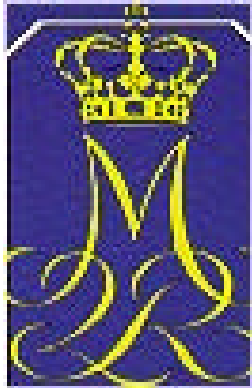


The Queen's Birthday Celebration In Danevang..

Members of the Danish Club of Houston are invited to join a celebration commemorating Queen Margrethe II's birthday on Saturday, April 17, the day after her birthday. Danes and descendants of Danes will hold a daylong celebration in Danevang, the Danish Capital of Texas.



Activity starts at 9.30 am. with a bike ride through the countryside of Danevang. For those a bit less energetic, a horseshoe tournament will be held, and indoors there will be board games, dominoes and bridge.

Also, there will be a disc jockey, Jack De Lagrange, who will provide dance music. His wife Inge, has

Danish music she brought with her from Denmark some years back. If you have more recent Danish CD's or tapes, bring them along for Jack to use. In case of inclement weather, indoor children's games and other activities will proceed.

At noon a pre-ordered BBQ lunch costing \$6.00 per person or \$4.00 for children twelve years and younger, is available or you may bring your own picnic lunch. For those wishing to order BBQ lunches, checks for reservations should be sent by April 12 to:

Danish Heritage Preservation Society
P. O. Box 386
Danevang, TX 77432-0386

Coffee, tea and lemonade are included in the price of the meal and other beverages will be for sale at cost. The toast to the Queen, the program, singing and dancing will follow.

The drive to Danevang takes about an hour and a half from central Houston. Take the Southwest Freeway, (US 59), south and exit Highway 59 at the second exit for El Campo - Highway 71, (this is south of the town). Turn left under the freeway and proceed about 10 miles to Danevang. There is a yellow blinking light in the community. Go through the blinking light to the next farm road and turn left. You will see the church and "forsamlingshuset" on your left as you approach. Activities will be coordinated from the "forsamlingshuset".

- *Thanks to Bridget and Al Jensen from the Danish Heritage Preservation Society for inviting our*

*members to participate in the Danevang meeting.
We look forward to meet many of you on April 17.*

Scandinavian Five-a-Side Soccer..

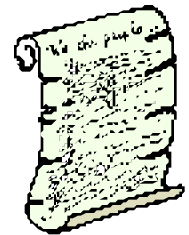
The Norwegian Seamen's Church is hosting a Five-a-Side soccer tournament at the Church on **April 25**, and has invited the Danes in Houston to participate.



We hope to participate with 3-4 Danish company teams. Clipper, Weco, Topsoe, Maersk, Hempel and FLS Miljo, should all be able to put a team together. If insufficient players within a company, create a mixed team with another company or organization. Please contact John Moyell for further details.

Constitution Day Celebration and Annual Meeting..

Our annual Constitution Day celebration will again this year be combined with the Club's Annual General Meeting. This year is special in that we will be celebrating the Danish Constitution's 150-year anniversary.



The celebration takes place on Sunday, June 6, 1999 at 2:00 p.m. at the Nottingham Forest Club on the west side of Houston. Please mark your calendar now.

Victor Borge coming to Houston..

Victor Borge will be performing with the Houston Symphony on September 13 in celebration of his 50-years professional anniversary.

The Danish Club will try to reserve a section of seats. We will keep you posted on the further development.

Houston Hosted Annual Meeting For The Danish Immigrant Museum

The Danish Immigrant Museum, located in Elk Horn, Iowa, selected Houston for their 1999 Annual Meeting which took place February 5-7. The event drew close to fifty visitors from all over the country – although mostly from the Northern States - to Houston.

The program included two social events that also involved the Danish community in Houston. Friday night The Museum and The Danish Club of Houston co-hosted a reception for the guests and the members of the Danish Club. About a hundred people attended the

reception and, while having a good time enjoying Dansk Catering's Hors D'oeuvres, they had a chance to meet new friends with a mutual interest in Denmark and Danish immigration.

Leo Hensley, Executive Director of the Museum, introduced the Museum and the Board of Directors while John Moyell from the Danish Club welcomed the guests to Houston. Mr Torben Jeppesen, who is Director of Odense Town Museums and an active member of the Board of the Immigrant Museum, gave an interesting presentation of "his" Museums. The reception also presented The Danish Pioneer, and guests were invited to enjoy a complimentary copy of the Pioneer, which forms an important part of the History of the Danish Immigration to the USA.

