

Danish Club of Houston News

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Volume 27 – October 2004



Halfway thru the Fall Season

Time is flying. It is already October and this Newsletter is at least one month late. That is a little embarrassing, but hopefully you have all received our E-mail Newsflashes so you have kept up with the activities meanwhile.

We are in the process of preparing the two big events for December. You should all have received invitation for the Holiday Party at Nottingham Forest with the great Danish style holiday buffet, and please do not sit on it too long. Once we hit the maximum number of participants which is 125, we shall be closing the list, and we do expect that to happen well before Dec 4!

The nice facilities at Nottingham Forest are limited in space, and Susie at "Great Food" has also requested a limit, so she can make sure that the food quality remain excellent. So you better cut your check and send it off right away to assure your seats to the great party.

We are pleased to announce that Torben Poulsen from the Danish Seamen's Church in New York will come to Houston for his 12th Christmas Service on December 12. Unfortunately this will become Torben's last Christmas Service here, since the new Danish Organization for Seamen's churches and Churches overseas wishes to increase rotation of pastors.

Torben's contract has therefore been discontinued as of end of the year, in spite of a strong movement in the North East supporting Torben's continued stay in the USA. Also the Danish Club of Houston supported this effort in a letter to the Board of the Church Organization, and we sincerely regret Torben's departure.

Your Board of Directors were re-elected at the successful Mid-summer Party at Nottingham Forest. Linda Martin and Steen Petersen were elected as substitutes, while Mike Miller was re-elected as Auditor with Francis Steffensen as substitute. The Annual Report is posted on our web site...just in case you run out of reading material on a rainy Sunday.

By the time you get this late Newsletter we have the IKEA Cup and Cook-out as well as the Family Camping behind us. We do have some more events planned for the winter and spring and will add to our calendar on the web site as details are in place. In the works is a wine tasting, a meeting on immigration and citizenship rules and regulations, and we will together with the Royal Danish Consulate present the well known Danish author Ib Michael, in connection with his visit to UT in Austin.

In the Spring season we expect to work with the Consulate on some more cultural events, and we will hopefully be offering a session on taxation of pension funds for Danish immigrants later in the year. We are as usual always looking for good ideas for new events, so give us a holler or cut an e-mail if you have some good suggestions.

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 April:

Katherine & Torben Petersen
Christine & Anthony Thompson
Nicole Calderoni
Karoline Mortensen & Bill Reed
Annette & Kristian Frederiksen
Anne & Lars Knudsen

Total membership hovers around 140 families, and it is truly great to see the many new names and faces coming into the Houston Metropolitan area.

Mail Sponsor..

We are looking for a new sponsor for mailing of the Newsletter 2-3 times a year. Unfortunately FLSmidth Airtech is pulling out of Houston after ten years in town, and all activities are now being consolidated at FLS' US head quarters in Bethlehem, Pa.

If your company can help us running 140 envelopes through your mail meter 2-3 times a year, then we will be happy to flag your logo in the Newsletters. We can supply envelopes and run the labels, but will of course be happy for any help.

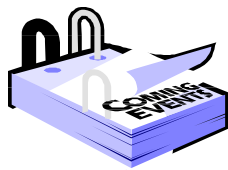
Young Danes Network

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.



Fall Season Calendar



October 23, 10.30 am:
Family trip to the Houston ZOO

November 7, 4-6 pm.:
Meet Ib Michael. An afternoon with Danish author Ib Michael, hosted by Anna & Hal Holliday. RSVP by e-mail to Hannes Hofer by November 1.

December 4, 6.30 pm.:
Holiday Party, Nottingham Forest Club. – Invitations have been mailed.

December 12, 11 am.:
Holiday Church Service and Christmas Tree, Norwegian Seamen’s Church. With pastor Torben Poulsen from Danish Seamen’s Church, New York.

Dual Citizenship

A group of Danes in Canada is spearheading an effort to convince the Kingdom of Denmark to allow dual citizenships. Also the Organization Danes Worldwide (Dansk Samvirke) are long time supporters of the dual citizenship, however there is currently limited political support in Denmark.

To read more about the movement and express your support, please check the web site: statsborger.dk which is in the Danish language. The web site has links to the governing Danish laws on the subject.

Team Handball

The Houston Firehawks Team Handball Club is recruiting male and female Handball players. All levels of experience are welcome. For those of you new to the sport, Team Handball combines the elements of indoor soccer and basketball and is lots of fun to play. Whether you are an expert Handball player or would like to check it out for the first time, we would like to invite YOU to our practices at the University of Houston Melcher Gym on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 – 9:30 pm. Please contact Coach Oscar for more information at (832) 878-8714 or e-mail osnad68@hotmail.com. You may also check out the web site firehawksteamhandball.org. – or you can get a lesson from Mette Miller, who played for Funder IF’s Division 1 team in Denmark many moons ago.

Message from New York

E-mail received from a group of supporters of the Danish Seamen’s Church in new York:

As of October 1, 2004 we have been informed that Torben and Merete Poulsen will end their employment in the Danish Seamen’s Church in New York as per December 31, 2004. They will stay in New York until June 30, 2005.

We hope you will join us and them on November 14, 2004 when Torben will perform his farewell service in the Danish Seamen’s Church in New York at 11:00 AM and for the reception afterwards.

Thank you very much for your concern and support of Torben and Merete and the Danish Seamen’s Church.

