

# Newsletter

August 2013 | No. 47

## Next Events

AUGUST

17

Saturday

"Sargent  
Beach Day!"

Chez Steen  
Pedersen &  
Ericka Lawson

Noon till 11.00  
PM or stay the  
night camping!

SEPTEMBER

5

Thursday

Let's Meet &  
Eat

6.30 PM

Culinary  
Institute Le  
Nôtre  
Kris Bistro &  
Wine Lounge

## BARBECUE & BLUEBONNETS IN BRENHAM AND PASSPORT RENEWAL

Story courtesy of Consul Ray J. Daugbjerg

Houston Consul Ray Daugbjerg and his wife Cherry hosted a "Barbecue & Bluebonnets" for the Danish Clubs of Houston, Austin, and San Antonio at their country home in historic Brenham, Texas. Brenham is located in Washington County, which is considered the birthplace of Texas, as the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence took place on March 2, 1836 at Washington on the Brazos.

Consul Daugbjerg cooked barbecued brisket, chicken, pork, and sausage, and guests brought wonderful Danish desserts and appetizers. The Danish American Chamber of Commerce provided



A view of Consul Daugbjerg's country home gathering



The Moyells and Mogens Lauritzen



Henrik & Ghislaine Thomsen



Anna Thomsen Holliday, Steen Pedersen and Hannes Hofer

Carlsberg for the roughly 80 attendees from the various Danish clubs as well as New Orleans and Dallas.

The Daugbjerg home overlooks the beautiful rolling Texas countryside, and the front yard was blanketed by the state flower of Texas, the Bluebonnet, and sprinklings of red Indian Paint Brushes – a beautiful and very "Texas" scene! The last event of the day was a hayride into the pastures to get up close to the cattle and Texas Longhorns.

A special guest from the Embassy of Denmark in Washington was Consul Mette Bertlesen Scott, who graciously came to Houston to process passport applications. The passport application process changed in January 2012, requiring future applicants to travel to New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, or Washington DC. Applications now require biometric data to be embedded into the passport, and special equipment is necessary to capture that data. The next opportunity to make an application in Houston will be in November of this year – notices will be sent out to those for whom the Consulate has contact information.

Also in attendance were two good friends and former Honorary Consuls: John Moyell, Consul to the Bahamas and wife, Gurli; and Mogens Lauritzen, Consul to San Francisco and wife, Susanna.

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SEPTEMBER

19

Thursday

Volbeat  
Concert:  
The Rock  
Allegiance Tour  
w/Volbeat, HIM  
and All That  
Remains

6.45 PM

Bayou Music  
Center

OCTOBER

20

Sunday

Dynamo  
Soccer Game  
& Tailgate

12 noon

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The Moyells, Daughbjergs and Mogens Lauritzen



Kai & Elisabeth Nirell



Consul Ray Daughbjerg and wife Cherry



Horseshoe game



Vice Consul Anna Thomsen Holliday and Alexandra Hernández-Nørgaard



Frank Meckel, Hannes Hofer and Consul Mette Bertlesen Scott

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DECEMBER

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Saturday

Christmas Party

6:00 PM



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The following weekend, members of the Consular Corps of Houston and their families were invited to the same venue. Daugbjerg served on the Executive Committee as Treasurer of the Consular Corps of Houston for 14 years and also as Vice Dean of the Corps.

Consul and Mrs. Daugbjerg have invited the Danish community to their home every other year since Ray became Consul 23 years ago. Ray's father, Bernhard Marinus Stjernholm Daugbjerg, who was born in Vejle, Denmark and immigrated to America in 1926, served as Consul in Houston from 1957 to 1969.

Through the years, inviting the Danish community to visit and enjoy the beautiful countryside of Texas has been a source of great pleasure for the Daugbjergs, and the DCH extends its gratitude for the Daugbjerg's continuing support and gracious hospitality!

