



**Welcome to the New
Season in The Danish
Club of Houston!...**

The hot Summer is behind us, the pleasant Fall weather is just around the corner, and it is time to open up the seventh Season of our Club.

The Board has had a first meeting and an outline of the Events Calendar is taking shape. The Holiday committee is up running, and we hope to see most of you several times during the Season.

The membership count is approx. 110, which is the highest ever. That is great, unfortunately that does not mean that a big crowd shows up at all our events, "au contraire"... as they say in Louisiana.

We ended last season with the Annual Meeting and Grundlovsdag Picnic with live concert by Danish Folksinger Annette O'Driscoll, accompanied by Dave Henry. Also the Scandinavian Folk Dancers with their musicians participated in the entertainment program in the hot sun. Weather was wonderful, music was good and the beer was cold, and still we saw the lowest attendance in several years, only approx 50 people showed up for this event.

We had moved the Picnic from Sunday to Saturday this time, wonder if that had an influence on the interest? - In any case, we were certainly somewhat disappointed that our first live music event could not drag people out to Nottingham Forest.

The Annual Meeting welcomed Sten Svendsen as new member of the Board, replacing Henrik Roende. Thanks to Henrik for his time on the Board, and welcome to Sten, who will be heading activities for the group of Young Danes and also be involved with the Holiday Committee.

The other five members of the Board were reelected, and Club Treasurer Hannes Hofer could present an audited set of books with approx. \$ 5,300 in the bank and in other assets. We have no ambitions of becoming a rich club with own facilities, we just need a safety net allowing us to commit to participation in events. We have therefore also kept the membership fee at \$ 15 per family since the very first year, and will do the same for 2004.

Thanks to The Scandinavian Folk Dancers for dancing in the heat, and to Danish Inspirations and Jan C. for sponsoring the keg. Also a big thank you to Bridget & Al Jensen for hosting Annette O'Driscoll during her stay in Houston.

Annette continued from Houston to San Antonio, invited by Jette Smith and the Danish Group there. She performed at the Folk Fest in San Antonio, and she also gave a concert in Danevang in connection with Grundlovsdag at the Heritage Preservation Society, before returning to Denmark.

Thanks to Annette for coming to Texas and good luck with the next CD, which will primarily include English language folk songs. We hope to see you again..

A New Network for the Younger Crowd

Sten Svendsen has launched a new initiative geared towards creating a network of the younger segment of the Danish population in Houston. Approx. 20 showed up for a Happy Hour get-together in August, and 35 stopped by on September 19 for Happy Hour on Kirby.

It is in the cards that other events will be initiated on a regular basis, such as sports and concerts, and it certainly appears that "the club in the club" is off to a flying start. Next Happy Hour date is October 24, location will follow by e-mail. Call or e-mail Sten if you need any more information.

A Sneak-Peek at the Events Calendar...

The Season 03-04 will hopefully bring a reasonable mix of traditions and new initiatives. The Network of the Younger Danes is up running, and the really young ones and their mothers meet in "Moedregruppen", which by the way is not directly related to the Danish Club.

Our traditional Holiday Party will be held at Nottingham Forest Club again this year, following very positive feedback from last year's event. The Committee is up and running, it is great that basically the same group of members have agreed to run the show this year.

Pastor Torben Poulsen has confirmed his visit for the Christmas Service and we look forward to see him in Pasadena for the 11th year in a row. As usual the service will be followed by Christmas Tree for the Kids with a visit by Santa, and aebleskiver for everybody.

We are also aiming at arranging a Wine tasting evening sometime in the Fall, that ought to drag the members out of the Lazy-Boys.

We are looking for some of the younger parents to take the lead for our "Fastelavnsparty", we still have wooden barrels available, and we will try to convince Lisbeth Mogensen to bake her famous fastelavns-boller. Likewise we plan to arrange a tour to the Houston Zoo for families with young kids.

Anna Thomsen Holliday informs us that a contingent of dancers from the Royal Danish Ballet may visit Houston in the Spring, and that the Consulate will be actively involved in that event.

Danevang will host their traditional Queens Birthday Celebration in April, and we expect to have another one or two events during the Spring. If nothing else, we can always arrange a trip to St. Arnold's Brewery for their Saturday afternoon tour. Last year we were two guys showing up...

Based upon the low attendance this year we will likely change the format of next year's Annual Meeting, replacing the Picnic with a Mid-Summer Party, either pool-side or in the Nottingham Club House facilities.

We are also working on a couple of other events, and please let us know if you have any good ideas for new events or other initiatives. We are always looking for ideas, and you will not necessarily have to be involved yourself.

Season Calendar 2003- 2004



September 27-29:

Danish Opera Singer Bo Skovhus in concert with the Houston Symphony.

October 5, at 11 am:

IKEA Soccer Cup & Cook-Out Competition, at Norwegian Seamen's Church in Pasadena. Family Service at 11 am. Soccer from noon.

October 24:

Young Danish Network meets for Happy Hour – location to be decided

October 24-26:

Family Camping at Lake Livingston State Park.

Contact Lisbeth Mogensen, 281-992-1136.

December 6:

Holiday Party for Adults, Nottingham Forest Club

December 14, at 11 am.

Christmas Church Service & Kids Christmas Tree Party. With pastor Torben Poulsen, New York. Norwegian Seamen's Church, Pasadena.

February (TBD):

Fastelavns Party

June 19:

Midsummer Party & Annual Meeting
Nottingham Forest Club

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

New Members....