Danish Team took IKEA Cup

The Annual IKEA Cup and Cook-Out at the Norwegian Seamen’s Church was as usual a great event and a good fundraiser for the church. Unfortunately we have not been presented in the Cook-Out competition for a couple of years, but we do have the best Scandinavian Soccer team in Houston!

The Danish Team consisted mostly of players from “FC Danmark”, who are playing indoors weekly at the West Houston Soccer Club. The Danes beat Norway by 7-3 and thereafter Sweden by 5-3, and took home the IKEA Cup for the coming year after three years with Norwegian and Swedish dominance.





Annual Meeting 2004

The feed back received from participants in the Annual Meeting & Mid-Summer Party was rather unanimous. Everybody had a good time pool-side at Nottingham Country Club, with Carl Steffensen and Mike Miller plus some helpers sweating over the Hamburger and Hot Dog pit.

Weather was hot and steamy, and still we did not manage to empty the keg and the wine, graciously sponsored by Clipper Americas. Thanks to Jon Fabian for helping us out. Turn-out for the event was OK with some 60-70 adults and kids, but we do have room for more next year if we decide to keep same format for the event.

We had planned on live music for the party, but had to cancel at the last minute. It did turn out that the location and set up of tables and grill is not ideal for a live band, so



The Annual Meeting was as usual mostly a “formality”. Avram did a great job as Chair of the meeting, and the President complained as usual about low attendance to most club events and asked for input from the membership to inspire the Board to think outside “the box”.

Club finances showed a minor deficit for the year, with the Christmas party breaking even, including sponsorships, but with a rather expensive fastelavnsparty. Bank account and various assets represent approximately 5,000 \$, so we are certainly not stockpiling funds for endowments or scholarships. Our Auditor Mike Miller had approved Hannes’ books with the comment that we better write off the Club Barbeque, since it had already rotten away in Jan Mogensens’ backyard.

The Meeting adopted a change to the Bylaws, allowing the Board Meeting to take place anytime prior to June 30. The full roster of Board Members had offered to take another year and were unanimously reelected, and Linda Martin and Steen Petersen were elected substitutes. Mike Miller agreed to take another go at the books as Auditor, and Fran Steffensen was elected as Substitute.

The President’s Annual Report is posted on our web-site, just in case you have forgotten all about last season, and need to catch up on the history!

Thanks to Carl Steffensen for spearheading the Mid Summer Party, while having a house full of family visitors from Denmark.

Green Card Lottery 2006

The US Department of State recently announced registration instructions for the 2006 Diversity Immigrant Program (DV-2006) green card lottery. The lottery will enable 50,000 randomly chosen people to obtain permanent residence in the United States.

Applicants who are selected will be eligible to become permanent residents during the period October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006. The application period will begin on Friday, November 5, 2004 and end Friday, January 7, 2005. Applications not submitted during this period will not be accepted.

Last year, the Department of State implemented an electronic registration system for the program in order to make the process more efficient and secure. As a result, mail-in applications are no longer accepted. A website has been set up for electronic registration at dvlottery.state.gov, where further instructions and eligibility requirements are available.

Applicants for Diversity Visas are initially chosen through a random computer-generated lottery drawing. Visas are distributed among six geographic regions, with a greater number of visas going to regions with lower rates of immigration, and no visas going to countries sending more than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. in the past five years.

All DV filings are required to be submitted in electronic format on the website set up for this purpose only ; note that the website is not yet operational, but will be accessible during the 60-day application period.



No fee is required with a Diversity Visa Lottery application. Multiple applications are not permitted; if an individual applicant submits more than one application for him- or herself, he or she will be disqualified from registration.

In previous years, between six and seven million people have applied for the lottery annually. Selected applicants must be prepared to act promptly on their cases. This process is purely random and there is no way to increase one's chances of being selected. Successful applicants will likely be notified by mail between May 2005 and July 2005.

You should not need assistance to submit an electronic application because the website will provide comprehensive step-by step. – So no need to pay a lawyer for filling in the forms, as long as you have internet access!

An Afternoon with Ib Michael

Danish author Ib Michael will be visiting the Danish Club in connection with a visit to Austin in November. Ib Michael was born in Roskilde, Denmark, in 1945 and debuted in 1970 following studies at University of Copenhagen. Michael is among the most read Danish authors and many of his books have gained international recognition and are available in several languages.

Ib Michael was elected “most favorite author” in Denmark in 1995 and has received a number of awards for his books and his poetry. He was also praised for his book on the Danish author Villy Sorensen.

Meet Ib Michael

Sunday, November 7, at 4 pm.

at the Hal & Anna Thomsen Holliday residence at 2404 Brentwood Drive (off Kirby in River Oaks). Wine and snacks will be served, so please RSVP by e-mail to Hannes Hofer by November 1.

Some of the discussion and presentation will inevitably be in the Danish language, but we certainly hope to see some of our non-Danish speaking members at the Holliday's residence.

Danish literature lecturer Kristian Himmelstrup is currently teaching at UT and has arranged the visit by Ib Michael. Kristian has also launched a Danish Club at UT, with monthly meetings on campus. For more info, you can contact Kristian by e-mail at himmelstrup@mail.utexas.edu.

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.

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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 2005

Logo-Merchandise

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

We 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.

Our merchandise make a great Holiday present. See our web site for pictures of the neat stuff.