanwood Jr | Kathee Stanwood |
| 186 | Lillian Mary Blomer | Sheila Brogger |
| 75 | Jennifer Madsen-Tenney | Carol Lingner |

We need your help!

We are still looking for someone from the eastern part of the US and someone from the West Coast to help select the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement.

If you are willing to help, please contact Nealna at:
president@danishsisterhood.com or **612-390-1347**.

Thanks!

—Nealna Gylling

Well done, Bente and Lars Rasmussen!

Bente and Lars Rasmussen were the recipients of the Top Karen Award at Rebild in Denmark on July 2, 2024. The Top Karen Award is presented to someone who has made an extraordinary contribution to Danish American friendship.

Bente has been a member of Dagmar Lodge #4 since 2005 and Lars joined in 2020. They have both contributed greatly to the Danish Sisterhood.

Congratulations to Bente and Lars!



HOW TO ARCHIVE YOUR LODGE ARTIFACTS?

Have you ever wondered, "What do we do with all this stuff?" Well, mark your calendars because on November 12, 2024, at 5:00 pm, you can join Cheyenne Jansdatter, Archivist for the Museum of Danish America, for a Zoom tutorial on how to archive your lodge's artifacts. We will discuss proper storage techniques, what to keep, how to document your artifacts and the process for donation, both to our museum and museums in general. We will also discuss some ideas for storage of your digital materials, like meeting minutes and lodge photos.

The Zoom link will be provided closer to the date of the event. We hope you join us live so that you can ask all your burning questions. However, this Zoom meeting/event will also be made available on the Museum of Danish America's YouTube page at a later date!

Vi ses!

Cheyenne Jansdatter, MLIS

Development Associate & Archivist | She/Her
MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA

PHOTO BELOW: Example items from a Danish Sisterhood Lodge. The question is how to archive these type of lodge artifacts.



PHOTO RIGHT: Annette Buhl, President of the Los Angeles Princess Marie Lodge, took this picture in June 2024 while visiting Denmark. This photo is of Skagen's Vippefyr.

Skagen's Vippefyr (sometimes referred to in English as Skagen's Lever Light) is a navigational light mechanism located in Skagen in the far north of Jutland. The original vippefyr, the first of its kind, was built in 1627. A faithful copy now stands on the same site. It replaced an earlier parrot light (*papegøjefyr*) and served until 1747 when the White Lighthouse was brought into operation.



Congratulations to the following 2024 Camp Grant Recipients

Melody Tatsral – Lodge #4 – Den Danske Sommerskole

Brylee Anderson – Lodge #102 – Drake Basketball Camp

Phoebe Volious – Lodge #102 – Drake Basketball Camp

Cameron Curtis – Lodge #184 – Active Start Camp

Look for these campers' pictures, and paragraphs about camp, in an upcoming newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER — By Carol Rudisill

Many of our lodges are looking for a program they can do to enhance interest and excitement within the lodge meeting. This month I'm going to share SOME of the ideas I've heard as I've spoken with the different presidents around the country. As a Dane, there are so many topics to choose from. They may take a little planning or research, but may be topics of interest to all the members. I'm a firm believer that to get the juices running, or to interest a new member, you have to have something interesting to share. A business meeting does not seem to get new people interested in joining our organization.

So, what can you do to get the interest piqued? From speaking with some of the lodge presidents, I have heard of many great ideas. I hope you recognize your lodge in some of the ideas I'm going to share. One lodge has a potluck dinner and at the end of the line each person pays a dime (or with inflation a quarter) for each scoop of food taken. What a fun way to raise a little cash while having a great dinner filled with fun and conversation. Another idea is to have a tasting. At my lodge I presented a program on akvavit and then had samples of some different akvavit, both homemade and store bought. I think husbands actually wished they had joined the Sisterhood because of all that fun! I am going to add the information gathered for that meeting at the end of this Membership Corner. Another idea might be to have a taste test of different æbleskive recipes. Now that we have electric æbleskive pans, it's pretty easy to cook up a few æbleskiver—one per person—and try some different recipes. There are about as many different æbleskive recipes as there are frikadelle recipes! The competition could get a little fierce!

