



Happy New Year!

Another year suddenly disappeared behind us, and it is time to look forward to 2003 and wish all our member families a happy New Year!

Our club could celebrate the official five years birthday in October, and it is really great to see the many new members who have joined the club recently. Most of these are newcomers to Houston, which is very encouraging – considering also the rather sluggish economy in our city. Although businesses fold and people lose their jobs, there are still new jobs being created, and new business initiatives are being launched. A great example is a Danish Ship Supply company, which recently opened up a branch in Pasadena, Texas.

We have had a busy fall, with some very successful activities and a cancellation due to bad weather. Unfortunately some of us were also very busy fending off the world press from Denmark, eagerly looking for any information we could provide on one of our members.

A search on the internet led reporters to a brief article in a 1999 DCH Newsletter, archived on our web-site, in which we congratulated the member with being elected to a US Trade Council, and in an instant the Danish Club of Houston became famous in Houston and in Denmark.

Sometime in February the frenzy may pick up again, when the next court meetings start – and all the reporters come to Houston to follow the case. So if some of you suddenly in February get phone calls at four am. from Danish reporters, trying to beat their deadline, now you know why!

It is time for you to renew your membership with the Danish Club. The fee for 2003 is unchanged from previous years, only \$ 15 for the whole family, that is the best bargain in town. We still see non-members show up for our activities from time to time, – and we don't really like to walk around at our events and ask for money, so just cut the coupon in this Newsletter and mail it to Hannes Hofer with your check for 15 \$.

For those of you who have already renewed the membership: Disregard the coupon, thanks for your early payment. And for all of you: We look forward to see you in The Danish Club of Houston in 2003, let us have some good times together.

Best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year for all our member families

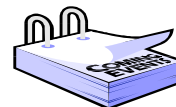
Season Calendar 2002- 2003

Friday, January 17, 7 - 9 pm.:

Opening Reception for Danish Art Photographer Mads Gamdrup's exhibit "Renunciation".
At Blaffer Gallery at University of Houston

February (DateTBD):

Fastelavns Party



March 28-30 (TBC):

Family Camping

Saturday, May 31 at 2 pm.:

Grundlovsdag Picnic & Annual Meeting
Nottingham Forest Club

More events will be added as we get them organized..

Family Camping October 11-13

Six member families and some one-day visitors participated in the fall camping trip to Stephen F. Austin National Park, west of Houston. The weather was good and everybody enjoyed the nice park. The Saturday night cook-out was delicious, and the Camping Committee are now planning for the Spring Camping trip, which will take place in the last weekend of March. Lisbeth is considering a couple of different locations.

We will keep you posted by e-mail, and you may also call Lisbeth Mogensen at 281-992-1136 for updates on time and place.

"Ordrupgaardsamlingen" in Houston

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, has since October 6 exhibited European Impressionism from the Ordrupgaard Collection in Copenhagen, Denmark, with more than 80 paintings by Degas, Gauguin, Monet and some of the most famous Danish impressionists. The exhibition closed on January 5.

The Royal Danish Consulate with The Danish Club as co-sponsor arranged a very successful evening in October with a guided tour of the exhibition, followed by a reception at Hal and Anna Thomsen Holliday's private residence.

Tour guide was Ms. Leise Moller, who is very familiar with the paintings from her work at Ordrupgaard-samlingen, located north of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Ms. Moller presented the many famous and beautiful paintings by the French impressionists with great knowledge and enthusiasm, and many of the approx. 50 members in attendance enjoyed the presentation of Danish paintings by Hammershoej and other impressionists even more.

Also the reception at Anna Thomsen Holliday and Hal Holliday's new home was very successful with a great atmosphere and wonderful food.

Thanks to Leise Moller for taking time to guide us through the exhibition during her stay in Houston, and thanks to Vice-Consul Anna Thomsen Holliday for arranging the visit, and to Anna and Hal for hosting the reception.

