

# Danish Club of Houston News

www.dkhouston.org - hofer@mac.com

Volume 25 – January 2004



## Happy New Year..

A busy Holiday Season is behind us, it is time to look ahead to the New Year in Houston. We wish all our member families and our friends in Texas and around the World a happy and prosperous New Year.

2003 brought us some 25 new member families, and the total count is now 125. It has been encouraging to see the number of Danes coming into the Houston area in a time with a somewhat difficult economy.

Our Holiday Christmas Service was a good proof of the growth in the Danish population in the area. Not only was the Norwegian Seamen's Church packed, but we had more than 30 young children in attendance, and three brand new members were baptized.

Also our Holiday Party drew great attendance, with 145 participants. That was the highest number ever, and the nice facility at Nottingham Forest was filled to capacity. Unfortunately our previous events during the year did not appeal to the membership, and we struggled with limited interest. Especially our Grundlovsdag picnic with Annette O'Driscoll performing Danish folk songs had very disappointing attendance.

A new activity focusing on the group of younger Danes was launched in the fall by Sten Svendsen. Young Danes Network (YDN) has arranged some Friday night get-togethers and the attendance has been promising. YDN operates as a separate group under the club and has own e-mail chain, but activities are also listed on our web-site. All members are welcome to show up at the Happy Hour events, also those who may not believe they fit the age criteria any more.

It is time to renew your membership, if not already done. With this Newsletter is a renewal coupon, which should be returned to Hannes Hofer with your check for \$ 15, covering the whole family. Please mail your check right away, so we won't have to send reminders or ultimately drop you from the mailing list.

The Spring season will be pretty busy. In a few days we are co-sponsoring a reception following an organ concert at Christ The King Lutheran Church, and we will have Fastelavn for the kids at Tom Baess Park in February, followed by a family tour to the Zoo in March. Nyt Dansk Danseteater and soloists from the Royal Danish Ballet will visit Houston early April, and the first weekend of April is also reserved for Family Camping.

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen will visit Houston later in April to receive an award at the Holocaust Museum on behalf of Denmark, and to visit the Baker Institute at Rice University. We hope there may be a chance for the Danish community also to celebrate the visit.

May means Royal Wedding in Denmark, and maybe also in Houston. We are looking into a breakfast arrangement with live TV if we can find a satellite drop at a reasonable price. Too bad the Royal Court picked a Friday for this event.

Our Annual Meeting in 2004 will be in a new format. Instead of Grundlovsdag picnic we will arrange a Midsummer party with barbeque and maybe some live music at the pool area in Nottingham Forest. During the same period we will hopefully meet several times to cheer on the Danish soccer team during the European Cup.

Our friends at the Heritage Society in Danevang will as usual celebrate the Queen's Birthday in April and Grundlovsdag on Saturday June 5. Our members are always welcome in Danevang, the Heritage Museum is open on Sunday afternoons or by appointment.

We are working on a few more events for the Spring season, more to follow as soon as things are in place. We hope the program is somewhat appetizing, and we look forward to see you in The Danish Club of Houston in 2004. We will keep you posted by e-mail, and do not forget to check our web site frequently.

Happy New Year – hope your check is in the mail !

Niels K.

## New Members..

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members, who have joined the Danish Club since our last Newsletter in September:

Siv & Ole Eeg  
Piedad & Steen Christensen  
Briana Delaney  
Jill & Peter Digebjerg  
Marianna & Claus Heilmann  
Dale Jensen  
J. Valenzuela & Anette Koch  
Mike Ambers & Christina Linderholm  
Mary & David Obenchain  
Charlotte Rhodes  
Anette & Lars Seidler  
Charlotte Willer



## Season Calendar



### January 18, 5 pm:

Organ Concert with Kristian Olesen, Cathedral Organist at Roskilde Domkirke, Denmark. At Christ the King Lutheran Church, Rice Boulevard. Followed by Reception.

### February 22, 2 pm.

Fastelavnsfest at Tom Bass Park (Hwy 288 @ Beltway 8)

### March, TBD

Family trip to Houston Zoo.

### March, TBC

Five-a-side Soccer tournament, Norwegian Seamen's Church in Pasadena

### April 2-4

Family Camping, location to be decided. Coordinator is Johnny Larsen, call 281-470-0867 to reserve a spot.

### April 6-10, TBC

"Dance Salad" at the Cullen Theater, Wortham Center with soloists from Royal Danish Ballet and Nyt Dansk Danseteater.

### April 17

Queen's Birthday Celebration in Danevang, TX

### April 21, 6.30 pm.

2004 Lyndon B. Johnson Moral Courage Benefit Dinner at Hilton-Americas w. Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen.

### May 14, TBC

Royal Wedding viewing party with breakfast

### June 5

Grundlovsfest in Danevang, TX

### June 19, 5 pm.

Midsummer Party & Annual Meeting  
Nottingham Forest Club

### June 4 – July 4

European Soccer Cup, Viewing parties and rallies for the Danish Team.

## Happy Birthday!

Our oldest, and still very active member Jens J. Christoffersen, is celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday in January. Jens immigrated right after WW II and lived in New York before coming to Texas. Happy Birthday Jens – we look forward to see you in 2004!

## Houston Holocaust Museum 2004 Lyndon B. Johnson Moral Courage Benefit Dinner

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Prime Minister of Denmark, will accept the award on behalf of the Kingdom of Denmark.

