



Dear Member Families...

The Danish Club of Houston wishes y'all a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Although there are some indications that the Houston economy may slow down a bit in '99 and many of the large companies are cutting back, we are confident that Houston in 1999 will continue to be a good place for Danish and Danish-American Families to live.

The Board already met the first week of January to review December's activities and plan the first half of 1999. We expect a busy schedule, starting out a Houston Marathon Booster Party in January, followed by the The Danish Immigrant Museum's Annual Meeting in early February. Later in February, our first "Fastelavn's" Party for the kids in Clear Lake.

We will also resume the biweekly Rollerblading at Cullen Park in January, and continue till June.

In late March The Danish Club Golf Invitational, which was postponed from last fall, is now scheduled, and our long awaited visit to Rice University is now on March 3. Details later via e-mail. In April/May a Spring tour to Brenham is being scheduled, where our Danish Consul Ray Daugbjerg is eager to show us the Blue Bonnets and other wildflowers around his farm house, and in the first weekend of June we will of course meet for the Annual Meeting and Danish Constitution Day Party.

We also hope that more cultural events will bring us together. Often we only learn about the events in the last minute, therefore it is too late for us to announce in our regular Newsletter. As a result making a general broadcast via e-mail list is the only means of informing you, hence it is very important that all members with e-mail register their address on the e-mail distribution list with: hofer@ruf.rice.edu

Our Web-site has moved to it's own domain, thereby giving us greater flexibility, including opening up for sponsors and advertisers, who would like to address the Danes in Houston. The new address is

www.dkhouston.org

We are very pleased that Hannes will continue to maintain our web-site, which has had more than 2,000 "hits" during it's existence.

The Danish Club is entering 1999 with almost 100 member families. We are not sure how many Danish and Danish-American families or individuals live in the

Houston area, but we do know there are families, who are not yet members of the Club. So our New Year's resolutions is to attract them to become members of the Danish Club of Houston. Please help us and tell all your friends in the Danish-American community about the Danish Club and invite them to join the gang. Remember also to give us a call with your good ideas about new activities.

All they need to do is pay their \$15.00 membership dues for 1999, which cover the whole family, and of course, show up and participate in the activities.

"Fastelavn's" – Party For The Kids..

A traditional Danish Fastelavns-Party (the closest we get to Carnival or Mardi Gras in Denmark) will take place

Sunday, February 21, 1999 at 3 pm.

at **The Challenger Memorial Park**

Bring the kids of all ages and join in the celebration of Fastelavn with "Slå katten af tønden" (Beat the cat out of the barrel...), "Cat Queen" and "Cat King". Prizes for best Kids costumes, so do not forget to dress out!

Lisbeth has promised to bake "Fastelavns-boller", and we suggest you bring your own thermo and other drinks. Bring a coat and a blanket, just in case of adverse weather. Attendance is free for both children and adults.

For more information and RSVP, call Lisbeth Mogensen at 281-992-1136. The Challenger Seven Memorial Park is located by Friendswood, take the "NASA Road 1" exit off I-45 and go west, and follow the signs to the park. The Danish Club has reserved a pavilion next to the parking area.

Renew Membership Dues For 1999

Please return the coupon on page 4, together with your check for \$ 15 to

Johnny Larsen
18 Antilles Lane
Nassau Bay, TX 77058

Please pay dues no later than **February 15**. If you have already renewed membership, return coupon only in case of new address or new e-mail address.
Membership Due Cover The Whole Family !!

Golf: Danish Club Invitational Scheduled for March 27...

The first Danish Club Golf Invitational, which was postponed from November last year, will take place March 27 at the Bentwood Country Club off I-59 North of Kingwood.

Invitation and detailed information will follow by e-mail and will also be available on our Web-site. If you need any further information, or just want to make sure there is a tee-time for you, then call Golf Committee Chairman Michael Bentkjaer at Hempel Coating, phone no. 713-672-6641.



