

Welcome to 2002 !

Dear Members,

It is a little late to wish you Happy New Year, but let's do it anyway: Happy New Year to you and your family! We look forward to see you at some of our events in the Spring Season.

In this Newsletter you will find our Membership Renewal Form for 2002. Some of you have already renewed your membership, and new members who have signed up after October 1, 2001 are already covered for 2002.

For the rest of you: It is time to cough up the \$ 15, covering the whole family for the full year. The fee has remained unchanged since the start of the club in 1997, - so hopefully you find hat a reasonable deal.

We hope we can maintain the membership above 100. It has been rather stable over the years, but it does take a lot of reminders, gentle pushing and sweet-talking to keep the count up. We are still a little surprised – and maybe a little disappointed that so many Danes and Danish-Americans in Houston do not support the Danish Club. So we would still ask you to tell your Danish-American friends to become members or renew their membership for 2002.

Look forward to see you at some of our events in the Spring Season, not just the Board and the "hard core", but hopefully also some of you who we don't see that often.

Danish Club Logo Merchandise:

Do not forget our new logo merchandise:

White Polo-Shirts:	\$ 20
Blue Caps:	\$ 15
White T-Shirts:	\$ 10

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

Season Calendar 2001- 2002



Further events will be added, and changes will happen...

February 17, 2 pm.:

Fastelavns Party, Hermann Park. RSVP to Lisbeth Mogensen by 2/13.

March 23-24:

Family Camping trip to Stephen F. Austin Park. One-day visitors welcome. Sign up with Lisbeth M.

March 29 (Good Friday):

Nordic Ballet Evening at Cullen Theater at The Wortham Center. The Gothenburg Ballet and a Norwegian Dance Group.

March 31, 5 pm. (Easter Sunday):

Danish language Church Vesper with pastor Kirsten Drigsdahl from Vaerloose, Denmark. Christ The King Lutheran Church.

April 17 (TBC):

Tentative visit by Danish Ambassador Ulrik Federspiel. Celebration and Reception at Christ The King Lutheran Church.

April 20:

Danevang - Queen's Birthday Celebration. All members of The Danish Club are invited.

April 20-21:

MS 150 Bike Ride to Austin.

April TBA:

Family Church Service & Five-a-Side Soccer, Norwegian Seamen's Church

April 27-28:

Viking Fest in Georgetown, TX. Scandinavian entertainment, booths etc.

June 2, 2 pm.:

Danish Constitution Day Party & Annual Meeting. Scandinavian Folk Dancers will perform.

Holiday Party...

Holiday Party 2001 took place at the old Fire Station in the Heights, a nice location, but not very practical for kitchen access. The holiday committee had done a great job preparing the party and decorating the hall, too bad that only 65 members attended.

The delicious Danish style buffet, prepared by Susie Ipsen, included traditional Danish yule fare such as herring, roast pork, meat balls and fruit

salad. After the dinner followed a raffle with very nice prizes from Danish sponsor companies, and a DJ provided music for dancing.

Thanks to the committee for a good job. Although the Fire Station is a nice facility, we have decided that next year's party will be at the Nottingham Forest Clubhouse. That will fit a party of our size better, costs are lower and kitchen facilities easier to access.

Thanks to our Sponsors...

We want to thank all our sponsors for their support to the Holiday party 2001. Only with their help did we manage to raise a little extra money for the Club. Some of our Sponsors were very generous this year, - we really appreciate it. For those who could not help us this year: Don't worry – we will call you again next year.

We hope this list of Sponsors include you all, if not please let us know:

*Clipper Americas
Danish Inspirations
DFDS Dan Transport
Johnny Larsen Financial Consulting
FLS miljø
Haldor Topsoe
Hempel Coatings
Hexacon
L. Moeller Family
Moller Supply Services
Ray Daugbjerg, Royal Danish Consulate*

Christmas Church Service...

The Danish language Christmas Service was again this year conducted by Pastor Torben Poulsen from The Danish Seamen's Church in Brooklyn, NY. Per the tradition we followed up with coffee, aebleskiver and Christmas tree for the young kids. Santa Claus –also known as Johnny Larsen- has lost so much weight lately that we may need to look for a new and bigger Santa next year, but some of the young kids were very excited and thought he was for real - when Santa opened the gift bag.

Torben Poulsen's sermon centered around Sept. 11, which he experienced first hand from the river banks at Brooklyn Heights, less than a mile from ground zero. A very touching sermon, leaving a lasting impression and memory with the audience. Our sincere thanks to Torben Poulsen for his continued support to the Danes in Houston. We hope The Danish Seamen's Church is on your list of

annual donations, - address is 102 Willow Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

Invitation to Viking Fest in Georgetown, TX...

