

2019

ANNUAL REPORT



Agnes Sundheim (left) and Alfrida Hoff, actors in "Pageant of the Northman." From the Norse-American Centennial Collection.



NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to locating, collecting,
preserving, and interpreting the
Norwegian-American experience

Gratitude

goes out to our community of members, supporters, and friends for all we accomplished together in 2019.

ARCHIVES

The archives of the Norwegian-American Historical Association serve as the home for North America's largest collection of letters, papers, books, photographs, and other records of Norwegian-American life. Each year, patrons from across North America and around the world use the archives for their research. In 2019 our staff completed a digitization planning grant through the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. In addition, we supported dozens of researchers who accessed materials on site, and we answered more than 100 queries and material requests by phone and email.



In March, NAHA welcomed its new archivist, Kristina Warner. With a master's degree in library

and information science from University of Wisconsin-Madison, Kristina has leveraged her experience in archives and record management, digital preservation, and digital asset management to expand the discoverability of our collections. She looks forward to helping the association increase its collections and facilitating new research.



BELOW, RIGHT NAHA worked with the Minnesota Digital Library to digitize items from the Norse-American Centennial papers, material from the 1925 commemoration of the 100th anniversary of organized Norwegian immigration to the United States. To view the images, visit reflections.mndigital.org, and search on "Norwegian-American Centennial."



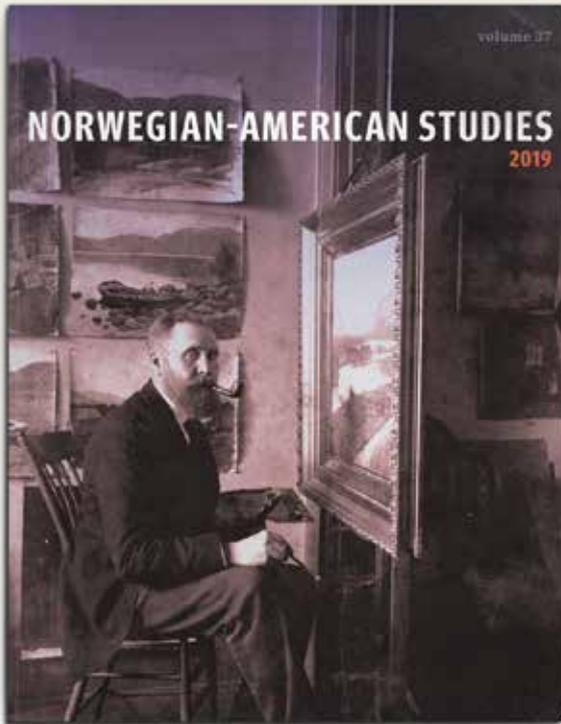
LEFT/BOTTOM LEFT

In the summer of 2019, NAHA completed a grant-funded project with the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts to create a digitization plan for the Ole E. Rolvaag Collection.

BOTTOM RIGHT

Throughout 2019, members generously "adopted" 44 cassette tapes that were in need of preservation. The cassettes contained oral interviews conducted by former NAHA editor Odd S. Lovoll while researching his book, *The Promise Fulfilled: A Portrait of Norwegian Americans Today*. Now that the digitized recordings are available, student interns will begin transcribing them to make their contents more accessible to researchers.





discussions of scholarly works in progress, the teaching and learning of Norwegian-American studies, and reviews of books recently published in the field.

Available in paper format, the journal can also be accessed, along with its back issues, on JSTOR digital library. NAHA members receive a complimentary copy of the journal.

NAHA members also receive **Currents**, our quarterly newsletter. In addition to an original feature story, each issue is filled with news from the association, tips on family history research, new additions to the archives, and more.



PUBLICATIONS

In the fall of 2019, NAHA relaunched its scholarly journal, **Norwegian-American Studies**. Now published in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Press, the journal is dedicated to showcasing the best work in the field of Norwegian-American studies, including the related fields of history, literature, religion, art, and cultural studies. The journal aims to not only publish scholarship on Norwegian-American life, but also facilitate intellectual exchange by publishing original research articles alongside

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN STUDIES BY THE NUMBERS

1926

First issue published



37

Volumes published to date

5

Editors over the journal's history

5

Cover designs over time

242

Scholarly articles published

EVENTS

NAHA members and the public enjoyed more opportunities to gather and learn in 2019. Our **Spring Member Meetup** was held at Norway House in Minneapolis. The highlight of the evening was a talk by art historian Sigrid Lien, who presented research from her book *Pictures of Longing: Photography and the Norwegian-American Migration* (University of Minnesota Press, 2018).

In October, NAHA collaborated with the East Side Freedom Library to host **“Immigration, Community, and Archives on St. Paul’s East Side.”** The event kicked off with a walking tour of the Payne-Phalen neighborhood, guided by Macalester College emeritus professor of history Peter Rachleff. Afterward, participants returned to the library for presentations from the founders of St. Paul’s Hmong Archives and the National Khmer Legacy Museum.

In December, NAHA hosted an exhibit during the St. Olaf Christmas Festival. **“Recipes from the Archives: Creating a Scandinavian Buffet,”** featured 20 vintage cookbooks from the NAHA collection and the personal collection of NAHA board member Debbie Miller.



Above: Historian Peter Rachleff leads a walking tour of the Payne-Phalen neighborhood in St. Paul. Left: An exhibit of compiled cookbooks illuminated the process of Norwegians becoming Americans. Below: Author Sigrid Lien, left, is pictured with editor Kristian Tveden of the University of Minnesota Press.



“AS IMMIGRANTS TO THIS COUNTRY, EACH OF US BRINGS SOMETHING NEW AND UNIQUE TO BUILD OUR NEW HOME TOGETHER.”