Saturday night the Immigrant Museum hosted a Dinner at the Renaissance Hotel and had invited guests from the Danish community in Texas as well as other people with an interest in the Museum. The dining room was nicely decorated with Danish-American colors - flowers and flags - and the guests from all over Texas had a great time together with the visitors.

Leo Hensley was MC for the night and the first speaker was Ray Daugbjerg, Danish Consul in Houston. The Museum was introduced by Hensley and Torben Jeppesen. The Museum's curator, Barbara Lund-Jones shared exhibit plans and artifact stories with the guests and touched on some of the ideas and visions behind the Immigrant Museum. The speaker from The Danish Club was Niels Kastrup who delivered a hilarious speech.

The Danish Club of Houston wishes to thank the Museum and it's Board for choosing Houston, Texas and we hope that the many Danes in Texas became interested in the great work being done by the Museum in Iowa. Also thanks to Lotte Optekamp for inviting us to use the Four Leaf Towers' facilities.

First "Fastelavn's Party" drew many Kids – and their Parents...

The weather was cool, but sunny, when about 60 kids and parents joined at The Challenger Memorial Park in Friendswood on Sunday, February 21, for the first Danish Fastelavnsparty.

Carl Steffensen had organized two real wood barrels and decorated them with cats, following Danish traditions. All the kids were dressed out, and prizes were given for best costumes.

The kids were divided into two groups, and the exciting "beating the cat out of the barrel" began. The big kids all knew that the barrels were full of candy, so it did not take them too long to crack the barrel, grab the candy and celebrate the Cat King and Cat Queen.

The smaller kids were up for a tough fight with the barrel, although Carl had drilled a lot of holes in the barrel to make the task a little easier. Finally, the barrel gave in, all the candy fell out, and a Cat King and Queen could be named.

Lisbeth Mogensen had been very busy baking "Fastelavnsboller" for everybody, - real Danish style with "chokoladeboller" og "Bagerens dårlige øje." - "The Bakers infected eye" is the traditional Danish nickname for the fastelavns pastry with a center of yellow crème.

After the "Battle With The Barrels" we all had coffee and enjoyed Lisbeth's pastries. A fun afternoon for the kids and their parents - our thanks to Lisbeth and Carl for a job well done.

Membership Dues For 1999

Did you remember to renew your membership ? If not, hurry up and mail your check for \$ 15 to

Johnny Larsen
18 Antilles Lane
Nassau Bay, TX 77058

Membership Due Cover The Whole Family !!

Golf: Danish Club Invitational Cancelled

Unfortunately, due to an insufficient participation, Michael Bentkjaer had to cancel the event.

It would appear many thought the arrangement was for Danes only. It was not! The idea was for Danes to invite friends and business associate for an afternoon of fun on the golf course. We will try again next spring.

To all those who did sign up and to those who offered to sponsor - thanks for your interest.

"Sir"Ray Appointed Knight of the Order of The Dannebrog.

Our fellow member of the Danish Club, Honorary Royal Danish Consul Ray Jens Daugbjerg, has been appointed "Knight Of Order Of The Dannebrog" by her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. This title is given to individuals who have been of extraordinary service to the Country of Denmark.

On behalf of the Queen, Ambassador Bent Kiilerich, Consul General in Chicago, bestowed the honor on Ray Daugbjerg at a ceremony in Houston in February.

Approximately two hundred of Daugberg's family members and friends, including representatives from the Danish Club, Danish companies in Houston, as well as Le Corps Consulaire in Houston, attended the ceremony, which was followed by a reception.

John Moyell introduced Ambassador Kiilerich and congratulated Ray Daugbjerg. The Ambassador greeted Daugbjerg in a personal speech and conveyed the official Danish congratulations and thanks for Daugbjerg's effort as Consul in Houston. Daugbjerg in his speech, thanked not only the Danish Queen, - but also his own Queen Cherry and their families for their support in his work as Danish Consul.

The Danish Club presented Ray Daugbjerg with a small gift in appreciation of his and Cherry's support of our club and activities, as well as his efforts as Honorary Consul. Again, our congratulation with the Order!

Uwe Jensen appointed to Export Council

The member of the Danish Club, Uwe Jensen, was recently appointed to the Houston District Export Council by the US Secretary of Commerce, William M. Daly.

Uwe is not new to high positions: He has in the past served as member of the Danish Parliament, as a Danish delegate to the UN in New York, and as member of the European Parliament.

Our congrat's to Uwe with the appointment.

www.dkhouston.org

As announced in our last newsletter, the Club's web site has now a new and more "direct" address:

<http://www.dkhouston.org>

The page has also been redesigned and now takes advantage of features limited to newer browsers, so if it looks funny, you may want to upgrade your software.

