



NORWEGIAN AMERICAN

Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library

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NORWEGIAN AMERICAN

Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

**NORWEGIAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL CENTER, INC.
2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

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**The NAGC & NL 2017 Annual Report
has been made possible by the generous support of
The Gerhard and Milma Naeseth Charitable Foundation.**

lists as of 31 December 2017

GREETING FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The final days of 2017 marked the end of my nine years of board service at NAGC & NL. During the past six years, from my perspective as board chair, I have been honored to be a part of the maturing and developing of NAGC into one of the leading independent genealogical research centers in the country. This advancement was the result of great work by our board, staff, volunteers, and members on many fronts.

As our by-laws dictate, NAGC board members rotate off at the end of three consecutive three-year terms of service. In 2017, Ellen Dybdahl Smithback, Stoughton, Wisconsin, joined the board and is now carrying on her family's long-time support of our organization. In January 2017, Stephen J. Drake joined the staff as our new library services specialist and now occupies the position that Kathleen Olson admirably performed as both volunteer and staff member before her retirement.

At the end of 2017, NAGC received an important donation from Esther R. Mills, resident of Colorado, who sent a thoughtful and generous gift in memory of her Norwegian grandparents, Oscar H. and Esther Hildahl Christenson. This gift was designated by Ms. Mills as an addition to the NAGC Elevator Fund, and jump-started board and staff discussions in planning for an elevator and other physical improvements in the Naeseth Library. We have received word of the death during 2017 of Pearl M. Cramer, Santa Maria, California. With an important donation in 2012, Mrs. Cramer recognized the research assistance she had received from Gerhard Naeseth and Blaine Hedberg. This legacy gift, made from her donor-advised fund, was added to the NAGC endowed funds and designated the Cramer Legacy Fund. The Mills and Cramer donations remind us once again of the national scope for NAGC as we engage and serve Norwegian Americans across the country..

Reflecting on the long association that my spouse, Helen, and I have enjoyed with NAGC & NL, I am grateful for the chance to be a part of this community committed to family history and heritage. Helen and I will continue our interest, devotion, and support for this worthy research center that is such an asset to the Norwegian-American community. We offer special thanks to all the donors whose names appear in this 2017 Annual Report.

Lowell E. Olberg
Chairman Emeritus, Board of Directors

GREETING FROM THE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

This was another busy year at the Naeseth Library, filled with classes, visitors, researchers, correspondence, special events, volunteer work, and many advancements. Jerry Paulson, Naeseth Chair for Genealogical Research and Publication, once again led a special research group to Salt Lake City for a visit to the Family History Library. Jerry has also been sharing his knowledge with a wider audience as he continues to teach classes here and contributes webinars to www.nagcnl.org.

In May, our Madison-area Friends sponsored their eleventh annual dinner to benefit NAGC & NL. The program included the engaging music of Renee Vaughn playing the nyckelharpa and Jon-Anders Persson on the hardingfele and fiddle. This successful event was dedicated to the memory of Philip G. Dybdahl (1936-2016) who loved folk music and was such a great advocate for our organization.

Near the end of the 2017, we announced the exciting news that the Gerhard Naeseth/Blaine Hedberg five-volume directory of "Norwegian Immigrants to the United States, 1825-1850" was available online for the first time. Bringing this notable scholarly contribution to a wider Norwegian and Norwegian-American audience is an important accomplishment that was carried out by a collaborative team from the NAGC board, staff, and volunteers. This outstanding website enrichment program was made possible by the generous support of The Edwin E. and Janet L. Bryant Foundation.

2017 was also the final year of Lowell Olberg's role as chair of the NAGC board of directors. The NAGC staff enjoyed the guidance and insights offered by Lowell and his spouse, Helen. Helen was an integral part of the website committee that did such fine work with us on the development and improvement of our presence on the web. As the year ends, we offer our heartfelt thanks to the Olbergs for their steadfast leadership, unflinching generosity, and – most of all – for their wonderful friendship.

On behalf of the NAGC staff, we thank all the NAGC members and donors whose names are recorded here, reflecting the many thoughtful and generous gifts that support our work in service to the Norwegian-American community.

Jeanne L. Wright
Executive Director

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF OF THE NORWEGIAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL CENTER & NÆSETH LIBRARY record with heartfelt gratitude the names of the following contributors during 2017. Every effort has been made to acknowledge the many wonderful gifts received during this year, but we ask you to notify NAGC with any corrections. *Please remember that this list reflects contributions made only in the 2017 calendar year .*

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