Last, but not least, thanks to Maersk Sealand and Moller Supply Services for sponsorship.

Pictures from the reception are posted on our web-site.

Viking Cup and Cook Rain-Out

The annual soccer tournament between the Scandinavian countries was scheduled to take place Sunday October 27, together with the giant Cook-Out at the Norwegian Seamen's Church.

We were not able to muster a Cooking Team this year, but had after hard work and persuasion gathered a really good soccer-team to hopefully repeat the victory from last year's tournament.

It rained like crazy the week before the tournament, and the disappointing message came Friday: Soccer and Cook-Out postponed one week. Well, we lost a few players, but found replacement, and were ready to defend the Danish colors - but the rain kept coming and going.

As late as Friday it looked OK, but heavy rain Saturday night drenched the field, and soccer was canceled again, while the Cook-Out and Family Church Service did take place, but in a reduced "version".

That was disappointing, but it does mean that the Danes get to hold the title until further. It has not yet been decided whether the tournament will be played in the Spring, or simply dropped for the year.

Thanks to Moller Supply Services for sponsoring shirts for the soccer team, too bad we did not get to use them yet!

High Marks for Holiday Party...

Nottingham Forest Club in West Houston was a perfect location for the Holiday Party on December 7. The almost 100 people in attendance met upstairs for a glass of Glogg, donated by our friends in the Scandinavian Folkdancers, and proceeded to the nicely decorated downstairs hall, with dinner tables, buffet and even a dance floor.

Susie Ipsen had prepared the Danish style Holiday buffet and received high marks for the wonderful food. Many of the Danish companies in Houston had generously donated gifts for the raffle, and the program also included a little sketch by one of our member families. After dinner and raffle it was time for coffee and some dancing,

The generous donations to the party created a lot of interest in the raffle, and also cash donations helped raising a total of more than 1300 \$ to the club. Our sincere thanks to sponsors and to the Holiday Committee for an excellent job.

Pictures from the Holiday Party can be seen on our web-site..

Holiday Party Sponsors:

*Aalborg Industries
Clipper Americas
Danish Inspirations
DFDS Dan Transport
FLSmith Airtech
Haldor Topsoe
Lone Star Marine & Industrial Supply Co.
Royal Danish Consulate
Scandinavian Folkdancers
Trans Ocean Distribution*



Thanks you for all your support !!

Christmas Church Service

Christmas is also about traditions and being together with friends and family. Maybe that is why our Danish language Christmas Service is something we all look forward to.

This time we could welcome pastor Torben Poulsen from the Danish Seamen's Church in Brooklyn to Houston for the tenth year in a row, and we look forward to many more visits. The Norwegian Seamen's Church in Pasadena was full, and we all enjoyed the beautiful voice of Ms. Sally Hoffecker,

who sang “Santa Lucia” and “Dejlig er Jorden” during the service.

After the service all the kids enjoyed the Christmas tree, and Santa paid a visit and brought gifts to everyone. The adults were treated to coffee and fresh baked aebleskiver.

Thanks to Torben Poulsen for taking the trip to Houston, and thanks to the Norwegian Seamen’s Church. With most of the staff on holidays, both Aase and pastor Aage Loesnaesloekken worked hard to help us out, Aase at the piano and Aage with moving all the chairs and tables. Great to have such good “neighbors”. Also a big thank you to Sally Hoffecker, we hope to see you again at next year’s service.

CD and Regards from Denmark

We received a CD with a letter from the Danish singer Annette O’Driscoll who has added music to some new poems about Denmark and especially the Danish landscape and nature. Annette had found our address on the web site and wanted to send us holiday regards and her musical love declaration to Denmark!

The name of the CD is “Saa laenge mit hjerte har sange”, the songs remind me of a new generation’s Birgitte Grimstad. For info, you may check www.growth-art.com, or you may borrow the CD from Niels K.

Welcome to new members...