Danish Immigrant Museum Annual Meeting

Houston, February 5-7, 1999

The Annual Meeting of The Danish Immigrant Museum, located in Elk Horn, Iowa, is taking place at the Renaissance Hotel, Greenway Plaza, Houston (next to Compac Center). More than 40 people are expected to visit Houston for the meeting. The Danes in Houston, as well as other people interested in The Danish Immigration to the USA, are invited to two social events in connection with the meeting.

Reception, Friday February 5, 7-10 pm.

The Danish Club of Houston is co-hosting a Reception on the occasion of the Annual Meeting. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served. The Reception is held at **Four Leaf Towers**, 5110 San Felipe, West Tower (in the Galleria Area), valet parking is available.

The Museum and The Danish Club hope to see you all for the "Friday Night Shaker", and invitations will be mailed directly from the Museum to all members. We need a couple of co-sponsors to help underwrite the reception. Please call John Moyell. at 713-467-7911.



Dinner Party, Saturday February 6.

The Annual Meeting Dinner Party will be held at the Renaissance Hotel Saturday Night. Cost is expected to be approx. \$ 20 per person, cash bar will be available.

Keynote speaker is:

Mr. Torben Jeppesen, Director
Odense Museum, Denmark

Invitations with all details to be mailed directly by the Museum to Danes in Houston.

R S V P..

We hope that many members will attend the parties and show their interest in the efforts to preserve the heritage of the Danish Immigrants.

You are asked to confirm your attendance to the Friday – Saturday, or both arrangements, to:

Mette Miller
4759 Blueberry Hill
Houston, TX 77084
281-859-3140



New Dane Under Way...

Our Secretary Mette Hansen and her husband Sir JP are expecting their first born in the early summer, so Mette has asked to be relieved of her duties on the Board.

Mette Miller has volunteered to take over some of the duties. We welcome Mette on board and thank Mette for her time on the Board. – Get's a little confusing with two Mette, doesn't it?

Interested in Danish Lutheran "Konfirmation" ?

A couple of families are planning and preparing their children for a Danish "Konfirmation". Rev. Torben Poulsen from The Danish Seamen's Church in New York will support the children with study materials and "long distance coaching", and he may also visit Houston during the preparation.



The "Konfirmation" may take place together with the Christmas Service in December 1999 in The Norwegian Seamen's Church. If you and your child would like to participate in the group preparation, please give Lisbeth Mogensen a call at 281-992-1136.

Christmas Party 1998..

The Planning Committee had done a great job, ensuring the Christmas Party at Melody Club became a fun evening with a great atmosphere. The ballroom was nicely decorated, and the Danish Christmas food was again this year prepared by Dansk Catering.

The raffle for great gift baskets as well as the live auction drew a large attendance, especially the air tickets from SAS to Denmark and domestic tickets from Continental were popular prizes. We are very thankful for all the support from the Danish companies and all our other friends in Houston.

A special cadeau to Jan Mogensen, who had cooked more than 25 pounds of Rullepølse (Pork Roll), which was sold at the party with all proceeds benefiting the Danish Club. A few left over Rullepølser were gently donated to the best couples on the dance floor..

A disc jockey played lot's of different music - some Danish CD's even got mixed into the repertoire, and everybody enjoyed the exercise on the dance floor after all the food (and perhaps a snaps or two..).

Approximately 95 people attended the party, - a little less than last year's 130. The Board is considering changing the format of the party this year, and maybe team up with a restaurant, thereby getting access to a smaller and nicer facility. Your comments and suggestions are certainly more than welcome.

Anyway, the party was a lot of fun. Although the attendance fees did not cover the expenses, we still came out with a little surplus, thanks to our generous sponsors.

Danish Christmas Service 1998

The Christmas Service at the Norwegian Seamen's Church in Pasadena drew, as usual, a "full house" with close to a hundred people in attendance.



Rev. Torben Poulsen from The Danish Seamen's Church in New York again made the trip to Houston, although his arrival got a little (too) close to the time of the service this year. The Church Service in Chicago took place the day before, and Torben Poulsen's flight to Houston Sunday morning was held three hours at the gate in Chicago due to a technical problem.