Take a look at the new design and let Hannes Hofer know what you think about his layout work.

Since we are no longer borrowing Web space at Rice, we are free to allow sponsors to advertise on our site. This provides interested firms with a way to support the club and at the same time reach the Danish community through the web.

Prices for commercial ad's are
\$40 for three months,
\$60 for six months and
\$100 for a full year.

Links will be provided to company web sites if desired. Please send an e-mail to Hannes (hofer@ruf.ricef.edu) if you are interested. Why not support the Club and have a very visible ad at a low price?

Members may now post classified, non-commercial ads, on our page. If you want to sell your car, rent out your vacation home, or if you are looking to find a Danish video or CD, send an e-mail to Hannes, who will place your ad in the Classified section. This service is free to all members.

News, information and reminders breaking too late to be included in the regular News Letter, will be broadcasted via the Club's Internet e-mail distribution list, and is also available on our Web site. *We therefore urge all members to make sure that your e-mail address is registered and always up to date.* You can do that by e-mailing Hannes at hofer@ruf.ricef.edu

Letter From A Danish Priest..

John Moyell received a nice letter from Kirsten Drigsdahl, a priest in Allerød, Denmark, who visited Houston in January for the Installation of Robert Moore as "Senior Pastor" in Christ the King Lutheran Church.



Here follows some "cuts" from the nice letter:

I am impressed to see how well organized and active the Danes are in Houston. I had no idea. I was pleased to see that also a Fastelavn's Party, exactly like the one we do here, is part of the traditions. Sunday 14. This month I will - at a similar occasion in my church - tell my parishioners that we probably share with Danes all over the World the tradition with "Tøndeslagning" and the Cat King and Queen of the year saluted with a golden crown, while everybody clap their hands and

salute them with each three "Hurrahs". I will mention The Danish Club in Houston as my source.

It is very interesting to see how Danes manage to maintain traditions and good habits from home when they are far away. Maybe I can meet you next time I visit Houston. It would be a pleasure to do a Danish service in your church in Houston. Maybe also a parish lectures if you like. I do not have exact planes yet, but I will be in touch, when the next visit is arranged.

I am a parish pastor in Allerød, close to Copenhagen. I was lucky to be sent as an observer for the Lutheran World Federation to a Peace Conference at Notre Dame, South Bend in 95 arranged by Faith and Order, ELCA, my first connection to USA.

Many good wishes for The Danish Club in Houston and the Norwegian Seamen's Church.

Grace to you from Kirsten Drigsdahl.

- The Danish Club would be very pleased to arrange a Danish Service in Houston with Rev. Drigsdahl.

Roller Blade Reminder:

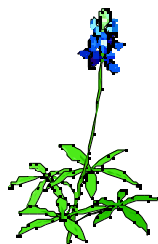
Join us at the Cullen Park / Bear Creek nature trail for a Roller blade workout. We are still blading every other Sunday from 4 p.m., weather permitting. No blading in case of rain or wet pavement. Note the following dates in your calendar:

April 11 & 25, May 9 & 23, June 6 & 20.



Meeting point is Cullen Park across from Houston West Airport. No need to register - just show up and bring a friend. Bikes and joggers are of course allowed on the trail - and in our group.. For more information - call 281-855-9299. Coordinator: Helle & Niels Kastrup.

Picnic in Brenham Postponed..



The planned Picnic at Ray Daugbjerg's farmhouse in Brenham was scheduled too close to the Queen's Birthday Celebration in Danevang. We have therefore postponed the Brenham tour until a later date – either in the fall or early next spring, when the wildflowers return.

Here follows the Updated Events Calendar...

April 17: The Queen's Birthday Celebration - Danevang, Texas
June 6: Annual Meeting & Constitution Day Picnic

\Facts About The Danish Club...

Board of Directors:

John Moyell, President	713-467-7911
Niels H. Kastrup, Vice Pres.	281-855-9299
Johnny Larsen, Treasurer	281-286-2477
Mette Miller, Secretary (Acting)	281-859-3140
Lisbeth Mogensen, Activ. Coord.	281-992-1136
Carl Steffensen ,Activ. Coord.	281-493-4801

Mailing Address:

John Moyell, 614 Attingham,
Houston, TX 77024
e-mail: John.Moyell@clipgroup.com

Change of Address:

Until further notice, please report all address changes, incl. e-mail, to John Moyell, President. If you are new on the Internet, do not forget to include your e-mail with your address, and copy Hannes Hofer on your e-mail as well..

Newsletter:

This volume is edited by Niels H. Kastrup and John Moyell, and mailed to members only. The Newsletter is also available on our Website.