## SOMMERFEST AND ANNUAL MEETING

We had a great turn-out for our *Sommerfest* and Annual Meeting, with more than 60 members braving the potentially stormy skies on June 8<sup>th</sup> and getting together at the Nottingham Forest Club.



Julius Pedersen, Hannes Hofer, Steen Pedersen and Ole Sørensen



The Annual Meeting underway

Kids and adults alike enjoyed the pool, and there were plenty of hotdogs and brats with all the usual condiments. Several members participated in the *frikadeller* contest, which resulted in a tie for best *frikadeller* in Houston! Congratulations to our *frikadeller* contest winners, Bente Rasmussen and Birte Sørensen, who will each receive a free membership for 2014! Leftover *frikadeller* were hastily consumed after the contest concluded!

We were able to accomplish some important Club business, including amending the Bylaws to allow for only 1 auditor and to allow family members to serve concurrently on the Board. A revised set of Bylaws will be sent out to all members and will be available on the website. It was also announced that we will raise the annual dues to \$30 per year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.

We were also successful in filling all Board positions, and your 2013-14 Danish Club of Houston Board includes:

President – Carl Steffensen  
Vice President – Mira Berdien Bush  
Secretary – Neil Olsen  
Treasurer – Frances Steffensen  
Committee Coordinator #1 – Alexandra Hernández-Nørgaard  
Committee Coordinator #2 – Lars Kristiansson  
Committee Coordinator #3 – Stephanie Thomsen  
Substitute #1 – Steen Pedersen  
Substitute #2 – Katrine Kofoed Howard  
Auditor – John Moyell

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Mary Dolly Bille, Charles Specht & Frances Steffensen



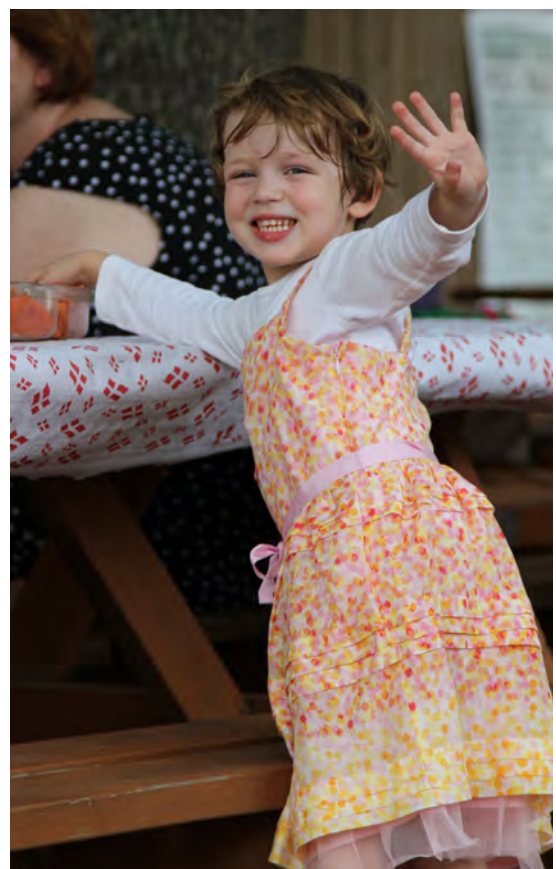
At the grill: Carl Steffensen



Isa & Amelie Pedersen



Mette Kristensen and daughter Ada (also on the right)



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Rebecca Sørensen and her son defying the clouds On the right the sampling of delicious frikadeller

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Thanks to all who made this such an enjoyable event, especially Ole Sorensen for buying much of the food, and Mira Bush for providing the wonderful desserts! Thanks also to our *frikadeller* contest judges, and an extra-special thanks to those who volunteered to serve on the Board and make this Club the success it is.