It is so great to see a lot of new names. Since last issue of the Newsletter in September, the following have joined the club:

Kim & Lisbeth Lyngberg
Asger Larsen
Tia & Wayne Daniels
Hanne & Lindsay Baxter
Torben Riis
Niels & Bodil Toft-Petersen
Flemming & Jytte Rolle
Loa & Bill McNeese
Lars & Kate Birkemose
Anne Kennedy
Kristine & Daniel Thomason
Stephanie Stottrup Thomsen
Neil C.M. Olsen

We wish you all welcome to Houston and to The Danish Club of Houston. Look forward to meet you all! Our member list now holds about 110 families and guest members !

Mads Gamdrup: Renunciation

The Blaffer Gallery, the Art Museum of the University of Houston will present the exhibition *Mads Gamdrup: Renunciation* from January 18 through March 16, 2003. The exhibition features 16 large-scale color photographs that focus exclusively on the desert landscapes of Egypt, Iceland, Morocco, and the United States. The Danish Art Photographer has exhibited all over Europe, but this is his first exhibition in the United States.

Blaffer Gallery is located in room 120 of the Fine Arts Building on the University of Houston’s main campus, entrance #16 off Cullen Boulevard. The museum is free and open to the public on weekdays from 10–5 and weekends from 1–5. It is closed Mondays and University holidays. For program information, please call 713.743.9530, or visit www.blaffergallery.org.

See the calendar for information on opening reception..

Danish Club Logo Merchandise..

Logo merchandise is always available:

White Polo-Shirts:	\$ 20
Blue Caps:	\$ 15
White T-Shirts:	\$ 10

You can buy your shirt or cap at our events or call Mette Miller to order. Go to our web-site www.dkhouston.org. to see a picture of the nice stuff.

Danes Worldwide – Dansk Samvirke

Have you thought about joining Dansk Samvirke / Danes Worldwide, with their Summer school, Remote School Program, and special membership offers and events in Denmark. Please call or e-mail Niels Kastrup, for more information or check out the new portal at www.danes.dk

Nordic Women’s Cultural Club:

For more information, call Bente Rawson at 713-782-4108

Gulf Coast Scandinavian Folkdancers

The Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston meet every Monday night from 7:15 -9:00 pm in Room 208 at the Westbury Methodist Church, located near West Belfort and Loop 610 . Contact Carl Steffensen

(steff@flash.net / 281-493-4801) for further information.

New Members / Address / E-mail Changes:

Hannes Hofer
4042 Silverwood, Houston, TX 77025
e-mail: hofer@mac.com

Facts About The Danish Club...

Board of Directors:

Niels H. Kastrup, President	281-855-9299
Carl Steffensen Vice President	281-493-4801
Hannes Hofer, Treasurer	713-664-7784
Mette Miller, Secretary	281-859-3140
Christina B. Clark, Activ. Coord.	713-862-0739
Henrik Roende, Activ. Coord.	281-679-6886

Newsletter:

This volume is edited by Niels H. Kastrup, and mailed to members in good standing and selected friends of the Danish-American community in Houston. Next issue: Spring 2003. Copying and mailing courtesy of **FLSmidth Airtech Inc. (Previously known as FLS miljø Inc.) – Clean Air To The World...**

www.dkhouston.org

Wanna read or print this Newsletter in flying colors or buy an air ticket from one of our sponsors? Check our web site, we have plenty of interesting links, and you can view the Club's impressive Photo Archive. Hannes is always thankful for ideas or suggestions for further improvements of the site.

Membership Fee 2003

Please fill in and return no later than February 15, together with your check for \$ 15, covering the whole family.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone (H): _____ **(W):** _____ **Fax:** _____

e-mail (H): _____ **(W):** _____

We prefer to receive paper copy of Newsletters: _____

Notify us by e-mail, we will then print from Web site or e-mail attachment: _____

Good Ideas and Suggestions:

Mail to:

**Danish Club of Houston
Hannes Hofer
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Houston, TX 77025**