Another lodge did a program on some of the different Skagen painters. There is so much to learn about the Skagen painters. You can introduce the painters with a brief biography and show some examples of their work. The Skagen painters are very special to those living in Denmark. Most Danes are familiar with at least one of the Skagen artists and their work is known and revered worldwide.

Another idea I've heard mentioned was learning how to use the internet to find family information in Danish records. Genealogy is a great way to learn more about Denmark and its people. Who we are and where we came from is a mystery just waiting to be solved.

I hope some of these ideas have given you something to think about. If you have a meeting program that you would like to share, please let me know so that it can be shared with others. Your program idea might be the idea that helps another lodge have an exciting and enjoyable meeting!

—Carol Rudisill

Betty Hansen Continuing Education Grant Danish Culture/Heritage Grant Up to \$500

**for a class, workshop or seminar recently
completed by a less than full time student.**

Applications due August 31st

For more information:

www.danishsisterhood.org

or contact

Nealna Gylling at

president@danishsisterhood.com

PHOTO BELOW: A photo by **Annette Buhl** during her June 2024 trip to Denmark. This photo is of the interior of Rundetaarn (Round Tower) in Copenhagen.





DANISH SISTERHOOD *of* AMERICA

Connect with Your Danish Heritage

Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Form

Post marked by **October 1st** (one nomination per lodge per year)

Danish Sisterhood of America wishes to recognize those members who have faithfully contributed time and energy in the support of their Sisterhood Lodge, or the Danish Sisterhood of America, on a scale that is exceptional and long sustained. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes and celebrates the sustained work of one individual for their exceptional contributions, vision and unwavering commitment to promoting the Danish Sisterhood of America. A panel of 3 judges will be the final selection committee. We invite you to nominate any member who meets the following criteria for the Lifetime Achievement Award:

- ◆ A member who has been associated with the Danish Sisterhood for 20+ years,
- ◆ A member who has provided exceptional and long sustained efforts for the Sisterhood,
- ◆ The winner of this award will be recognized with an engraved plaque, and recognition in the National Newsletter, Website and National Conventions.

Nominating Party Information:

Nominating Lodge: #

Submitted by:

Contact Phone: Email: _____

Nominee's Information:

Nominee's name: _____ Certif/Member # _____

Nominee's length of membership (years): _____ Initiation Date _____

Please describe the specific achievements or contributions this member has made to our Sisterhood organization (in 500 words or less). Please be specific about their contributions. Include offices held, i.e.,: local, district, and/or national. Also, convention attendance to district and/or national, if applicable.

As an example: "She's a great Sisterhood member," is less useful in evaluating than, "She worked on 10 different committees."

You may also provide any of the following additional information/documents:

Up to five photos will be accepted with this application. ** If actual photos are submitted, please be aware they will not be returned.

The deadline for submission must be postmarked by October 1st. Application and photo should be emailed to our National President at president@danishsisterhood.com .

The Lifetime Achievement Award will not necessarily be awarded every year.

A member of the Award Selection Committee is not eligible for award consideration.

GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD: VICE-PRESIDENT ANNA NIELSEN

Hi, All! Many of you know me as the face behind our Facebook and Instagram pages, but for those of you who don't, my name is Anna Nielsen. I am the current Vice President on the National Board. As I am sure you have noticed by now, we are making our way through the entire board, introducing ourselves one by one, so you can get to know us all a little bit better.

Many folks know me as the sister of our former DSS News editor, Lauren Nielsen. I joined Katherine Lodge #20 of Kenosha, Wisconsin shortly after she did, nearly 9 years ago, on December 10, 2015. I was sworn in at the old Danish Brotherhood location in Kenosha, Wisconsin at their annual Christmas party. Most recently, I have become a dual member of our Tivoli lodge as well. Sisterhood has held a large part of my heart this past near-decade and I strive to be as involved as possible. Aside from Vice President nationally, I also enjoy being President of both my lodge and the Midwest District.

