

Happy New Year !!

Dear Member Families...

The Danish Club of Houston wishes you a Happy and Prosperous Millenium. We look forward to an active year among the Danes in The Greater Houston Area.

1999 brought new members to the Club, and we had to say goodbye to members, leaving town to go back to Denmark. Most of the newcomers are coming to Houston to work in the computer business, while the number of Danes in shipping has gone down lately.

Just to mention a few "old-timers" who left: Tina and Tommy Broberg decided to close their catering business and move back to Odense, and our faithful church helper Helle Gullestrup and her husband Per left town after many years here. Gurli and John Moyell have left for Nassau, and Karen & Tonny Jensen are moving their business to Miami. We wish you all "good wind" in your new surroundings, we will miss you in Houston. Sorry if I forgot some of the other Old-time Danish-Houstonians.

Life abroad involves lots of "hello and goodbye", and we would like to welcome all new families to Houston and to the Club. We hope you will enjoy the city, it ain't pretty - but a nice place to live, and we hope you will actively participate in The Danish Club. Do not forget to give us a call, if we can be of any help.

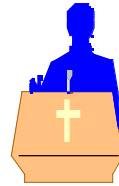
Christmas Party

Our Christmas Party had a great turnout with 105 participants, who seemed to like the food and the nice restaurant, although the serving was a little different from traditional Danish "Yule fare". We could maybe have used a little more space for mingling, and a better set up for announcements etc., we will work on that for next year. We would appreciate feed back at any time with suggestions from the members for next year's party.

We are pleased to announce that you all helped raising \$ 1,000 for Lise LeSec's Children's Fund, and also the Danish Club benefited from your support and generosity. Thanks for your help. Also a big thank you to all the businesses, who donated gifts for raffles and auction.

Finally a pat on the shoulder to the ladies in our Party Committee for a job well done, and thanks to Jan The Butcherman for lending cooking advice to the kitchen staff at Quasimodo's.

Great Turnout for the Christmas Service and Children's Party

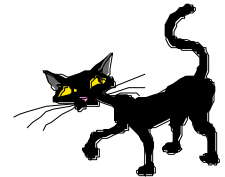


The Norwegian Seamen's Church was filled to capacity with adults and kids celebrating the Christmas Holidays with a Danish Church Service, followed by traditional Christmas tree party for the young ones with goody bags and a visit by Santa. Rev. Torben Poulsen from the Danish Seamen's Church in New York conducted the "extended" Service, with both confirmation and baptizing being part of the program, and everybody was treated to coffee and "aebleskiver".

Thanks to Lisbeth and her helpers, - including Santa Johnny, for arranging the kids party and preparing the "aebleskiver", we all had a good time.

Fastelavn's Party

Bring the Kids and your thermo to the 2nd Annual Fastelavns-party in Bear Creek Park (West Houston) on **Sunday, February 27, from 2-4 pm.**



The Kids will Beat the Cats right out of Carl's nicely decorated Barrels, and we will have prizes for the best Kids costumes. So don't forget to dress out the children.

Fresh baked "fastelavnsboller" are available, bring your own coffee and maybe a blanket. Free admission for Kids and Adults. Please call or e-mail your rsvp to Lisbeth Mogensen 281-992-1136 (jmogensen@prodigy.net) or Mette Miller 281-859-3140 (mettetvl@excelonline.com).

We meet at Pavilion # 2, entrance from Clay Road to Bear Creek Drive, located between the Golf Courses and the Soccer Fields. On Bear Creek Drive, take first left to Schulz Lane, and the Pavilion is on your right hand side. Look for the red-white flags.

Membership Fee for 2000

Please return the Renewal Form (last page) together with your check for \$15 before you forget, and no later than March 20. You won't make the Address List 2000, if you don't cough up the membership dues in time. So please send the check right away.

Farewell to the Moyells...

After 35 years in the States and 22 in Houston, Gurli and John Moyell have packed the shorts and sunscreen and relocated to The Bahamas, where John has taken up a position with The Clipper Group's Head Office.

Approx. 40 members showed up for a farewell hug on January 9 at "Bronx", a Danish owned bar in Rice Village – and a popular meeting place and water hole for the young Danes in Houston.

