

Danish Club of Houston News

www.dkhouston.org - hofer@mac.com

Volume 26 – May 2004



A Busy Spring Season...

It is Spring time in Houston – the very best time of the year in Texas – and we are soon to wrap up a very busy season in the Danish Club.

Approx. 110 families have renewed their membership for 2004, including the new members we are welcoming in this Newsletter, and we still expect to add some 10-20 more families, who are just a little slow to cough up the \$15. That's great, the highest membership in our seven year history.

It has been a busy Spring. We started out in January with co-hosting a reception following an organ concert with Danish organist Kristian Olesen from Roskilde Domkirke, who played the Bach organ at Christ The King Lutheran Church. Then followed Fastelavns party in February, with a professional magician and imported fastelavnsboller, and March offered five-a-side soccer at the Norwegian Seamen's Church.

On the first Saturday in April we met for a nice picnic, hosted by consul Ray & Cherry Daugbjerg in Brenham, and the following week we co-sponsored a reception following Dance Salad, a presentation of International Ballet Corps, including the Royal Danish ballet.

Second weekend of April means celebration of Queen Margrethe's Birthday in Danevang, TX, and again this year the program included performance by Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston.

It was then time for Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen's two days visit to Houston to receive the Lyndon B. Johnson Moral Courage Award, presented by the Holocaust Museum. The visit started with a nice reception, hosted by the consulate at Anna and Hal Holliday's home, and with participation of Danish business representatives and the Danish Club's membership.

During the visit the Prime Minister spoke about global challenges for the USA and Europe following September 11 at the Baker Institute at Rice University with approx. 200 invited guests in attendance. The Danish Club had received 30 invitations for the luncheon address, and we managed to accommodate all members who responded in time.

In connection with the award from the Holocaust Museum, a special presentation of a new American film about the

rescue of Danish Jews to Sweden in 1943 took place at the museum, and the members of The Danish Club were also invited for this event.

Finally, a ZOO trip for kids and their families was planned for the last Saturday of April, but was rained out.

Well, we still got a few things in the pipeline before the hot Summer sets in. We are trying to buy a reasonably priced satellite drop for May 14, so we can offer a "Royal Wedding Breakfast." We are working with the Embassy in Washington, but so far pricing is prohibitive. Also, don't forget the Grundlovsday Celebration in Danevang on Saturday, June 5.

Invitation for Annual Meeting is in this Newsletter, and we hope to see you all on June 19 for our Midsummer Party and Annual Meeting. The party will be held at the pool at Nottingham Forest Club, and we are planning some barbeque and live band. The Annual Meeting won't take long, but we do need a quorum to approve Hannes' cooked books and to elect the Board. So please show up on time.

We had hoped for some soccer rallies for the Danish team playing the European Cup, starting June 4. Unfortunately, first round games are played on weekdays and during US working hours, so we will cook up some parties when Denmark qualifies for the second round!

As usual – we will keep you informed by e-mail Newsflash as soon as we know more about the planned activities for May and June.

Niels K.

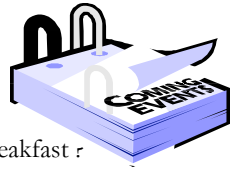
New Members..

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

Catherune & Steen Pedersen
Karen F. & Lars Hansen
Linda Martinez & Thomas Damsgaard
Monique Morley & Mogens Andersen
Angelette & Bo Jakobsen
Liselotte & Peter Thompsom
Anne & James Merkousko
Margit Williams
Deborah Grey & Ole Soerensen
Bente & Vagn Nielsen
Rosie & Thomas Damgaard



Season Calendar



May 14, TBC

Royal Wedding viewing party with breakfast

June 5, 11 am.

Grundlovsfest in Danevang, TX

June 19, 5 pm.

Midsummer Party & Annual Meeting

Nottingham Forest Club

June 4 – July 4

European Soccer Cup

Young Danes Network

The Young Danes Network (YDN) usually meet on the third Friday of each month for Happy Hour(s) at a centrally located water hole. If you are not on the mailing list, contact ring leader Sten Svendsen.

YDN operates as a separate group under the Danish Club with own mailing list and own activities.

Scandinavian Folkdancers Perform in San Antonio

The 33rd annual Texas Folklife Festival will be held the weekend of June 10-13 in San Antonio, with performers and vendors representing 60 different countries. The Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston will be among the performers, and the Danish Society of Texas in San Antonio will be selling æbleskiver and sausages. Check www.texasfolklife festival.org for more information."

“Wedding Viewing” Cancelled

Some 15-20 members showed interest in a breakfast Royal Wedding Party when we asked by e-mail, but unfortunately the party would come with a price tag of \$ 200 per head because of satellite transmission costs.

So, we will all have to do with streaming video on the Internet. Both DR and TV2 are supposed to have their live signal on the Internet, and there will most likely be a lot of log-on's from all parts of the world. Our web-master and internet nerd Hannes may know a few other web sites, where you can catch some live footage from the big event. You may e-mail him for ideas.

Al Jensen in Memoriam

The Danish Community in Houston and in Texas lost one of our greatest members and supporters, when Al Jensen passed away after a bout with leukemia. He was 73 years old.

Al, together with his wife Bridget, was the cornerstone in the Danish-American community in Houston and Danevang, always supportive, energetic and interested in giving a helping hand. Both being children of Danish Immigrants with strong ties to Danevang, the Jensen family was the driving force behind the Danish Heritage Museum, and countless trips from their home in Houston to Danevang showed the dedication and interest in creating a lasting memory of the Danish settlement in Danevang. A memory that will also serve as a living and lasting memory of a great man.