For as long as I can remember, being Danish has simply been part of my daily life. As I have grown up, I told people that my father is of 100% Danish descent; for me, being 50% Danish is a point of pride. My great-grandparents immigrated to the United States through Ellis Island in 1908 and 1911. When I became involved with the Sisterhood, it was simply fun. I spent time getting to know the elder members while being one of the youngest members who had been raised in a very different generation. I have learned so much from some of my members and still love the stories from Lillian Andersen, Lorraine Harris, and others that remind me to always honor and preserve our past while growing our future.

Outside of my time working on Sisterhood things, I work full time as the Store Leader of a kate spade New York store in Kenosha, WI. I am lucky enough to share my life with my significant other, Dan, who works as a police officer for the city of Milwaukee. When I am not working on "all the Sisterhood things" you will find me at the local biergarten with my father on Monday nights during the summer, sitting on my pier at our cabin in Door County, WI, baking kransekager, or watching Green Bay Packer games very, very intensely.

So, you may be asking yourself, what exactly do you do for us, Anna? Well, in short, I maintain all of our social media platforms and act as webmaster for our national website, www.danishsisterhood.org. I create all of the content that you see posted to our Facebook page as well as update and design our website. I am always looking for new content to share and love to hear from all of you.

If you hold a position on your local or district board, I encourage you to join our DSS Lodge Leaders Facebook page where other leaders share their ideas and programs they have presented in their lodges. It is a great area of collaboration that we will be using as a starting point to expand our resource page on the website in the coming months.



PHOTO LEFT: Pop and I at the biergarten, December 2023.

PHOTO BELOW: Dan and I at the Milwaukee Police Academy, October 2022.

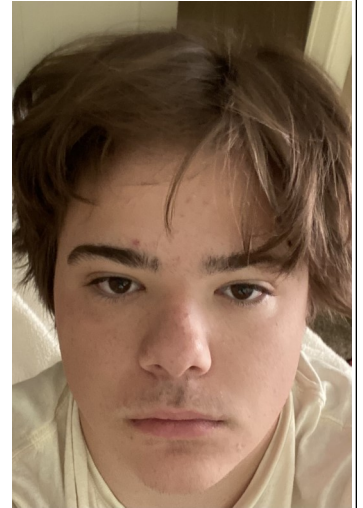


SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

My name is **Jacob Chouinard**. I am attending Saint Petersburg College in Tarpon Springs, Florida. I am 18 years old. I love being with my grandparents and my sister in Tarpon Springs, Florida.

My favorite sport is hockey and my favorite team would be the Pittsburgh Penguins. My hobbies are fishing, skating, gaming, and eating (LOL). In the future, I am going to attempt to be a homicide detective. Right now I am in college for public safety and legal policies as a 4 year degree plan. I just finished my first year of college with an average of 3.75 GPA. I have been interested in police work ever since I was a kid when I saw my uncle get arrested in front of me. Since then I have always wanted to put bad people away and protect my community. I believe I have fulfilled all of the requirements needed.

Thank you so very much for the scholarship. It definitely will help!



I have known for a long time that I wanted to be a nurse and I am excited to pursue it these next four years. In high school I was a part of National Honor Society, as well as my school's Symphony Orchestra, where I play cello.

This last year I have worked as a certified nursing assistant at a nearby hospital. This job has allowed me to learn more about healthcare and confirm my wishes to be in it. I will be attending Carthage College in the fall of 2024.

I have been involved in the Danish Sisterhood since I was in middle school. I have enjoyed how it has brought me lots of opportunities to get in touch with my Danish culture. I especially enjoyed the Danish summer school in Denmark the last two summers. This especially pushed me to learn the Danish language, the culture and allowed me to make friends who all had something in common with me.

—**Danika Stewart**

Hello, my name is **Bethany Jarvis**. I'm honored and grateful to receive one of the Betty Hansen Scholarships. In the fall, I will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison where I will be majoring in computer science, possibly with a focus on biotechnology.

While in high school, I participated in many extracurricular activities, including symphony band, forensics, dance, soccer, computer club, French club, the National Honor Society, and a few more. I hope to continue playing music whilst in college. I also hope to take some classes to learn more about the Danish language and culture.