The Farewell Reception was hosted by The Danish Club, and also the owner of Bronx, Sean Hashemi contributed to the celebration with a couple of bottles of "bubble wine". Thanks, Sean we will come back another time.

John Moyell Lifetime Member of the Danish Club

The Board of Directors unanimously decided to name John Moyell a Lifetime Member of the Club, in appreciation of all his hard work and dedication for the Danes in Houston and for the Danish Club.

A plaque with inscription was presented to John at the farewell reception, and speeches in John's honor were given by Ray Daugbjerg, Danish Consul, Audun Haga from The Norwegian Seamen's Church, and Niels Kastrup from the Danish Club.

John thanked all his friends in the Club for the great honor, and invited us all to come and visit Gurli and him in the Caribbean. They may be up for a great surprise, when we all start flocking in...

Meanwhile we wish Gurli and John all the best in the Bahamas and hope to see them back in Houston often.

Visit to Rice University

Hannes Hofer and a University Guide will be hosting a visit to Rice on **Sunday March 26 at 2 pm**. We ask that all participating members contact Hannes by phone (713-664-7784) or by e-mail (hofer@rice.edu) no later than **March 22**.

We meet in front of Lovett Hall which is the main building you see in front of you when you enter the university through entrance 1 (at the corner of Main and Sunset). We will be walking through the campus and hear about the history of the school and its architecture.

After the visit we may swing by Bronx in the Village for a pint or a soda.

News from the Royal Danish Consulate

New Employee at the Consulate

Office hours at the Consulate has changed to 9 AM to 1 PM, Monday thru Thursday.

Dorthe, the new assistant to the Danish Community introduces herself: My name is Dorthe Benjaminsen and I am happy to announce that I just began working at the Danish Consulate.

My husband Bent and I have been in the USA for two years and in Houston seven months. We were living in England for three years before moving here. Bent works for KPMG as a treasury consultant. We are both from Jutland, Bent is from Aarhus and I am from Ry.

We like it very much here in Houston and I am looking forward to be working at the Danish Consulate.

FOTOFEST 2000

The Danish Consulate is pleased to announce that this year's Foto Fest will feature several Danish artists in an exhibit entitled "Highlights in Nordic Photogravure" - For those of you not familiar with Foto Fest, it is a series of city wide exhibitions that feature photographic art in all its many aspect. Our Foto Fest here in Houston is widely acclaimed in arts circles and takes place in the month of March every other year.

The Danish artists featured are:

Anne Birte Hove, (Greenland), Hans Ditlev Jensen, Fie Johansen, Carin Larsen, Frank Mundt, Bo Molgaard, Finn Naur Petersen, Inger Lise Rasmussen, Susanne Wellm.

As you can see that is quite an impressive list of Danish participation! In the same show there will also be artists from Sweden, Norway, Iceland & Finland.

There will be an opening reception open to the public, to which you are invited: **Monday, March 6, from 6-8 PM**, at the Winter Street Art Center, 2123 Winter Street. (This is in the Washington Avenue warehouse district - call (713) 861-3782 for exact directions from your area).

Consul Ray Daugbjerg and I will be present to honor our Danish participants, and we would love to see as many as you as possible for this show. If you have additional questions regarding FotoFest and this exhibit, please contact me at the Consulate (713) 622-9018. Foto Fest gave us a number of general brochures that are available at our office; also look for coverage in the local newspaper.

Anna Thomsen, Vice Consul

Focus on Denmark at Holocaust Museum

It looks like March will be a busy month for cultural events related to Denmark. I met with the Holocaust Museum Houston. They are together with the Jung Educational Center sponsoring a symposium entitled: "The Instinct to Righteousness".

They are expecting more than 100 delegates to attend and some very prestigious Holocaust scholars will be speaking. The symposium will deal with the fact that the Danes managed to save most of Denmark's Jewish population during the Second World War. The Museum hopes to feature at least one Dane who took part in the rescue missions.

To celebrate opening of this symposium the Royal Danish Consulate will, in co-operation with

the Holocaust Museum Houston, sponsor a private reception on:

SUNDAY, March 12, from 5 pm. to 6.30 pm. at the Houston Holocaust Museum

We are going to formalize the invitation and will post it on the Danish Club of Houston's website. Please save the date.