Well, he made it just in time, - it is always good with connections in the right places particular if it's upstairs. We all enjoyed the Christmas service and the baptizing of sweet baby Busch.

Also, our sincere thanks to the Norwegian Church for their hospitality, including the coffee after the service.

Roller Blade Reminder:

It is about time to think about your New Year's resolutions, and the swim suit season is forth coming. So we better get going again with some Roller Blading.

Join us at the Cullen Park / Bear Creek nature trail for a Roller blade work-out. We are 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:

Jan. 31, Febr. 14 & 28, March 14 & 28, April 11 & 25, May 9 & 23, June 6 & 20.

Meeting point is Cullen Park across from Houston West Airport. Take I-10 to Hway 6 North, turn left on Groesche (sign for Airport) across from the Farm Club, turn left into the park right after Airport and follow road to pavilions at the end of the road.



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. Coordinators: Helle & Niels Kastrop. Rumors are that the Coordinators are training for the Olympics.

MS150 – Bike Race Houston/Austin..

A group of Danes and non-Danes have started training for the annual MS150 bike race from Houston to Austin on April 17. The training kicked off on Sunday, January 17. The group generally meets every Sunday morning at 7:30 am and bike for a couple of hours.



If you are interested in joining or need further information, please call Thomas Damsgaard at Clipper Americas, 713-953-2220.

"Festen" – A Great Experience

The members, who attended the free showing at Rice University of the highly acclaimed Danish film "Festen" (Celebration), had a great time together and enjoyed the film. Thanks to Hannes Hofer for arranging the tickets - keep your ears and eyes out, Hannes! Encores are more than welcome...

Danevang – Danish Cultural Heritage in Texas..

The Society for Preservation of Danish Heritage has contacted Danes in the Houston area and asked for support in establishing a Museum and Cultural Center in Danevang, approx. 70 miles southwest of Houston. The project was described in the last Newsletter.

The Danish Club is, of course, supportive of the initiative, and we hope that members will show interest in the Danevang preservation project. We are working on arranging a tour to Danevang during the fall of 1999.

The chairman spearheading the project, Al Jensen, is unfortunately under the weather, but no doubt other members of the Society will carry on Al's hard work, while he recuperates. At the same time we wish Al all the best - we hope to see you back in action soon.

An Update Of The Events Calendar...

Jan. 17: Houston Marathon - Morale Booster..
Feb. 5-6: Annual Meeting in Houston – The Danish Immigrant Museum, Elk Horn
Feb. 21: "Fastelavns" Party for Kids
March 13: Visit to Rice University.
March 27: Danish Club Golf Invitational
April / May: Blue Bonnet Picnic in Brenham (tbc)
June 6: Annual Meeting & Constitution Day Picnic.
tbc: To be confirmed..

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

Internet & E-mail:

Home Page:

www.dkhouston.org

Internet & E-mail coordinator Hannes Hofer:
hofer@ruf.rice.edu

The Danish Club maintains an e-mail news distribution list, and information is also available on our Web site. News about "Last-minute arrangements" is easier broadcasted via Internet, so *we encourage all members to make sure that your e-mail address is registered and always up to date.*

Our Web site is open for your message too. Just contact Hannes, who is frequently updating our impressive "Window To The World".

Change of Address:

Until further notice, please forward all address changes, incl. e-mail, and new membership applications to John Moyell, President. If you are new on the Internet, do not

forget to include your e-mail address, and copy Hannes Hofer on your e-mail as well..

Membership:

Annual membership fee for 1999 remains at \$15 per family or individual, and is due no later than February 15. New membership dues paid after October 1, covers the following full year.

Newsletter:

This volume is edited by Niels H. Kastrup and John Moyell, and mailed to members only. The Newsletter is also available on our Web Page. If you are a member and do not receive the Newsletter by regular snail mail, please contact John Moyell or US Mail (the last suggestion may not be a good one..)

✂ Please Cut And Return with Check

Membership Dues for 1999: \$ 15.00

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City / Zip: _____

Phone: (H) _____

(W) _____

e-mail: _____

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