



An E-Newsletter Exclusively for Friends of

The Danish Immigrant Museum

News from our Development Department

development@danishmuseum.org

June 6, 2009



Ms. Anna Thomsen Holliday, Honorary Vice Consul for Houston and a new member of the Museum's Board of Directors, having joined the Board in October 2008, has been awarded the **KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF THE DANNEBROG** by Ambassador Friis Arne Petersen, representing Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. Ms. Holliday received the award at the dinner culminating the annual meeting of the Cultural Frontrunners which was held in Palo Alto, California on June 3rd and 4th. Ambassador Petersen said in presenting the award that the Queen recognized Anna for her work in bringing many business and cultural events from Denmark to the Houston area. This includes the Royal Danish Ballet and securing an authentic fishing boat which was used to rescue Danish Jews in October 1943 which was given to the Houston Holocaust Museum.



Honorary Vice Consul Anna Holliday Thomsen with Ambassador Petersen
Photo: Courtesy of Embassy of Denmark, Washington, D.C.

The Cultural Frontrunners program is organized by the Royal Danish Embassy in Washington, D.C. and brings together representatives of Danish organizations and communities around the country. The purpose is to facilitate cultural contacts between Denmark and these organizations. The Danish Immigrant Museum is represented by its Executive Director, Dr. John Mark Nielsen.



The Order of the Knight of the Dannebrog was instituted in 1671 by King Christian V. The Order is used to decorate a select group of people who through selfless deeds have helped advance the interests of Denmark. Other Museum board members who have earlier received this honor are Honorary Danish Consul for Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, Annelise Sawkins, and Museum charter board member, Professor Norman C. Bansen.