At this time I would like to ask all the Danish companies to show their support for our cultural activities. We will need some help to pay for this reception. We will limit the reception to 150 participants (due to the sheer cost).

The Holocaust Museum will feature an exhibition showcasing the Danish rescue of the Jews in connection with this symposium and at the reception. Furthermore the Holocaust Museum will handle all press and PR regarding this event.

In connection with the above, The Main Street Theater, 2540 Times Blvd. Will feature a play: "Number the Stars", set to open March 31. This play is based on a book by Leah Lowry and deals with the Danish rescue missions. When we have more info on the play it will be listed on the Web page. We hope to see many of you there.

I look forward to hear from the Danish companies regarding the above, and if anybody has any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the Royal Danish Consulate.

Anna Thomsen, Vice Consul

Five-a-Side & Barbeque

The Norwegian Seamen's Church invites to the Annual Scandinavian Spring Service on **April 2** with Five-a-Side Soccer Tournament and activities for the Kids.

Outdoors Family Service with live music starts at 11 am, followed by Barbeque. Around 1 pm starts the five-a-side tournament on small fields with small goals, so maybe the Danes have a better chance this time.

We expect to do better than last year where only one team from FLS miljø represented Denmark.

We encourage companies, groups or individuals to play, we need approx. seven players per team.

E-mail Niels Kastrup if you want to play or if you can put a team together. Let's go for three or four teams, all players on company teams do not need to be Scandihoovians.

Ground Breaking in Danevang

The Danish Heritage Preservation Society of Danevang invites all our members for the combined celebration of HRH Queen Margrethe's Birthday and the Groundbreaking of the new Museum in Danevang. The Society has a restored pioneer house in place, and the new museum will house artifacts and exhibits honoring the settling of Danevang in 1894.

The celebration will include a very nice barbeque lunch in the "Forsamlingshus". You can bring your own lunch, but if you would like to buy lunch for only \$ 5 per person, then please call Bridget Jensen at 713-524-2328 at least one week before.

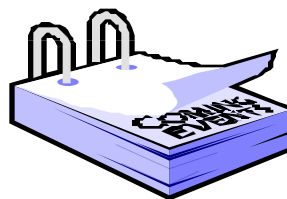
Danevang has been designated as the Danish capitol of Texas by the Texas Legislature, and we hope that many of you will join the Society on Saturday, April 15, for the big event. Danevang is located approx. 85 miles from Houston, take 59 south to El Campo. We will keep you posted on more details.

Danish Reverend in Houston

Rev. Kirsten Drigsdahl is in Houston for a study sabbatical. You may recall that Ms. Drigsdahl whose home parish is in Alleroed, Denmark, sent a nice letter to the Danish Club, which we printed in the April 99 issue. She is related to the Christ the King Lutheran Church while in Houston. Ms. Drigsdahl will likely participate in the open air service on April 2 at the Norwegian Seamen's Church.

You are also welcome in the church in Danevang on February 20, at 9 am. Ms. Drigsdahl will perform the Lutheran Service, and afterwards talk about Danish Folk Songs and Danish Christian Holidays. For more information, call Bridget Jensen at 713-524-2328.

Season Calendar 1999-2000



Here follows the tentative calendar for the Spring Season. We may as usual see some changes down the road, and we may announce

new arrangements, if something exciting suddenly happens.

Sunday, February 20, 9 am.

Lutheran Service in Danevang with Kirsten Drigsdahl, Alleroed, Denmark

Sunday, February 27, 2-4 pm.

Fastelavns Party at Bear Creek Park, Pavilion 2

Monday, March 6, 6-8 pm.

"Fotofest" Reception Winter Street Art Center

Sunday, March 26, 2 pm.

Visit to Rice University.

Sunday, April 2

Scandiunavian Service & Five-a-Side Soccer tournament at the Norwegian Seamen's Church



Saturday, April 15

Celebration of Queen Margrethe II's Birthday and Groundbreaking of the Danish Heritage Museum in Danevang,

May, TBA

Visit to a local Micro Brewery



Sunday, June 4

Danish Constitution Day Party & Annual Meeting.

