

# h|town hygge<sup>®</sup>

The Danish Club of Houston's Newsletter #50

Summer 2014

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## FASTELAVN

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> – a beautiful sunny morning – the Club co-hosted the annual Fastelavns party with Vikingseskolen, Houston's Danish Saturday School.

Little girls and boys arrived in their favorite costumes at 10:30 a.m. for face painting, wienerbrød and fruit, while eagerly awaiting the battle of the barrels. A dedicated barrel for the boys and one for the

girls hung from trees on the playground, each decorated with black cats, and soon to be blasted to pieces like a *piñata*. First the boys lined up and took their best shots at the barrel, followed by the girls – there was a mad dash for the candy as the barrels split apart and scattered the goodies.

Finally the crowd gathered around the remains of the barrels for the crowning of *kattekongen* and *kattedronning*– the cat king and queen – who each had brought the final blow to the barrels. Prizes were given to the best dressed boy and girl. Thank you to Linda Martin for, once again, donating warm wienerbrød for all to enjoy.

The event was catered by Chef Søren Pedersen, who provided a wonderful assortment of hot and cold dishes.

## NEXT DCH EVENT

MAY  
31

Saturday

ANNUAL MEETING &  
SOMMERFEST BY THE  
POOL

Nottingham Forest Club

Danish Club  
of Houston



## NO LABEL BREWING TOUR

Early March found us back at No Label Brewing Company in Katy for a tour and sampling of their latest brews.

It was a somewhat cooler day, but that didn't stop the hearty Danes from gathering under the trees and listening to a local band while socializing and enjoying NLB's hospitality.

Brewery tours seem to be popular among Houston's Danish community, so look for a visit to another local brewery in the Fall!



Angela Lipsey, Pete Van Horn, Anna Thomsen  
Holliday Margit Williams and Gregg Optekamp



A view of the lovely event

## BAR-BE-CUE & BLUEBONNETS

Honorary Consul General Ray Daugbjerg and his wife Cherry invited Danes from across southeast and central Texas on March 29<sup>th</sup> to their picturesque ranch in Brenham for a delightful afternoon among the wildflowers and some delicious Texas BBQ!

The area was in full bloom with Bluebonnets, Indian Paintbrush, and many other native wildflowers. Ray took guests on wagon rides around the property, children played, and everyone enjoyed the beautiful views and the gentle breeze from the Daugbjerg's hilltop home.

It was a wonderful, relaxing day in the country – thank you, Ray and Cherry!



Fields of bluebonnets at the Daugbjerg's





Danish Consul General Ray J. Daugbjerg and wife Cherry Daugbjerg



Linda May Martin and Benedicte Thymann Nielsen



Frances and Carl Steffensen



Alexandra Hernández-Nørgaard and Stephanie Thomsen



Ray taking the kids out for a ride in his vintage pick-up truck



Lars Hansen and Vice Consuls Anna Holliday and Mette Bertlesen Scott



Mette Gregersen and Hans Hegelund Pedersen





Avram Blair and son Eli



Mette Gregersen with daughters Anne-Sofie, Ellen and Karla



The Blair boys having fun!





# THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL DANISH CAPITAL OF TEXAS 5K FUN RUN

The Danish Heritage Preservation Society would like to thank the approximately 100 registered runners/walkers and as many supporters and volunteers who took part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Danish Capital of Texas Fun Run, making it a huge success this past April. The DCH, DACCSW, and Vikingeskolen were all represented by participants. The cool, cloudy Texas morning did not dampen the festive atmosphere, and everyone was fortunate that the rain held off until the afternoon. As has become the tradition, the race began with the playing of the Danish and American national anthems.

Then with the sound of the start gun cheers rang out for each and every runner/walker from the youngest to the oldest. All along the way people were enjoying themselves, becoming a part of what has become an annual event in Danevang. Before awards were given there was the traditional three “hurrahs” for the Queen as this was Danevang’s celebration of her birthday. The highlight of the day came when Anna Thompson Holliday of the Danish Consulate handed out the awards to the runners. Congratulations to Steen Pedersen, winner of the overall trophy for men (and to Anna herself, who won her age category!) After the run everyone enjoyed a cornucopia of food – fruit, cookies, Danish homemade æbleskiver, granola bars and much more. There was music, visiting, and laughter. All in all, it was a fun day!

Visit the Danish Heritage Museum on Facebook, then go to photo albums timeline to see pictures of the day. All are invited to participate next year, either running, walking, volunteering or becoming a sponsor (the proposed date is April 25<sup>th</sup> – watch for future announcements by email or by visiting the Danish Club of Houston calendar online.



Hal Holliday and Anna Thomsen Holliday



Anna awarding Steen Pedersen the First Prize



At the Start Line!



# BP MS150 AFTER-PARTY

A number of DCH members rode in the MS150 over the weekend of April 12-13, representing several local companies and entities. To celebrate this grand accomplishment, a group of riders and supporters met at “The Tasting Room” in City Centre to tell tales of the ride over drinks and hors d’oeuvres. The group had a nice secluded corner of the room, but were heard excitedly exchanging impressions, tips and experiences all evening long! Congratulations to all of the DCH participants who accomplished their goals on the ride and supported such a worthy cause.



Alexandra Henández-Nørgaard and Peggy Høegh



Susan Jensen and son Andreas



Thomas Damsgaard riding...!





