



**Danish Folk Singer and
Song-writer visits The
Danish Club of
Houston..**

We are pleased to welcome Danish Folk Singer and composer Annette O'Driscoll to Houston. Annette will be performing at our Constitution Day Picnic on May 31, and will also be visiting Danevang and the Folk Festival in San Antonio during her Texas tour.

You may recall a brief article about Annette in our last Newsletter. She sent us her new CD with a nice letter, and we established the contact. Jette Smith in San Antonio also contacted Annette, so we have now combined the efforts. Here follows an extract from a Danish Press Release:

Annette O'Driscoll is first and foremost a singer/songwriter. She has composed many songs in both Danish and English, and she has performed at festivals, clubs and concert halls. She was also the driving force behind various musical events on radio as well as live. Her new CD is titled "Så længe mit hjerte har sange" (As long as my heart has songs)

Annette O'Driscoll about the CD.:

"I have always had a soft spot for poetry, and I more or less read all I can get my hands on. It has been writers like Christian Molbeck, Johannes Jørgensen and Kai Hofman who inspired me. Later came Ellen Heiberg, a writer whom I always admired, and she was kind enough to let me use her lyrics in my songs. Last, but not least, comes my very good friend Rolf Lehfelt with some beautiful poems.

Music 'colors' the lyrics, so the songs become my interpretation of the poems. I love the 'musical game' when I can move between the worlds of poetry and music and join them together.

I also wanted to share my own experiences with others, so I took the plunge and wrote the lyrics to some of the songs. What is the relationship between the songs on the CD? The common theme in most of the songs is the life experience and love of the Danish people and Nature - good or bad.

My musical style ties it all together. I love the simple impression. I want people to hear the lyrics and the individual instruments. That's why I hand-picked the musicians accompanying me on this

CD. Musicians, who can stand on their own but still leave room for others.

A review of the CD in a Danish paper stated: "she can for sure sing, and she knows how to put a good melody together. When you have heard the CD you sit back with a smile in your eyes and with a good feeling".

Annette will be bringing her guitar, and we are looking into possibilities for adding one or more musicians to the performance. Annette will be singing in both Danish and English, so we really look forward to see you all for this year's G-Day's Picnic & Annual Meeting.

We have been allowed to present one of Annette's songs from the new CD on our website. So click on www.dkhouston.org to hear Annette's beautiful voice.

**Scandinavian Folk Dancers Return to the
Constitution day Picnic..**

We are also very pleased to let you all know that the Scandinavian Folk Dancers will be performing at the Picnic. They did a great job last year, and we all had fun when invited to dance some of the simpler dances from "The Old World" together with the almost professional dancers.

You do not need to practice at home. Your Texas two-step and Western line dance will take you a long way towards mastering the Scandinavian folk dances from way back..

**Danish Constitution Day Party
&
Annual Meeting**

Welcome to the 7th Danish Constitution Day Picnic and the 6th Regular Annual Meeting on

Saturday, May 31 at 2 pm.

Nottingham Forest Club, 325 Kickerillo Drive

Bring your Picnic Basket, Admission is free for members in good standing and their guests, however we may be asking for a small donation for the musical performance.

This year's keg sponsor is **Danish Inspirations**, our thanks to Jan Christiansen. Bring your own soft drinks and wine, and please remember swimsuit, sun lotion and towels for the kids, we will as usual

have access to the nice pool and play area at the Nottingham Forest Club.

Program:	
2.00 pm.	Picnic Starts
3.30pm	Scandinavian Folk Dancers perform
4.30 pm.	Annual Meeting
5.00 pm.	Danish Folk Singer Anette O'Driscoll performs
8 pm.	Party ends

Call for Annual Meeting

Regular Annual Meeting will in accordance with the By-Laws include the following Agenda:

1. Election of Chair of Meeting
2. President's Report for the Year
3. Treasurer's Financial Report for the Year
4. Approvals, and Decharge of Board of Directors.
5. Elections:
 - a) President
 - b) Vice-President
 - c) Treasurer
 - d) Secretary
 - e) Committee Coordinators
 - f) Two Substitutes
 - g) Two Auditors
6. New Activities
7. Sundry

There are no suggestions for change of by-laws this year. The By-Laws are available on our web site.

Board Roster:

The Board is nominating the following slate of Board Members for re-election:

President: Niels Kastrup
Vice President: Carl Steffensen
Treasurer: Hannes Hofer
Secretary: Mette Miller
Activity Coord.: Henrik Roende

Activity Coord.: Christina Clark

Nominations for Substitutes and Auditors will be made at the meeting. Please inform Niels Kastrup prior to the meeting in case of other nominations to the Board.

How to find Nottingham Forest Club..

Kickerillo Drive is off Memorial Drive, close to Dairy-Ashford. The Club is located at the "bottom" of the Nottingham Forest Subdivision. (Key map 488/489) Look for the Danish flags. Tables and park benches are available, but stick your folding chairs in the trunk, we expect a big turn out this year.

New DK Auto Decals Available

Did you get your new DK auto sticker with our famous logo??

We will be selling the decals at the G-Day's Picnic, but you may also order from Hannes anytime, so you can flag the "club colors" on your way to the picnic. Price is 3 \$ per decal, shipping cost is another 1 \$ per order.