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

Lene & George Kiersted
Inge Merete & Stig Larsen
Jasmine & Dan Gotth-Olsen
Sandra & Kim Elbaek
Nicolaj Moesgaard
Lotte A. & Joergen Liboriussen
Palle Nielsen

Most of our new members are active in Offshore, Shipping and related business, still great to see the continuous influx to Houston.

New Danish Deli in Houston..

Our members Susie Ibsen and Bodil Toft-Pedersen have launched a great business initiative, making Danish food and other goods available for the Danish community in the Houston area. Grand Opening took place on Tuesday September 23 with an Open House and sampling of all the delicacies.

The ladies import a lot of good stuff from the Old Kingdom, from herring and cheese to spejderhagl, and they also offer home made deli products from the freezer.

More information can be found on the company's website at www.danskdeli.com, or by e-mailing danskdeli@hotmail.com. You can download their Order Form from the web site, and either fax or e-mail your order to be picked up on certain Tuesdays and

Saturdays. Your goodies must be picked up at Susie's address in Shoreacres, close to Kemah.

The new company will also become a website sponsor for the Danish Club, and their ad will soon be showing on www.dkhouston.org.

We wish Susie and Bodil all the best with their business and hope the Danes in Houston will keep them busy. Susie is also expanding her Catering Business, offering her great food for all kind of events, including business affairs and birthday parties.

IKEA Soccer Cup & Cook-Out

We look forward to a big turn-out to support our soccer team in the noble fight for keeping the Viking Cup with the Danes and to sample the delicious food at the Cook-Out.

We have still not been able to muster a Danish Cooking Team to take over from the famous *Danish Deep Friars.*, There is still time for a last minute sign up for this great Fundraiser for our Norwegian friends at the Seamen's Church.

The roster for the soccer team is not yet complete, contact Sten Svendsen or Niels Kastrup if you have not heard about the tournament and would like to play.

The event is Sunday, October 5, starting with outdoor Family Church Service at 11 am., followed by soccer and food from noon. Look forward to see you.

Machine Readable Passports Required...

News from Consul Ray Daugbjerg from Royal Danish Consulate:

Danish Citizens wishing to enter the United States on the Visa Waiver Program must have one of the new Machine Readable Passports by October 1, 2003. If they do not have a Machine Readable Passport they must obtain a visa in order to enter the United States.

Although not required for Green Card Holders, it is recommended that all Danish Citizens, whether green card holders or not, obtain a new Machine Readable Passport in order to avoid problems when entering the United States.

In addition to the above, children should no longer be entered into their parents passports. When Machine Readable Passports are issued, the machine readable part of the passport does not include information on children, only the passport holder. This will again create a problem when entering the United States. We therefore recommend to all parents that they obtain separate passports for their children regardless of age.

Changes to Danish Immigration Legislation...

The Danish Folketing finally came to their senses and changed the much discussed new legislation for Immigrants to Denmark. One of the purposes of the legislation was to limit the number of arranged weddings between Danish born immigrants and spouses living outside the country.

Unfortunately the legislation was having severe negative side effects, primarily that mixed couples with very strong ties to Denmark sometimes were turned away when seeking residence in Denmark. Examples were plenty, also among the Danish-American community here and elsewhere.

Following a very intense debate in Denmark, strongly supported by Danes Worldwide and other organizations, the Folketing has now changed the legislation to accommodate the heavy criticism.

One of the key elements is introduction of a 28 years age threshold, allowing Danish citizens over 28 years of age permanent residence together with their non-Danish spouse. Also non-citizens who have spent at least 28 years in Denmark since childhood are secured permanent residence for their spouse, - as long as they have not spend significant time outside Denmark for "genopdragelse".

- I shall abstain from interpreting or comment on the last benchmark, but according to Danish News Media the age rule should limit the number of so-called "arranged marriages" very significantly.

Use of Member List...

The Danish Club maintains a Member List with addresses and e-mail addresses, which can be accessed on our web site by use of a password. It is also mailed to all members once a year.

The purpose is to provide our members with an easy way to look for new friends or contacts, and it is our specific policy that the list can not be used for commercial purposes. Unauthorized use of e-mail addresses for commercial mailings is also prohibited. Password can be obtained from Hannes Hofer, and is also published infrequently in our mailed Newsletter: *Name of famous fun place between City Hall and The Main Train Station in Cph.* Should not be too hard to figure out the six letters pass word with that description.

If you are in doubt whether use of the list is authorized or not, just contact Hannes Hofer or Niels Kastrup. It is always an option to have a brief message included with our e-mail Newsflashes or in our mailed Newsletter, and we can also post brief messages on our web-site..

Danish Club Logo Merchandise..

Logo merchandise is always available:

White Polo-Shirts:	\$ 20	
Blue Caps:	\$ 15	
White T-Shirts:	\$ 10	
DK Auto Decals		\$ 3

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



Danish Heritage Preservation Society

Our friends in Danevang, TX, are still doing a fantastic job keeping the Danish roots alive and arranging interesting exhibitions at the Heritage Museum.

Support DHPS by sending annual membership fee of \$ 10 with your name / address / phone/ e-mail to: Mickey Christensen, P.O. Box 386, Danevang, TX 77432. The fee includes free admission to the Museum at any time.

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. It is really an informative site, check it out.

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

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 further information.

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.	281-384-9162

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.

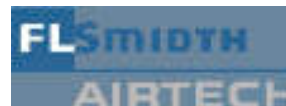
Hannes is always thankful for ideas or suggestions for further improvements of the site.

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 is planned for November 2003. Copying and mailing courtesy of



–Clean Air To The World...