## “A HIJACKING” MOVIE NIGHT

A showing of “A Hijacking”, the Danish film about the hijacking of a Clipper cargo ship in 2012, at Rice University on April 25<sup>th</sup> drew a respectable crowd – thanks to Hannes Hofer for again arranging for the use of the Facility & Engineering Training Center to show the movie! Folks met beforehand at Hungry’s on Rice Boulevard for a nice dinner and conversation, and afterwards went to “Valhalla” (how appropriate!) to discuss the movie over a few beers – we must’ve looked very “professorial” among all the young college students!



Lone Carlbach Johansen and Robin Ann Johansen



Hannes Hofer and Neil Olsen

## PORT OF HOUSTON BOAT TOUR

The Danish Club of Houston enjoyed a beautiful day on the water during our private tour of the Port of Houston.

Members and guests boarded the M/V Sam Houston just before noon on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for a 2-hour trip from the Turning Basin and down the Houston Ship Channel, to where we passed above the Washburn Tunnel. Along the way Captain Doug commented about some of the facilities, activities, historical sites, and ships as we traveled slowly down the waterway.

Shortly after leaving the dock the crew opened up the snack bar and Texas BBQ buffet, all courtesy of the Port Authority. Everyone had a wonderful time, and a few who weren’t ready to call it a day when we returned to the dock took a short drive across the Ship Channel to Brady’s Landing restaurant for a refreshing beverage and a little more socializing.

This tour is free and runs daily during the summer, but it was only through the efforts of Activity Coordinator Lars Kristiansson that the Club got a free private tour and a catered lunch – thanks, Lars!!



Katrine Kofoed Howard, Jason Howard and Neil Olsen





At the bow of M/V Sam Houston



Lars Kristiansson with Port of Houston representative Dana Blume



Katrine Kofoed Howard and husband  
Jason Howard



Lars Kristiansson



Robin Ann Johansen and Birte Sørensen



Frances Steffensen and Greta Lauritzsen



One of the ships we saw





Hans Jørgen Sørensen and Lone Carlbach Johansen



More cargo ships



Hannes Hofer



Port of Houston Welcome Center



A view of the Port of Houston



Group picture of the attendees



# BIRTHDAYS

One of Houston's most prominent Danes is celebrating her birthday in June! Congratulations to Anna Thomsen Holliday!

Stort  
tillykke  
med dagen!



Hal Holliday and birthday girl Anna Thomsen Holliday



# NEXT EVENTS

MAY

30

Saturday - 4:00 PM till 8:00 PM

DCH Annual Meeting & Sommerfest  
by the Pool

Nottingham Forest Club  
325 Kickerillo Dr.  
Houston, TX 77079

JUNE

15

Sunday

Concert begins at 5:00 PM

Reception follows at 7:00 PM

Nordic Singers - A DCH & DACCSW  
Event

Christ The King Lutheran Church  
2353 Rice Boulevard  
Houston, TX 77005

AUG

16

Saturday

Sargent Beach Day

1744 CR 230  
Sargent, TX 77414

SEP

9

Tuesday

Let's Meet & Eat



Our stories are all different. However, the families attending Vikingskolen have a common desire to keep the Danish language, traditions and culture alive for our children as we live away from Denmark.

Over the past eight years, Vikingskolen has become a small Danish island in Houston with more than 50 students and their families attending twelve Saturdays in the Spring and twelve in the Fall from 9:30 - 11:45 a.m. The school's mission is to help both children and adults in the Houston area maintain, improve or even learn Danish. The school is a non-profit organization located at Stepping Stones School at Beltway 8 and 59.

Classes are taught by Danish-speaking teachers, parents and volunteers. The school's generous supporters in 2014 included Hempel, Haldor Topsoe, Dan-Bunkering, Falk Safety Services, BoConcept, Danish Inspirations, Engelstoft Family Foundation, Anna Holliday and Danish Club of Houston.

To learn more about joining or supporting Vikingskolen, visit [www.vikingskolen.com](http://www.vikingskolen.com) or contact [vikingskolen@gmail.com](mailto:vikingskolen@gmail.com) or call 832.660.6496.



## FACTS ABOUT THE DANISH CLUB

### Board of Directors

Carl K. Steffensen, President  
Steen Pedersen, Acting Vice-President  
Frances Steffensen, Treasurer

Neil Olsen, Secretary  
Alexandra Hernández-Nørgaard, Activity Coordinator  
Katrine Kofoed Howard, Activity Coordinator  
Lars Kristiansson, Activity Coordinator  
Stephanie Thomsen, Activity Coordinator

### For more information:

[info@danishclubofhouston.org](mailto:info@danishclubofhouston.org)

### Website:

[www.danishclubofhouston.org](http://www.danishclubofhouston.org)

JOIN US ON 

### T-shirts:

The Club is still selling T-shirts with our logo. We now have childrens' T-shirts and baby onesies along with the adult size shirts. Please, visit our website if interested.

**h-town hygge** is a quaterly publication e-mailed to members in good standing and selected friends of the Danish-American community in Houston.



# MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION OR RENEWAL

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name:		Middle Name:	
First Name:		Title:	
Company:		Mobile ph.:	
Business ph.:			
Email:			
Spouse:			
Last Name:		Middle Name:	
First Name:		Title:	
Company:		Mobile:	
Business ph.:			
Email:			
Mailing address:			
City/State/Zip:			
Children (Please indicate name & age):			
Areas of interest:			

Please mail form with \$30 to:

Danish Club of Houston  
c/o Frances Steffensen  
14354 Broadgreen Dr.  
Houston, TX 77079

\*\* Membership term is one calendar year, beginning in January & ending in December