By the way, the decal is designed by Hannes Hofer, our treasurer and web-master. That guy has a lot of talents..

Danish Movie at MFAH on May 18...

Don't forget the Danish movie "Send More Candy" (*Send mere slik*) at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's Brown Auditorium Theater on Sunday, May 18 at 2:00 p.m. as part of the museum's Family Flick's film series. The screening is free with museum admission.

A film for the whole family about two sisters, 9 and 11, both with a vivid imagination, who spend their Summer vacation away from their parents for the first time. The girls are to stay with two eccentric, elderly relatives who live on a run-down farm far out

in the country. Nothing could be further from the two girls' way of life and the mood is at an all time low, but despite their differences the two parties grow on each other and their summer holiday becomes a memorable experience. The film is directed by Caecilia Holbek Trier.

New Members....

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

Anne & Ulrik Groth Christensen
Teuvo Teleranta
Helle Verhoeven
Inge-Lise Braswell
Inger & Flemming Jorgensen
Anne Olsen & Steen Pedersen
Diana & Lars Juhl
Pernille Halbro
Jens J. Breinbjerg
Peter Holm
Rakul & William Davis
Thorbjorn Pedersen
Linda & Steen Schmidt Hansen

It is great to see the many new families continuing moving into Houston in spite of the somewhat sluggish economy. The job profession of our new members really reflect what Houston stands for: Some work in the shipping / freight forwarding business, one is a ship inspector, there is a geotechnical engineer, a computer engineer, - and also a fitness instructor. Just to mention some of the occupations.

The Treasurer (also Hannes..) has been busy chasing old members, who forgot to renew their membership, and he has brought the number of culprits down to a handful. The official family membership count is about 110, corresponding to some 200-300 Danes and more-or-less Danes.

"Fastelavn" in Far West Houston...

Houston is still growing like crazy, so this year's Fastelavns party for the younger kids took place in "Far West Houston" – the new realtor expression for Cinco Ranch and other subdivisions along the Grand Parkway. For old-timers in Houston, the location is considered half way to San Antonio.

Anyway, the location was great, Henrik Roende and Lisbeth Lyngberg handled the practical stuff, and Lisbeth Mogensen was again this year persuaded to bake her famous "fastelavnsboller".

Almost 30 kids worked hard on the two barrels, well the young kids worked very hard to break their barrel, while the bigger kids whacked it after a little while. "Cat Kings and Queens" were celebrated, and we had prizes for best costumes. It is somewhat embarrassing that the contest for best costume is always won by children of Board Members..Wonder if that is a coincidence?

Next year we will likely pick a location in Pearland or Clear lake. We have a number of young families in that area, too, and it's getting more and more difficult to talk Lisbeth into baking all the good stuff. So, maybe if we move the event a little closer...

Pictures from the Fastelavns-Party are posted on our web site.

Five-a-Side Soccer..

The traditional "Vaarsleppe" at the Norwegian Seamen's Church with outdoor family Church Service and Five-a-side soccer tournament did not attract a lot of Danish soccer players. Strangely enough, because it is really a lot of fun, and the spring weather was wonderful.

With the help of FLS Airtech's Veteran team and some family members we managed to muster two teams, who played round-robin with three Norwegian teams. We got beaten by the Norsemen, but not too bad. The old guys played tactically well and tied three out of four games, while the younger team faced some close losses.

New Danish Representative in Church Council

The Church Council for the Norwegian Seamen's Church include members representing Sweden and Denmark. Lisbeth Mogensen has stepped down as Danish representative and has been replaced by Susie Ipsen. Thanks to Lisbeth for representing the Danes for the last couple of years.

MS 150..

Henrik Roende and Hannes Hofer represented the Danish Club again in this year's MS 150 bike ride from Houston to Austin. The ride is actually almost 180 miles and attracts thousands of bikers.

Observers tell us that Henrik kept an average speed of some 35 km/hour the first day, leaving Hannes in the dust. Sunday brought revenge, since Henrik's rubber legs forced him to slipstream behind Hannes most of the way to Austin..

Congratulations to both of you for making it all the way to Austin and raise money for a worthy cause. Maybe we should consider a Danish Club Team for next year's MS 150?

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. Right now they are showing a special exhibition on Danish Holidays, and recently Jette & Homer Smith of San Antonio donated a full collection of B&G Juleplatter to the Museum.

This Year's Queens Birthday Party drew more than 200 visitors to the Museum and the Forsamlingshus. Next event is Danish Constitution Day party, which is celebrated on Saturday, June 7. You can read more about Danevang on our website.

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 in the basement of Christ the King Lutheran Church, located inside Loop 610 at Shepard and Rice Blvd. Contact Carl Steffensen (steff@houston.rr.com / 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
Henrik Roende, Activ. Coord.	281-679-6886

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: Fall 2003. Copying and mailing courtesy of



– Clean Air To The World...

Have a Nice Summer

We wish all our members and friends in Texas and all over the USA a very nice and peaceful Summer. Enjoy your trip to The Old Kingdom – or wherever your Summer travel plans may take you and yours..