When a group of Danes got together for Grundlovsdag in 1997, Al joined the group and introduced us to Danevang and to his dreams of establishing a museum. Bridget and Al joined the Danish Club from the very beginning, and together with their daughter Lisa they were always there to show their interest and support. Also our friendship with Christ The King Lutheran Church was established with the help of the Jensen's, who are members of the congregation.

The Danish Club in Houston has made a donation on behalf of all members to The Danish Heritage Society in Danevang in memory of Al Jensen.

Aeret Vaere Hans Minde !





Call for Annual Meeting

The 7th Regular Annual Meeting will be held

**Saturday, June 19, 2004 at 5.30 pm at
Nottingham Forest Club, 325 Kickerillo Drive.**

In accordance with the By-Laws, the Agenda will include the following items:

1. Election of Chair of Meeting
2. President's Report for the Year
3. Treasurer's Financial Report for the Year
4. Approvals, and Decharge of Board of Directors.
5. Elections:
 - a) President
 - b) Vice-President
 - c) Treasurer
 - d) Secretary
 - e) Committee Coordinators
 - f) Two Substitutes
 - g) Two Auditors
6. New Activities
7. Sundry

The Board has no suggestions for change of by-laws this year. The By-Laws are available on our web site.

Board Roster:

The Board is nominating the following slate of Board Members for re-election:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| President: | Niels Kastrup |
| Vice President: | Carl Steffensen |
| Treasurer: | Hannes Hofer |
| Secretary: | Mette Miller |
| Activity Coord.: | Sten Svendsen |
| Activity Coord.: | Christina Clark |

Nominations for Substitutes and Auditors will be made at the meeting. Please inform Niels Kastrup in case of other nominations to the Board or in case of suggestions for modifications to the By-Laws.

Mid-Summer Party on June 19

It is time to launch a new event to replace our Grundlovs Dags Party. We invite all our member families to a Mid-Summer Party at the Nottingham Forest Club,

Saturday, June 19, at 5 pm.

Tentative Program:

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| 5 pm. | Pool is open |
| 5.30 pm. | Annual Meeting |
| 6.30 pm | Barbeque |
| 8-10.30 pm | Party & Dance |

The party will be held at the pool area, and the pool will be open all night with lifeguard on duty. We expect to present a live band playing some old rock'n roll and country for partying and dancing.

Jan Mogensen has promised to come out of retirement and will resume his career as Grill Meister Extraordinaire. He is planning on barbequing some chicken and Danish style wieners, and you are kindly asked to bring a salad or a desert. Jan is an expert in sausages – and has recently run into a major shipment of excellent wieners, so give him or Lisbeth a call at 281-992-1136, if you are interested in a few pounds at a fair price.

We are looking for a keg sponsor – and please bring your own wine and sodas. Please also throw a couple of lawn chairs in the trunk.

Please send RSVP with names and a check to Hannes Hofer by June 7, admission fee is 15 \$ for adults and 7 \$ for kids. Participation in Annual Meeting only is free.

Mark your calendar, keep an eye on your e-mail and look forward to a fun night with good food, drinks and music.

New Logo-Merchandise

New t-shirts with club logo on the left side of the chest are now available. Colors are light blue or dark red, and all sizes are available. Price is \$12, and the shirts can be bought at all events or you may send a check to Mette Miller.

We have also received a new shipment of our popular blue caps with logo, price is \$16, and our "DK" decals for your autos are available for \$3 a piece.

See our web site for pictures of the new merchandise.



Picnic with Wildflowers

Beginning of April is high season for Texas Wildflowers, and the rolling hills and endless fields west of Brenham were gorgeous, when Cherry and Consul Ray Daugbjerg had invited the Danish Club for a Picnic at their country home at Gay Hill, some 80 miles West of Houston.

Some 80 members had gladly accepted the invitation and brought salads and deserts, while Ray and supporting family members had the huge barbeque going with chicken, pork and brisket. The barbeque pit soon became a popular spot for male bonding with cold brew and the aroma from smoked brisket.

Meanwhile “Jumping Jack” Delagrang had set up his music system in the shade of a live oak and treated the audience to a mixture of older Danish and American music.

The weather was great – partly sunny and not too hot, so the young crowd were playing volleyball and football, while their parents enjoyed the weather and great food and good company on the lawn.

We thank Cherry and Ray for their hospitality. It takes a lot of work to host 80 people, -and to bring the place back to normal, when everybody has taken off. We really appreciate the great effort, we had a good time.

“Danish Dynamite” in Soccer Final

The Annual Five-a-side Soccer tournament at the Norwegian Seamen’s Church had five participating teams, three Norwegian teams and two teams representing the Danish Club.

Following an outdoors Family Church Service, the soccer teams played “round robin”, followed by semifinals and final. “Danish Dynamite” – mostly with players from the FC Danmark indoor team, made it to the final and lost after a very close game, while “Gammel Dansk” to their own surprise won one game and thereby made it to the semifinals.

In spite of some threatening morning thunderstorms the weather turned out great, with lots of sunburns being the consequence. Thanks to our Norwegian friends for a nice day in Pasadena.

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

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.

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: Sept / October 2004

Mailing courtesy of