Mette & Peter Norsk



Friends trying to get Birte's frikadelle recipe



Birte & Hans Sørensen's Super-grandson

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## MEET YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**Carl Steffensen, President**

Carl Steffensen was born in Chicago to immigrant parents – Carl's father was from Copenhagen and his mother from Ikast in Jutland. Beginning at age 4 Carl did folkdancing and gymnastics at Chicago's Danish American Athletic Club and represented Denmark in numerous parades and ethnic events. Carl spent his high school summers in Denmark and worked in the factory of Gustav Ehrenreich, making the iconic "Hoptimists" which are being sold again today. He received Geology degrees from the University of Illinois and Texas A&M University, and has more than 30 years' experience in the oil industry. Carl and wife Frances were married in 1985 and have 2 daughters – Katrina works in advertising and Karen is a junior at UT. The family has traveled to Denmark many times to visit family and friends. Carl is the US representative for the Bjerreslægt in America as well as the former director of the Scandinavian Folkdancers of Houston and has been on the DCH Board since 1997.



**Mira Berdien Bush, Vice President**

Mira Berdien Bush moved to the United States from Denmark in 2008 as she married an American, Terrence Bush, together they have a 21 months old daughter, Elizabeth. Mira grew up in Grindsted near Billund and worked nearly 10 years during her youth for LEGOLAND and LEGO Company. Mira holds a law degree and is educated from University of Southern Denmark (Bachelor), University of Copenhagen and Copenhagen Business School (Master). Mira is currently a stay-at-home-mom and is engaged in the local community as well as with other charity work.



**Frances Steffensen, Treasurer**

Frances Steffensen has happily participated in all things Danish throughout her 27 year marriage to Carl. Currently she has been coerced into using her education and work experience as Danish Club Treasurer. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a BBA in Accounting, and has been a C.P.A. in private practice, part time, for over 20 years. Her primary job of mother is almost over, as her two children are out of the house now. Frances enjoys meeting new friends, making smørrebrød, and collecting Musselmalet.



**Neil Olsen, Secretary**

Neil Christian Olsen was born in Copenhagen to a Danish mother and an American father. As a child and young adult, he traveled the world and lived in many countries including Denmark, England, Laos, Spain, Thailand, and many states within the United States including Alaska, before settling in to live in the great state of Texas. He has attended many boarding schools including the American School of Vientiane (Vientiane, Laos), Newlands School (Seaford, Sussex, England), and Marine Military Academy (Harlingen, TX). After high school, Neil went on to attend the University of Houston. Neil is an administrative assistant working in the legal field with over 25 years of experience, and is employed with a law firm in Houston.

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**Alexandra Hernández-Nørgaard, Activity Coordinator #1**

Alexandra Hernández-Nørgaard moved to Houston in September 2011. The daughter of a Venezuelan diplomat and a Danish businesswoman, Alexandra lived in many different cultures growing up. To date she has called Caracas, Bonn, Belgrade, Stockholm, Montreux, Miami, Mexico City and Houston “home”. A graphic designer by profession, most of her career so far has focused on Sales and Marketing in the boating industry. While living in Mexico, she pursued studies in Landscape Architecture, which together with her previous studies and experience, have enabled her to establish Areté Landscape Design in Houston. She is married, has one fur-kid and loves outdoor sports. As a Board Member she will strive to

incorporate and activate a cross generational mix of Danes (including the Gen X) seeking Danish camaraderie.



**Lars Kristiansson, Activity Coordinator #2**

Born in Frederiksberg Denmark in 1965, Lars Kristiansson grew up in Hvidovre. He started a shipping career in Copenhagen in 1982, moved to England in 1985 and returned to Denmark in 1988; he then moved to USA in 1989, then Brazil, and finally returned to USA in 1991. Lars spent nearly 20 years with the Clipper Group and in 2007 set up his own company, Maritime Logistics LLC, assisting vessel owners/operators as well as cargo interests with their transport needs. In addition he acts as a marketing representative for Ben Line Agencies in North America and as a consultant to Starcrest Consulting Group, who specializes in calculating air emissions from vessels and port equipment.