— 2019 SPEAKER KOSOL SEK, FOUNDER OF THE NATIONAL KHMER LEGACY MUSEUM

Financials

SUMMARY OF INCOME

Investment income and interest	\$91,033	45%
Donations	\$58,904	29%
Membership fees	\$33,475	16%
Events and conferences	\$11,660	6%
Books sales and royalties	\$6,481	3%
Other	\$1,504	1%
TOTAL INCOME	\$203,057	100%

SUMMARY OF EXPENSES

Salaries and benefits	\$103,170	57%
Administrative and supplies	\$26,916	15%
Contract labor	\$22,100	12%
Publications	\$10,358	6%
Grants	\$10,000	6%
Professional fees	\$4,710	3%
Meetings and events	\$3,011	2%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$180,265	100%

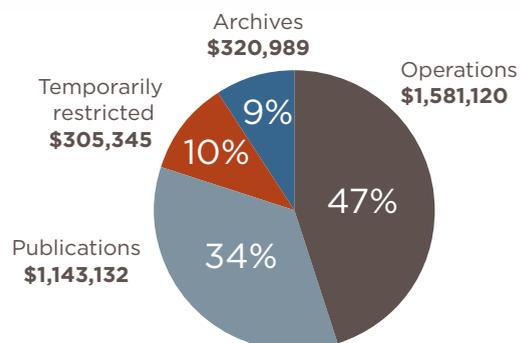
Full financials are available upon request.
Contact naa@stolaf.edu or call 507-786-3221.

INVESTED FUND BALANCES

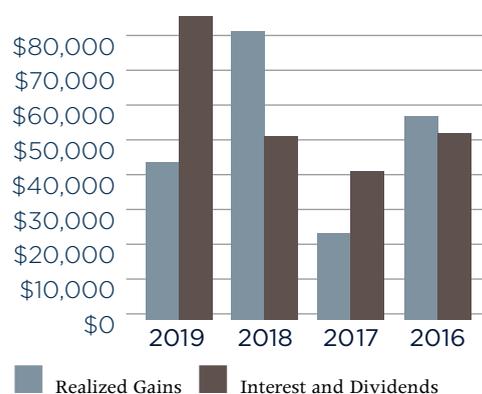
Market value as of December 31, 2019

O. E. Rølvaag Memorial Fund	\$1,182,212
Other Operations	\$398,908
Theodore C. Blegen Fellowship Fund	\$511,336
Bjork Fund	\$522,101
Other Publications	\$109,695
Fosholt Fund for Archives	\$320,989
Sigvald Quale Norwegian Society Fund	\$280,924
Other temporarily restricted	\$24,421
TOTAL	\$3,350,586

ENDOWED FUNDS BY USE



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The association honors those who have included NAHA in their estate planning. Gifts from the following have been realized since 2005.

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If you have included the association in your estate plans,
 or for more information on joining our Legacy Circle,
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Our Vision

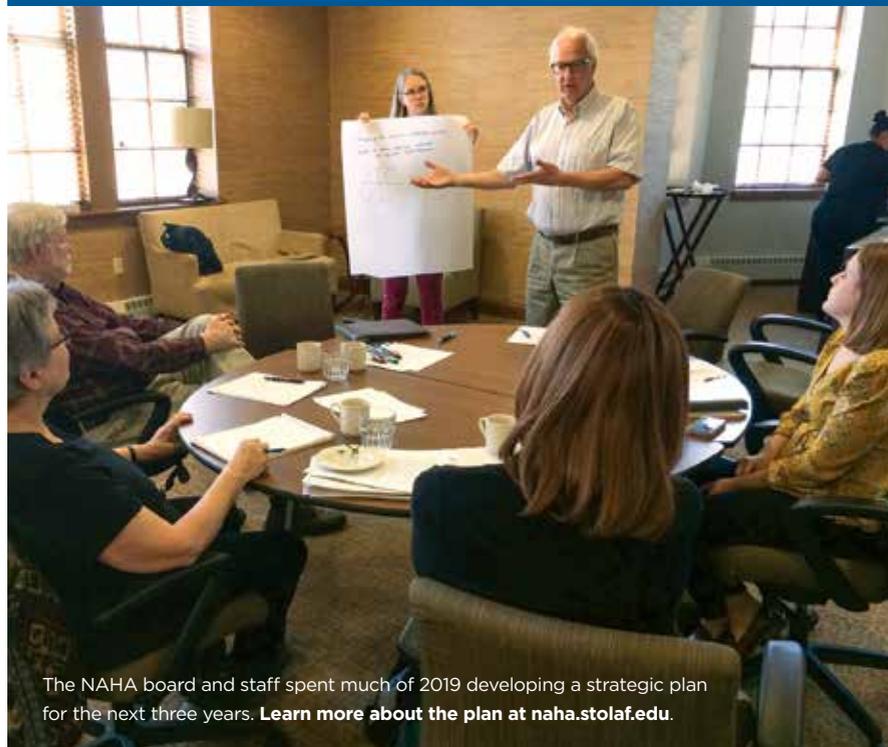
As we look to the future, our association will broaden its interpretation of the Norwegian-American experience within its archives, publications, and events. Through increased attention to new audiences, new historical sources, and new perspectives on migration, NAHA will expand its reach by incorporating evolving technology, sound scholarship, and emerging areas of research.

HELP OUR ASSOCIATION GROW

Archival Collections — Donate materials to the archives and encourage others to do the same.

Members — Invite a friend to join NAHA, or give a gift membership.

Contributions — Make a gift at naha.stolaf.edu, or join our Legacy Circle by including NAHA in your estate plans.



The NAHA board and staff spent much of 2019 developing a strategic plan for the next three years. [Learn more about the plan at naha.stolaf.edu](http://naha.stolaf.edu).

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