The Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library is an educational non-profit research center with national and international scope. The Center collects, preserves, shares, and interprets resources for the study of Norwegian heritage. To carry out this mission, NAGC provides:

- the Naeseth Library, located in Madison, Wisconsin, where resources devoted to Norwegian and Norwegian American genealogy are collected, preserved, shared, and interpreted;
- assistance, interpretation, education, and research by trained staff to members, patrons, and correspondents;
- continuing education and outreach for genealogists and the public worldwide through cooperative information exchanges, publications, tours, displays, seminars, resource lending programs, and merchandise sales.

Through its collections, research, outreach, and publications, NAGC strives to maintain and enhance its role as the most comprehensive source for information about the history of Norwegian immigration.

GREETING FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

My board colleagues once again join me in offering our gratitude to all of the constituency who contributed so generously during 2009. Your involvement and investment have been impressive: volunteer work, financial contributions, gifts-in-kind, gift memberships, memorials, class and tour participation, and creative collaborations. We sincerely thank you for making 2009 an important year of advancement for NAGC & NL.

At the end of 2009, five dedicated board members retired from active service. Michael Bovre, Ella Fossum, Ann Gesme, Dean Gesme, Sr., and Doris Hayes will long be remembered for the critical roles they played in helping our organization become an independent non-profit entity. Beginning board service early in the year were Verlyn Anderson and Lowell Olberg. They have been joined at the end of the year by David Johansen and C. Marvin Lang. Each of these four new board members has already demonstrated a devoted interest and support of our mission.

Many thanks are due to our Madison Friends Committee, as well as to the members of the Advisory Council, and to a growing corps of volunteers. All of us join in special gratitude to Olive Nordby, who continues to donate the sale proceeds of her artwork. Olive’s permission for her work to appear as our first NAGC Christmas card delighted members across the country and helped raise funds from the card’s sales.

We salute the Center’s staff for its continuing devoted service. This year, with personnel changes and growth, we were particularly pleased that three University of Wisconsin graduate students joined our ranks. Jenna Christianson, Skye Doney, and Lane Sunwall provided both youthful vitality and valuable research assistance.

Your response to the Huebner Challenge during 2009 was particularly significant in helping address the ongoing need for operating support. The Challenge ended as a great success in 2010, yet we depend upon all of you to continue your investment in our worthy cause in the coming years. Thank you for joining in this important effort.

Dan F. Huebner
Chairman
MESSAGE FROM THE NAESETH CHAIR FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH & PUBLICATION

I am pleased to share with you this report on the operations of NAGC during 2009. As a genealogical research institution, we have been in operation for nearly thirty-five years.

2009 marked the release of phase one of our new NAGC website, branded with the same graphics as found in our redesigned Norwegian Tracks. Last April, we brought together two hundred members and friends for a Madison-area Friends’ dinner event. Dr. A. Erik Gundersen presented his reminiscences of his grandfather, Dr. Adolf Gundersen, an 1891 immigrant, and co-founder of the Gundersen Clinic. I am very grateful to Owen and Naomi Bekkum for their wonderful sponsorship of this event. During that evening I had the honor of announcing the Huebner Challenge Fund, a challenge from our board chair, Dan Huebner, to match all donations to the NAGC, up to $100,000, during the next year. The challenge was indeed a success raising $128,197 for NAGC operations, and all matched by the Huebner Challenge.

The NAGC Advisory Council met twice in 2009, looking at the future of our organization. The October gathering concentrated on a “project plan” outlining eleven genealogical projects ranging from developing extensive Norwegian immigrant lists from 1851-1860; completing the transcription of Norwegians in the 1850, 1860, and 1880 US census records; purchasing and preparing guides to Norwegian local history (bygdebøker); digitization of the NAGC correspondence files; preparing indexes to Norwegian-American church records, among others. I am delighted to report that the digitization of the NAGC correspondence files has been completed due to the financial support of Louise Naeseth Hubbard and her niece and husband, Barbara and Eric Greenfeldt. Barbara Greenfeldt also sent a legacy donation on behalf of her Lee siblings in memory of their parents, Elaine E. Lee (née Naeseth) and Robert E.A. Lee, her father having passed away in February 2009. I am deeply grateful to the extended Naeseth family for their support of the genealogical center these many years.