Lars and his wife Joyce have two wonder full kids, Kaitlin and Nicolas. Lars enjoys outdoor activities such as gardening, cycling (having participated in the MS150 bike ride since 2000), and a good time with family and friends. Together the family likes to travel and experience new things, typically spending 4-5 weeks in Denmark/Europe every year.



**Stephanie Thomsen, Activity Coordinator #3**

Stephanie Thomsen is a native Houstonian and was raised in a Danish and French home. Her father is Danish and her mother is French, therefore she has been exposed to both cultures and involved in several supporting organizations. She attended the University of Texas at Austin and graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor's in Psychology. Stephanie decided to pursue a career in real estate and likes to contribute her efforts to various charitable causes. In 2012, Stephanie graduated with a MBA in International Business from the University of St. Thomas in Houston. She enjoys traveling and visiting family in Europe, loves organizing events, and giving back to the community.



**Steen Pedersen, Substitute #1**

Steen Pedersen was born in Hellerup north of Copenhagen. When he was 10, his parents moved to the Washington DC area. Educated in the US and married to a native Texan, Ericka Lawson, Steen has maintained contact with his family back in Denmark through reunions every 5 years and now also through Facebook. He works at Baylor College of Medicine teaching budding scientists and medical students. Since moving to the US, he has been a member of the Danish Club of Washington DC, and a member of the Danish Club of Houston soon after its inception. In addition he and Ericka are members of the Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston, who practice and perform Scandinavian dances here and on trips back to Scandinavia.

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**Katrine Kofoed Howard, Substitute #2**

Katrine and her husband Jason came to Houston from Copenhagen in December 2012. Having lived together in Scandinavia for several years they decided it was time to be closer to Jason's family (in Oklahoma) so after their wedding in May 2012 they arranged a company transfer. Since they both work for an international management consultancy they were able to make a –fairly– easy move, so after handing off their apartment in Frederiksberg, packing their inventory of Norwegian paintings, Musselmalet, and a little blue Hoptimist, they are now settling down in Texas.

Katrine holds a Master in Marketing from Copenhagen Business School, but has spent the past five years doing operational consulting – process improvement and implementing organisational change. This line of work brings her to a variety of clients in locations across the US; chances are that you will meet her on a Monday morning flight one day soon...



**Anna D. Stottrup Thomsen Holliday, Vice Consul, Advisor and Liaison for the DACCSW**

Anna Holliday was born in Jutland. Educated at University of Aalborg, she studied Social Sciences and Political Science. Upon arriving in Houston she worked at the Royal Danish Consulate General since its establishment in 1980 till it closed down in 1989. She did project work for Invest In Denmark, an agency dedicated to promote business investment in Denmark along with project work for McDonald's Hamburger University near Chicago, Illinois. Since 1998 Anna has served as Honorary Vice Consul of Denmark in Houston. She is the Founding Chair of the Danish American Chamber of Commerce Southwest and sees it as a mission to actively promote

Denmark, Danish Business and Danish Culture. It is her vision that all of the Danish entities and the Danish Community work together for mutual benefit to enjoy a strong vibrant and dynamic presence both in Houston and the greater Southwest area.

## **WELCOME NEW DCH MEMBERS!**

Mary Dolly Bille  
Anton Boose  
Jytte & Doug Elrod  
Jan Hansen  
Inge-Marie & Martin Bak Hansen  
Per & Kari Haugaard  
Vicki Henrichs  
Nikki Herrin  
Gregory Hughes & Mette Kristensen  
Bridget Lois Jensen  
Winnie & Brian Jensen

Ditte & Christopher Jones  
Susie Ibsen & Johnny Larsen  
Miriam Mansia  
Tajana Mesic  
Anne & Henrik Mikuta  
Kim Nielsen  
Lars Nielsen  
Lotte Optekamp  
Tina Schloett  
Agnete & Dick Sundt

**Danish Club  
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**FOR MORE DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS  
PLEASE LOOK US UP ON THE WEB**

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

or