In 1943, after learning of an imminent German action to deport Danish Jews, Denmark's government and general population took part in a massive boatlift that delivered the Jews to a neutral haven in Sweden. Many levels of Danish society, from King Christian X to university students, took part in the rescue. Denmark's courageous actions to save Jews from the Holocaust were exceptional for the time in which it occurred and is a powerful illustration of moral courage today.

Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2004  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Where: Hilton Americas-Houston

Mission: To promote the awareness of the dangers of prejudice, hatred and violence against the backdrop of the Holocaust. Proceeds will be used to support the ongoing educational programs of Holocaust Museum Houston and enable the Museum to continue to offer free admission to the public.

Sponsorship: Tables available between \$ 5,000 and \$ 100,000. Individual tickets: \$500. Contact: Linda Toyota, Holocaust Museum Houston, 713-527-1621,

[ltoyota@hbmh.org](mailto:ltoyota@hbmh.org)



## New Format....

We hope you like our brand new format of the Danish Club's Newsletter. It is designed by Christina Clark and will hopefully add some more "color" to our presentations. Although more than 90% of our members have e-mail access, we will until further continue to mail the Newsletter to our members. You can as usual also read and print the Newsletter from our Web site, where you can also find an archive with previous issues.



## Organ Concert & Reception

Christ the King Lutheran Church welcomes the Danish community to an Organ Concert with Kristian Olesen, Cathedral Organist in Roskilde, who will play the Bach Organ at the Church

Sunday, January 18 at 5:00 p.m.

After the concert, the Royal Danish Consulate and The Danish Club of Houston will be hosting a reception at the church.

While in Houston, Kristian Olesen will also be offering a master class at Christ the King on Saturday morning for organ students at Rice and UH.

Check also [www.bachsocietyhouston.org](http://www.bachsocietyhouston.org)

## Great Holiday Party at Nottingham Forest Club...

Nottingham Forest Club was packed with 145 members and guests for the traditional Holiday party with Danish style buffet, raffle and dancing. The fun evening started with "Glogg-hour", followed by an excellent Danish Christmas Buffet, prepared and served by Susie Ipsen and her helpers at "Great Food" Catering.



The Holiday Committee did a great job decorating the tables, the Christmas tree and dinner facilities at the Club, and everybody enjoyed the good company. A great way to start the Holiday period.

## Thanks to our Sponsors..

We were again this year able to keep the attendance fee to the Holiday party at a very reasonable level, and still make a surplus of approx. 500 \$ to the club. This is possible only

because of the support we receive from our sponsors in the form of cash and gifts for the popular raffle We would like to thank the following sponsors for their great support:

- Clipper Americas
- Danish Inspirations
- Danish Club of Houston
- Dansk Deli
- FLSmith Airtech Inc.
- Haldor Topsoe Inc.
- Hempel Coatings, Inc.
- Moller Supply Services
- ReachMaster, Inc.
- Royal Danish Consulate
- Scandinavian Folkdancers
- Wrist Ship Supplies (Lone Star Marine & Ind. Sup.)

## Santa Visited Pasadena..

Holiday season in Houston does not really start for the Danes until Torben Poulsen from The Danish Seamen's Church in New York has paid us his annual visit, and Santa has shown up with gifts to all the kids attending the Christmas service.

This year's service at The Norwegian Seamen's Church in Pasadena was the 11<sup>th</sup> Christmas Service with Pastor Poulsen, and we hope the tradition may continue for many years to come. The service included christening of three brand new Danish-Americans, and Ms. Sally Hoffecker performed Danish Christmas hymns, accompanied by Ms. Aase Loesnaesloekken on piano.

After the service all visitors were treated to coffee, aebleskiver and cookies, and the more than thirty young kids danced around the Christmas tree, waiting for Santa. They were not disappointed, and Santa had just enough goody bags to make everybody happy.

The church was filled to capacity, and the many kids contributed to a very lively and positive Sunday. Thanks to Torben Poulsen for taking the trip to Houston every year, thanks to the Norwegian Seamen's Church and to Santa and the "aebleskive team".

## Gulf Coast Scandinavian Folkdancers

The Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston meet every Monday night from 7:15 -9:00 pm at Christ The King Lutheran Church (next to Rice Stadium). Contact Carl Steffensen at 281-493-4801 for info.



## 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
Sten Svendsen, Activ. Coord.	713-862-9871

### [www.dkhouston.org](http://www.dkhouston.org)

Have you read our web site lately? We have plenty of interesting links, and you can view the Club's impressive Photo Archive. Updated member address list is also available for members private use. The address list may not be used as commercial mailing list. E-mail Hannes or ask a friend if you do not know the pass word.

Hannes is always thankful for ideas or suggestions for further improvements of the site.

## New Members / Address & E-mail Changes:

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

## 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 2004. mailing courtesy of



## Nordic Women's Cultural Club:

The club has for many years been an active forum for women from all the Nordic countries. For more information, call Bente Rawson at 713-782-4108

### Membership Fee 2004

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address:: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (W): \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail (H): \_\_\_\_\_

(W): \_\_\_\_\_

Good Ideas and Suggestions:

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Mail to: Danish Club of Houston  
Hannes Hofer  
4042 Silverwood  
Houston, TX 77025