Pending:

Bike & Hike, Brazos Bend Golf Tournament European Cup – Soccer "get-together" Barbeque in Brenham – deferred till Fall Season.

-And some other good ideas...

Gulf Coast Scandinavian Folkdancers

Would you like to do some Scandinavian two-stepping ? Carl and Fran Steffensen have joined the Scandinavian Folkdancers and would like to introduce some Danes to the team.

You do not need any prior dancing skills, just show up at Westbury United Methodist Church on Mondays from 7.15 to 9 pm. The church is located on 5200 Willow Bend Blvd., near South Post Oak and Bellfort.

For more information, contact instructor Howard Phillips at 713-661-5619 (hphillips@pdq.net) or Carl Steffensen at 281-584-3691 (steff@flash.net)

Reception for Bo Skovhus

Thanks to Lotte Optekamp and Aegis Asset Management for hosting a reception celebrating Bo Skovhus' performance in Mozart's Don Giovanni with the Houston Grand Opera.

Letter From Bahamas...

Dear Friends:

You really surprised us on Saturday, January 9th. We were overwhelmed by the large turnout, the many speeches and the wonderful gifts. Thank you so much - we will never forget it.

A special thank you to Pastor Audun Haga from the Norwegian Seamen's Church, Consul Ray Daugbjerg and Niels Kastrup for the many kind words. The Church has really gone out its way to make the Church our Church as well. I really appreciate the excellent relationship we have established with the Consulate. Thanks Ray and Anna for all your help. I was so taken aback by all going on that I do not believe I adequately thanked my fellow board members for their wonderful support during my tenure. Without such a support the Club would not be where it is today. Thank you so much. There are many more members that should be mentioned for always be there lending a hand when necessary. But if I continue with my thanks it is going to sound like an Oscar winner speech. Thanks to all of you!

We are now in the Bahamas still waiting for our condo to be ready. The weather has not really been beach weather. Cold, very windy and some rain. But that will change soon enough.

With our warmest regards,
Gurli & John

Changes on the Board of Directors

Niels Kastrup has taken up the position as President until next Annual Meeting. Lis Ostergaard, who was elected substitute to the Board, is now member of the Board, while the other substitute, Erik P. Eriksen, has moved to Calgary, Canada, with his family to take up a new job.

www.dkhouston.org

Don't forget to visit our web site to check on the latest news from the Danish Club or to review our photo archive from previous events.

We are looking for sponsors to advertise on our site. 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 e-mail to Hannes (hofer@ruf.rice.edu) . Members may post classified, non-commercial ads, on our page.

News, information and reminders breaking too late to be included in the regular Newsletter, will be broadcasted via our Club's Internet e-mail distribution list, and is also available on our Web site. *We 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 Niels Kastrup at nhk@flsmiljo.com

Facts About The Danish Club...

Board of Directors:

Niels H. Kastrup, President (acting)	281-855-9299
Johnny Larsen, Treasurer	281-316-1972
Mette Miller, Secretary	281-859-3140
Lisbeth Mogensen, Activ. Coord.	281-992-1136
Carl Steffensen ,Activ. Coord.	281-493-4801
Lis Ostergaard,	281-333-0295

Mailing Address / Address Changes or e-mail changes:

Niels H. Kastrup
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Houston, TX 77069-3611
e-mail: nhk@flsmiljo.com

Newsletter:

This volume is edited by Niels H. Kastrup, and mailed to members – and the families we believe want to renew their membership. The Newsletter is also available on our Website. If you want a color version of the letter – then just print your own version from the website.

Danish Club of Houston

Membership Fee 2000

Please fill in and return no later than March 20, together with your check for \$ 15.00, covering the whole family.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (H): _____ (W): _____ Fax: _____

e-mail (H): _____ (W): _____

Newsletter:

___ Please keep on mailing me hard copy of the Newsletters.

___ If you notify me by an e-mail Newsflash, then I will print the Newsletter from the Web site (Acrobat Reader). I do not need a hard copy mailed.

Good Ideas and Suggestions:

Mail to:

Danish Club of Houston
Niels H. Kastrup
FLS miljø Inc.
100 Glenborough Drive
Houston, TX, 77067-3611

Received: ____/____/____