We have received the following invitation for y'all:

We would like to take this opportunity to *formally* invite you to the Viking Fest to be held in Georgetown, TX on April 27-28. We would really like to see a strong Danish turn out. We need Danish Entertainers, Demonstrators, Vendors, and Lecturers. Please see www.vikingfest.com for more details.

This year the festival will include a 39,000 sq ft Fest House, and we are sponsoring two \$500 scholarships. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you participate as well as attend this year's festival. --- Georgetown is located approx. 30 miles North of Austin on I-35.

MS150 Bike Ride...

The annual bike ride from Houston to Austin for the benefit of the Multiple Sclerosis Society will this year take place on April 20-21, and once again, several members of the Danish Club will join in the 200 mile ride.



Since this is a charity event, each rider is obligated to raise \$300 by finding people willing to sponsor them. If you are interested in sponsoring one of the Danish Riders, please contact Hannes (hofer@mac.com) or Henrik Roende (henrik@roende.com)

Busy Months Ahead...

Fastelavns Party

Sunday, February 17 from 2 pm. at Hermann Park. We have rented a pavilion and a Moonwalk for the Kids, and Lisbeth Mogensen will again this year prepare her wonderful Fastelavnsboller (Danish Pastry).

We will have real wooden barrels with candy, - and presents for the best costumes and for the Cat King & Queen. Bring the whole family – and your own coffee. Further info on Pavilion No. will follow by e –Newsflash. Don't forget costumes for the kids.

RSVP to Lisbeth Mogensen by **February 13** on 281-992-1136, or jmogensen@houston.rr.com.

Family Camping...

March 23-24 will be a nice spring weekend with lots of sun, because our Family Camping will take place that weekend in Stephen F. Austin State Park west of Houston. We have reserved a limited number of spots, so call or e-mail Lisbeth Mogensen as soon as possible, if your family would like to participate.

One-day visitors are very welcome Saturday. No need to sign up, just bring your own steak and stuff for the barbeque.

Nordic Ballet..

The Nordic Consulates are working on a Ballet Night with The Gothenburg ballet and a Ballet Group from Norway. The event will take place at the Cullen Theatre on Good Friday, March 29, and we will keep you posted on more details down the road...

Easter Church Vesper...

Pastor Kirsten Drigsdahl from Vaerloose, Denmark, is back in town in March. Kirsten visited Houston two years ago, and we look forward to her Vesper Service at King The Christ Lutheran Church, (next to Rice Stadium on Rice Boulevard), on **Easter Sunday, March 31, at 5 pm**. The service will focus on religious songs and hymns in the Danish language.

This event is initiated by the Royal Danish Consulate and we hope that the Danish community will join the Consulate and the Danish Club for this Easter celebration.

Ambassador Visit Planned...

Vice-consul Anna Thomsen Holliday tells us that the Danish Ambassador, Mr. Ulrik Federspiel is invited to visit Houston in Mid-April. Subject to final confirmation, the visit will include inauguration and naming of the Church Ship Model at Christ The King Lutheran Church, built by a Model builder in Denmark.

A reception for the Danish community is planned to take place at the Church facilities on **April 17**. More to follow by e-Newsflash.

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, if you want more information or a brochure.

Gulf Coast Scandinavian Folkdancers

The Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston have resumed practices in September. The group meets every Monday night from 7:15 -9:00 pm in Room 208 at the Westbury Methodist Church, located near West Bellfort and Loop 610

Please come by or contact Carl Steffensen (steff@flash.net / 281-493-4801) or Allan Abedor (aabedor7@pdq.net / 936-449-4721).

Carl S.

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
Lisbeth Mogensen, Activ. Coord.	281-992-1136
Henrik Roende, Activ. Coord.	281-679-6886

www.dkhouston.org

Wanna read or print this Newsletter in flying colors or buy an air ticket from one of our sponsors? Check our web site, which is now even easier to surf. We have plenty of interesting links, and you can view the Club's impressive Photo Archive. 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: April/May 2002. Copying and mailing courtesy of *FLS miljø Inc. – Clean Air To The World...*

Nordic Women's Cultural Club: For more information, call Bente Rawson at 713-782-4108

Membership Fee 2002

Please fill in and return no later than March 10, together with your check for \$ 15, covering the whole family.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

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

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

We prefer to receive paper copy of Newsletters: _____

Notify us by e-mail, we will then print from Web site: _____

Good Ideas and Suggestions:

Mail to:

**Danish Club of Houston
Hannes Hofer
4042 Silverwood
Houston, TX 77025**

Received: ____/____/____

Check #: _____

Jensen World Travel, Ltd.

1137 Central Ave., Suite 6 - Wilmette IL 60091
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In Houston contact Mette Miller (281)859-3140

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