I am pleased to report that long time volunteer Verla Williams completed her card index to the Norwegians in the Minnesota 1900 Census Records. This work builds on her earlier project of preparing card indexes to the Norwegians in the Iowa 1900 Census. Thank you so much, Verla, for your decades of volunteer service. NAGC & NL enjoys the support of many other volunteers as well. This dedicated group, located around the country, gives time and talents for the good of the organization and its members. Indexing records, filing census information, mowing the grass, and entering data into new databases…all of this and more is done by our loyal NAGC & NL volunteers. All of us owe each of our volunteers a debt of gratitude.

An important activity during the past year was conducting and attending outreach events. It is at these events NAGC & NL staff and I are able to spread the message about the work we carry out on a daily basis. A sampling of the events or groups we visited this past year include the Skogfjorden Genealogy Seminar in Bemidji, Minnesota; Norway Day in San Francisco; Syttende Mai in Stoughton, Wisconsin; Nordic Fest in Decorah, Iowa; and Sons of Norway gatherings in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin.

As I bring this report to a close, I would be remiss if I did not extend my thanks and gratitude to the NAGC & NL Board of Directors for their continued loyalty and support of both the organization and of me. The Board’s confidence, conviction, and certainty in an independent Norwegian-American genealogical center in Madison helps to ensure our organization’s very existence. Finally, I thank each of you for your past encouragement and many contributions to our growth and development. I hope that my brief words and the following pages of this report will show that the leaders of the NAGC have acted wisely with your gifts, and that you feel confident to continue your membership and future support.

Blaine Hedberg
Naeseth Chair for Genealogical Research & Publication
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Jeanne L. Wright, *Executive Director/Director of Administration (as of December 2009)*

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Kathleen Olson, *Library Services*

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* Lists are as of December 31, 2009

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Olive M. and Eugene J. Nordby, Madison, Wisconsin
David Ostrem, Green Lake, Wisconsin
2009 Financial Information

Income for Operations

- Gifts for Operations: 38%
- Membership: 17%
- Sales: 12%
- Madison-area Friends event: 9%
- Research, translation, fees: 9%
- Salt Lake City Tour and Classes: 3%

Expenses

- Payroll, Benefits: 40%
- Printing, Office Supplies: 5%
- Insurance, Utilities: 4%
- Events, Meetings: 5%
- Legal, Audit, Licenses, Bank Fees: 4%
- Outreach, Advertising, Marketing: 3%
- Postage, Freight, Mailings: 3%
- Computer Software and Support: 3%
- Janitorial, Snow Removal, Maintenance: 1%
- Equipment, Leases, Service Contracts: 1%
- Sales Merchandise: 1%

Endowed and Restricted Funds

- NAGC & NL Endowment: 34%
- Huebner Challenge for Operations: 6%
- Næsseth Chair Endowment: 6%
- Hardy Endowment for Operations: 5%
- Loper Endowment for Acquisitions: 6%
- Helgeson Fund for Acquisitions: 6%
- Elevator Fund: 15%
- Membership Endowment: 13%
The entire Board of Directors and Staff of the Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library record with heartfelt gratitude the names of the following donors during the year 2009. Every effort has been made to acknowledge the many wonderful gifts received during this year, but we urge you to notify the Center if there are any corrections. Please remember that this list reflects contributions made in the 2009 calendar year only.

2009 Leadership Gifts

Naomi F. and Owen D. Bekkum, for the 2009 Madison-area Friends’ Dinner
Ann Urness Gesme and Dean H. Gesme, Sr., for the publication of List of Online Resources
Barbara Greenfeldt, Peg Harris, Paul Lee, Richard Lee, Sigrid Lee, and Sylvia Lee-Thompson, in memory of their parents Elaine Naeseth Lee and Robert E. A. Lee, endowment for the Naeseth Chair for Genealogical Research and Publication
Barbara and Eric Greenfeld, in memory of Gerhard B. Naeseth, for the Naeseth Document Scanning Project
Louise Naeseth Hubbard, for the Naeseth Document Scanning Project and operations fund
Dan F. Huebner, to create the Huebner Challenge Fund for Operations
Marilynn Amdal Madden and Dean E. Madden, gifts-in-kind
Madison-area Friends of NAGC & NL, for operations
Gerhard and Milma Naeseth Charitable Foundation, for printing of volume 5 of the Norwegian Immigrants to the United States: A Biographical Directory, 1825-1850
Eugene J. and Olive M. Nordby, for operations and the Elevator Fund

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