Last August, my family and I visited some of our cousins near Aarhus in Denmark. I enjoyed touring around the country and spending several days in Copenhagen. I can't wait to go back!

Thank you again for this generous scholarship to help with my school expenses. Mange Tak!



FACTS ABOUT AKVAVIT/AQUAVIT

Akvavit/Aquavit: Information gathered by Carol Rudisill

What is Akvavit?

Danish Akvavit is a distilled grain mash.

Swedish akvavit is also made with grain mash.

In Norway the Akvavit is made from potatoes.

In Iceland the Akvavit is made from fermented grain mash and caraway. The special quality is their special water.

In Finland usually drink vodka but started making akvavit in 2013.

Many Danes call Akvavit snaps. The Akvavit comes from the Latin "*aqua vitae- meaning water of life*". The clear akvavit is often called **Taffel** meaning table akvavit. It is aged in old casks that don't impact the color.

How Do Scandinavian Countries Make Akvavit?

In Denmark, akvavit is only distilled one time and then infused with herbs such as caraway and anise seed. Traditionally the akvavit is clear due to only distilling once and then flavors added. It is usually filtered with charcoal and diluted with water. According to Danish law, the akvavit must be not less than 37.5% alcohol, must have either caraway or dill (or both plus others), and cannot have any more than 15 grams of sugar if it is to be exported. Currently most Danish Akvavit is now about 40-48% alcohol and has both caraway and dill.

In Sweden grain mash is flavored with anise and fennel. It is usually hay-colored and has a touch of sweetness.

In Norway the potato alcohol is aged in sherry casks and therefore is an amber color. There are several different kinds of Norwegian Akvavit. Linie Akvavit is loaded onto ships and transported over the equator to slosh it around inside the casks and create the unique taste. They have tried to create this same taste by just sloshing without it being placed on ships, but the taste was never as good, so Linie keeps transporting it over the ocean and across the equator and back.

Spelling of Akvavit

In Denmark it is spelled either akvavit or aquavit.

In Finland it is Akvavitti.

In Iceland it is Akaviti. Also called Black Death for when the government tried to keep Icelanders from drinking alcohol.

In Norway it is Akvevitt.

In Sweden it is Akvavit (like Danish).

How to Drink Akvavit?

In Denmark Akvavit is usually ice cold and drunk in one gulp.

In Norway the spirit is not chilled and it is usually sipped.

In Sweden the akvavit is usually drunk while singing songs. They have hundreds of different drinking songs!

Luke Mortensen—Winner of Betty Hansen Scholarship

My name is Luke Mortensen, and this fall I will be entering my final year at Western Michigan University. I am a jazz studies major with a minor in computer science. My main instrument is the alto saxophone, however, lately I have had opportunities to develop my skills playing soprano saxophone and flute.

As well as becoming a better musician and improviser, one of my newest passions is composing and arranging. I have had the fortune of studying with Dr. Andrew Rathbun who is an amazing saxophonist and composer. I have learned so much about composing by bringing my compositions to him to help me through the process. I have also recently taken a jazz arranging class dealing with large ensemble works like a big band. It has been really fun to arrange tunes and to hear a live band play them for me.

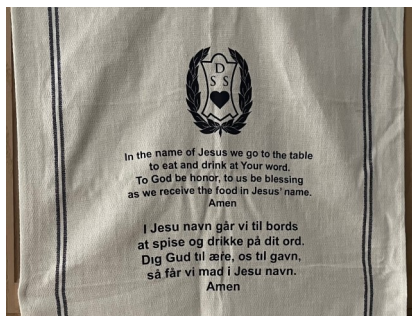
My future goals are to continue to compose and record my music as I progress in becoming a better musician. I am also interested in pursuing a Fulbright Grant to work with a big band over in Europe.

PHOTO RIGHT: Luke Mortensen with his saxophone.



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Greetings from Linda, Elsa & Elizabeth Steffensen
Proud Members of the Danish Sisterhood
Dagmar Lodge #4, Chicago, IL

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